

February 25, 2003



MH/MR COALITION

PO Box 60573, HARRISBURG, PA 17106-0573

BUDGET REQUEST For Fiscal Year 2003 - 2004

SUPPORT A FOUR-YEAR FUNDING INITIATIVE FOR PENNSYLVANIA'S COMMUNITY-BASED MH/MR SERVICES & SUPPORTS

- * *A Key to Economic Investment in Local Communities*
- * *A Source of Workforce Development Opportunities*
- * *An Innovator of Quality Services Offering Choices*

"WHY NOT NOW?"

- SUPPORT:**
- ANNUAL COLA FOR COMMUNITY MH/MR LINE ITEM APPROPRIATIONS**
 - A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR FY 2002- 2003 OF \$23 MILLION TO ADJUST FOR LACK OF COLA IN CURRENT FISCAL YEAR**
 - \$15M ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FY 2003 – 2004 (THE FIRST COMMITMENT OF A PHASE- IN OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$120 MILLION DURING FYS 2003-2007)**

A KEY TO ECONOMIC INVESTMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Every dollar a state spends on Medicaid pulls new federal dollars into the state – dollars that would not otherwise flow into the state. These new dollars pass from one person to another in successive rounds of spending...Economists call this the "multiplier effect." (Families USA, January 2003) State and Federal Program funding for community MH/MR services and supports is reinvested over and over again in the local economy through wages and purchases of supplies and services in the private sector.

For more information contact Pennsylvania Community Providers Association
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A SOURCE OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are thousands of vacancies in community MH/MR services and supports – state and federal funding is needed to assure a stable and qualified workforce – the key to quality.

AN INNOVATOR OF QUALITY SERVICES OFFERING CHOICES

Community-based MH/MR services and supports offer lifelong supports and opportunities for a meaningful quality of life, in fulfillment of Pennsylvania and Federal laws.

Governor Rendell and the General Assembly are aware of the importance of the MH/MR community services system to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens and of the struggles it has faced during the past 15 years. A unique partnership of the Commonwealth, counties and private businesses is constantly evaluating and responding to program and fiscal challenges to provide individuals with opportunities for integration into local communities with appropriate and meaningful life choices.