



The Provider's Dozen

A Box of 11 Cookies

Most pastries and baked goods are sold or dispensed by the dozen. In fact, many bakeries and caterers even offer the “baker’s dozen” for their wares, saying that one additional item (bringing the total of the “dozen” to 13) is better. While community providers of mental health/mental retardation/drug and alcohol services (MH/MR/D&A) would also like to subscribe to this school of thought, our story is much different. Our reality is that we have “the provider’s dozen” – our box is missing something to make it complete...and that something is stable and reliable program funding.

How You Can Help Complete Our “Dozen”

PCPA and other statewide stakeholders have supported two sets of long-term funding legislation: **House Bill 1813/Senate Bill 1006** (inflationary index for MH/MR) and **House Bill 1649/Senate Bill 727** (dedicated alcohol tax initiative for D&A).

House Bill 1813 and House Bill 1649 have passed the House unanimously and currently sit in the Senate Appropriations Committee awaiting action. As this goes to print, House Bill 1813 is scheduled for a committee vote September 25.

As a **senator** receiving this cookie box, we urge you to contact your leadership immediately to move both House Bill 1813 and House Bill 1649 and then support the bills when they come up for floor votes.

Since there is always the chance that the legislation will be amended in the Senate, resulting in the bills being referred back to the House for concurrence, **members of House leadership** are also receiving a cookie box. Should either House Bill 1813 or House Bill 1649 come back to the House for concurrence, members of House leadership are urged to move and support the bills immediately for a floor vote.

This Legislation Is a Necessary Ingredient for Our “Dozen”

- **House Bill 1813/Senate Bill 1006** (inflationary index for MH/MR): This legislation would allow for an annual inflationary adjustment (formerly referred to as cost-of-living adjustment or COLA) for MH/MR programs. The inflationary adjustment would be based upon a mechanism known as the Home Health Market Basket Index (HHMBI). PCPA has been supportive of the commonwealth using a mechanism where annual inflationary adjustments would be automatic for the MH/MR system. PCPA spearheaded introduction of this legislation in concert with the MH/MR Coalition.
- **House Bill 1649/Senate Bill 727** (dedicated alcohol tax initiative for D&A): The majority of the D&A line items have not seen an increase in many years. Clients go untreated late in the fiscal year due to exhausted funding sources. Family members remain incarcerated rather than in treatment due to lack of funding. The loss of intergovernmental transfer monies is a devastating loss to already inadequate D&A funding. As the commonwealth promotes and profits from the sale of alcohol, it is appropriate that a portion of those funds be utilized to help citizens who develop problems with the product.