MH/MR Coalition

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

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.

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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.