Budget Restoration: ‘See You in September’?
Tell the Governor and Legislators: ‘NO! RESTORATION NEEDED NOW!’

It is reported that the Governor, legislative leaders, and key staffers met yesterday to discuss possible budget resolutions and restorations. However, the most positive thing emanating from the discussions is an agreement to discuss things further down the road – later this month? August? September? No one really knows. Today, PCPA has learned that the September timeframe is being discussed in Harrisburg as a very real – and what the government believes is a doable – possibility.

PCPA has worked diligently for restoration of human services cuts, notably to drug and alcohol (D&A) and mental health (MH), and for a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for mental retardation (MR) programs and MH/MR direct service professionals. The commitment and dedication by PCPA’s members has been phenomenal in support of PCPA’s legislative and lobbying efforts; BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN!

- **What YOU need to do NOW**

  Make a phone call to the Governor’s Office (information attached). Call your local legislators. Call legislative leadership (information attached).

  If you wish to call your local legislators and do not know who they are, visit the following link in the Legislative Affairs section on the PCPA web site (be sure to know your zip code!): www.capwiz.com/lwv/officials/state/?lvl=C&state=pa. If you participated in PCPA’s Lobby Day on May 13 or PCPA’s Virtual Lobby Day on June 30, you may want to follow up with the legislators and staffers with whom you visited or spoke.

- **Drive home the message: Restore the cuts NOW, not later!**

  The message must be clear and succinct – whether speaking to the Governor’s Office, a legislator or a staffer:

  1. Hello, my name is [   ] and I am a provider/staffer/consumer of services OR person in recovery. I live in [   ] county. I am a voter and a taxpayer and I live in your district [if appropriate].

  2. Talk about the cuts – all areas, if you can, or concentrate on a particular area if that is your preference:

     The drastic cuts ($104 million) to D&A services MUST be restored completely NOW.
MH cuts MUST be restored; after counties calculate the D&A loss and try to make up some revenues on that side, there has been a dramatic effect on MH programs.

MR is the “forgotten” piece in this budget – there is no COLA for workers, no recruitment and retention funds, and the waiting list continues to grow.

These vital human services programs will not survive intact until August or September, despite our best efforts to hold on during the month of July. Programs and satellite sites are closing now.

3. Thank you for your time.

- **How to contact the Governor and Legislative Leadership**

  Governor Edward G. Rendell: (717) 787-2500 (800) 932-0784

  Sen. Robert Jubelirer (R), President Pro Tempore: (717) 787-5490
  Sen. David “Chip” Brightbill (R), Majority Leader: (717) 787-5708
  Sen. Robert Mellow (D), Minority Leader: (717) 787-6481
  Sen. Robert Thompson (R), Appropriations Chair: 717) 787-5709
  Sen. Vincent Fumo (D), Appropriations Minority Chair: (717) 787-5662
  Sen. Harold Mowery (R), Public Health & Welfare Chair: (717) 787-8524
  Sen. Vincent Hughes (D), Public Health & Welfare Min. Chair: (717) 787-7112

  Rep. John Perzel (R), Speaker: (717) 787-4610
  Rep. Samuel Smith (R), Majority Leader: (717) 787-2016
  Rep. H. William DeWeese (D), Minority Leader: (717) 783-3797
  Rep. David Argall (R), Appropriations Chair: (717) 787-9024
  Rep. Dwight Evans (D), Appropriations Minority Chair: (717) 783-1540
  Rep. George Kenney (R), Health & Human Services Chair: (717) 787-8523
  Rep. Frank Oliver (D), Health & Human Services Min. Chair: (717) 787-3480

- **Additional resources available**

  The PCPA website has additional information available, if needed, which includes: a) the June 12, 2003 Legislative Alert, outlining statements and arguments for restoration of cuts in drug and alcohol (D&A), mental health (MH), and mental retardation (MR); and b) extensive information in a special “Pennsylvania Budget Information” area. As always, please feel free to contact any PCPA staff member with questions or concerns.

- **Follow-up with PCPA**

  A legislative contact form is attached. Please complete and fax back to Melissa DiSanto Simmons or email her your follow-up information at melissa@paproviders.org. PCPA thanks all members and friends for your support.