

May 20, 2003

## **MH/MR COALITION**

PO Box 60573, Harrisburg, PA 17106-0573

### **Opportunity to Attend MH/MR Coalition Rally**

PCPA members who were not able to attend the ARC PA – MH/MR Coalition Rally on May 5 or the PCPA Lobby Day on May 13 still have opportunities to influence their legislators.

The MH/MR Coalition will hold a press conference and rally on Tuesday, June 3. Please see the June 3 Flyer (also attached) for details.

We encourage you to visit your legislators at their local offices prior to June 3. If there are consumers, direct support staff and other employees, and/or family members who can tell their stories to legislators about the need for quality staff and services, the legislators can learn a lot from them. You may also want to consider inviting your Senators and Representatives, and their staff, to visit your agency.

Contacting the media is another local action you can take. If your counties or other local organizations have had media coverage, please follow up with human interest stories that show the negative impacts of funding cuts and the lack cost-of-living increases. If you want assistance with media contacts or ideas for stories, please call Lynn Keltz, Melissa DiSanto Simmons or George Kimes.

More information to use with legislators will be compiled and sent over the next week.

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For more information contact Pennsylvania Community Providers Association  
2400 Park Drive • Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone 717/657-7078 • FAX 717/657-3552  
[www.paproviders.org](http://www.paproviders.org) • [mail@paproviders.org](mailto:mail@paproviders.org)

# A Day on "The Hill"

TUESDAY JUNE 3, 2003

MH/MR COALITION

NOON– Press Conference – Main Rotunda

ALL DAY – Meet with Legislators\*

## Support Full Funding for Quality Staffing in MH/MR Services and Restoration of Drug and Alcohol, HSDF, BHSI

Staff, clients, consumers, family members, and other supporters are invited to the Capitol to make your voices heard. Show the Governor and the General Assembly that we are united in supporting state funding to help address the recruitment and retention crisis in MH/MR services! Restoration of funding for Drug and Alcohol, Human Services Development Fund and Behavioral Health Services Initiative must also happen in order to maintain Pennsylvania's continuum of care.

Think about it: If each agency would send five people, we'd fill the Capitol Rotunda!

**Security Notice:** Each time you enter a Capitol Complex Building, you must go through security. Please be sure NOT to have the following items with you in purses or pockets: nail files; pocketknives; tweezers; pepper spray. Items such as those listed WILL be confiscated at security and will not be returned. For security reasons and to help keep our group recognizable, please wear your MH/MR Coalition nametag at all times while in the Capitol Complex - these nametags will be distributed in your packets.

\*The MH/MR Coalition suggests calling your legislators' offices in advance to schedule your June 3<sup>rd</sup> visit. Let the person scheduling the appointment know what you want to discuss and how much time you will need. Inform them of everyone who will be attending the meeting (if you know at that time) and briefly explain what the substance of the meeting will be about.

**Please fill out this form and fax it to PCPA at 717-657-3552 no later than  
Wednesday, May 27, 2003.**

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Count us in! We will send \_\_\_\_\_ (number) people to the June 3 Rally in Harrisburg. (Note: While registration is important, please come even if you haven't registered.....)

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (Agency, Organization): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Senate and House Members (if known) \_\_\_\_\_