

TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING CUTS

Governor Bev Perdue recently posted a series of recommendations on her proposed reductions to align NC's budget with reduced revenues as a result of the economic downturn.

North Carolina will receive just over \$6 billion from the Federal Stimulus plan which will provide a much needed economic boost to our states financial situation and should allow NC to avoid implementing mental health related funding cuts.

It is critical that Governor Perdue receive an out pouring of requests asking her to not cut mental health services.

There are three easy steps you can take to address this situation:

1) Call, fax or write the Governor's office and request that Gov. Perdue not cut mental health services.

Phone: (919)733-4240

Fax: (919)733-2120

Governor Bev Perdue
Office of the Governor
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Some talking points are:

- * MH is currently 43rd per capita in funding for mental illness in NC; cutting funding is absolutely not the direction we need to move towards
- * In last year's budget, new positions were established at institutions in order to correct the problems that led to loss of accreditation. To cut those same positions is foolish- we will lose more than we will gain. At just one institution, we lose roughly \$1 M/month when we lose federal accreditation
- * For years, NC continues to underfund community services; this budget plan of \$26 M in cuts to the community perpetuates the disparity in funding that is causing most of the ills in our system. Our community services must be built up.
- * The Governor made campaign promises to work on mental health, and to support the Centers of Excellence, intensive case management.
- * We cannot solve this by cuts alone; some revenue adjustments must be made

2. Sign and gather additional signatures in support of the attached Petition to Maintain Funding Supports for Mental Health Services in North Carolina.

3. Share this information with others and ask them to advocate on behalf of preventing Mental Health funding cuts.

Some of the proposed cuts which add up to ~ \$50 Million include:

Reduce community services	\$25.9 M
Consolidate LME system mgmt	\$8.9 M
Reduce Operating expenses - Central admin	\$250,000
Close two 25 adult bed units at Broughton, Cherry	\$6.02 M
ATB ADATC (Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Center) cuts	\$1.86 M
ATB Central and Western Regional	\$1 M
Close Wright and Whitaker Schools	\$5.77 M

Total: \$49,774,659 million, 200 positions

Looking at these cuts alone is pretty scary, but if you look at the **Summary of Reduction Options for FY 2009-10** (available upon request from namioclistserv@gmail.com) you will see that the \$50 M is not the only thing that will affect our families and people living with mental illness. These proposed cuts would affect services also offered in rural health, aging, child development, public health, social services, Medical Assistance, Vocational Rehab, and Corrections, in addition to reduction in payment rates and elimination of cost of living increases for providers.

Examples of the cuts that will affect us that are **not** included in the above \$49.7 Million: (meaning the impact is more than just \$50 M)

Eliminate psychiatric loan repayment which allows rural areas in particular to recruit psychiatrists	\$248,000
Reduce state county special assistance	\$5.38 M
Implement preferred drug list	\$12.672 M
Reduce funds to NC housing finance agency	\$485,000
Eliminate contract with drug and substance abuse facility for male inmates	\$2.52 M
Eliminate criminal Justice Partnership Program	\$9.76 M