

SFY 2014-15 Budget

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Common Sense Projects

Problem: State government that does not move “at the speed of business.”

Solution: The Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services is consolidating, streamlining, reorganizing, and redeveloping existing procedures and structures to align its practices and find administrative efficiencies to maximize funding available to the community.

Background: Like many established organizations, over time the practices and procedures of the state agencies for mental health and addiction services have become ingrained. The new state agency must have a constant focus on new ways to improve how services are delivered to the residents of Ohio. Governor Kasich’s call for a more jobs-friendly regulatory climate that makes compliance as easy as possible while maintaining the safety of the individuals served is something that the department takes very seriously. During the past biennium, Mental Health and Addiction Services has:

- Consolidated state hospital bed capacity in Northeast Ohio by closing the Cleveland campus and moving the bed capacity to another facility in Northfield, just 15 miles away. This move saved approximately \$4 million in operational costs and \$30 million in capital costs.
- Streamlined the licensure of and reduced fees for adult care facilities.
- Conducted a System of Care process that aligned state hospital operations with best practices across the state.
- ODADAS was awarded a three-year contract from the FDA in the amount of \$2.5 million to conduct the tobacco retailers’ compliance program to enforce prevention of underage sales of tobacco products. As a result, the department reduced state dollars required to administer the mandatory federal SYNAR Program from \$175,000 prior to the FDA contract to \$11,000.
- Aligned community plan requirements from local alcohol, drug addiction and mental health boards so that a single set of guidelines enable boards to respond to both ODMH and ODADAS.

Executive Budget Proposal and Impact: The Executive Budget will consolidate the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services. While this, in and of itself, will not accomplish the solution to inefficiency laid out above, it does offer a perfect opportunity to reform how we do business.

- Fiscal Operations, Information Technology, Human Resources: Consolidation of fiscal and IT operations has occurred. This has allowed staff positions to be left unfilled, redefined job responsibilities, and saved taxpayer dollars. As the consolidation continues these efforts will build to the point where the budget request for administration contains a 10% reduction that will not impact the services and programs we provide to Ohio residents.
- Uniform accounting principles and reporting methods will allow for greater understanding of the populations ODMH and ODADAS serve jointly today. Frequently, mental illness and substance abuse go hand in hand. Together, ODMH and ODADAS will be able to better serve these individuals and ensure that both concerns are treated appropriately. According to SAMHSA’s 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), 20 to 25% of individuals with a mental illness will also have a substance use disorder. In ODMH’s Regional Psychiatric Hospitals, rates in excess of 50% are consistently found.

- The social supports and community resources that people with mental illness and substance abuse problems need are very similar. Agency goals and strategies to educate and inform communities, professionals and the public on these human services issues are often on parallel paths. Efforts to combat stigma can be more effective when working as a team.
- The multitude of service providers who serve both populations will be able to work with a single entity rather than duplicating efforts. Plans to align regulation are underway with input from stakeholders.

http://adamh.ohio.gov/Portals/0/docs/ODMH%20and%20ODADAS%20Consolidation%20Opportunities%20FINAL_2_1.pdf

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