



MH/MR COALITION

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Join the MH/MR Coalition in our message to the Commonwealth's leadership.

***Funding for Community Mental Health
and Mental Retardation Services and Supports
Strengthen Pennsylvania.***

Budget Secretary Michael Masch announced that Pennsylvania officially ended FY 2002/2003 with a \$279.1 million surplus, despite revenue collections that fell below estimates. The General Assembly has recessed while critical services and supports remain at risk. There is no timeline for a budget restoration bill and it is unlikely that such a bill will be presented until economic development, slots, tax reform and school subsidies are addressed. Legislative support for community mental health and mental retardation services and supports is essential to address these issues when a budget restoration bill is put on the negotiating table. Grassroots action is needed today!

ACTION NEEDED

- Community mental health and mental retardation supports and services assist individuals and their families to safely remain in their community. Ask individuals to talk about their experience with the loss of services and supports.
- Community mental health and mental retardation supports and services provide jobs – tens of thousands of them - to individuals who work, live, and spend those dollars in their communities. Use real numbers of individuals who are no longer working, individuals laid off, and types of services that are now lost.
 1. **Contact your legislator in their home district office.** Urge support of the leadership for the full restoration of funding cuts from BHSI, HSDF, and community MH and MR services, as well as a cost of living adjustment for community MH and MR services and supports.
 2. **Go to the Pennsylvania County Commissioners website at <http://www.pacounties.org/commissioners/cwp/view.asp?Q=459770&A=1155>** to learn more about how human services funding cuts affect your community and to **email your legislator** to ask him or her to restore those cuts.
 3. **Contact your association and tell them how budget cuts and reductions in funding are affecting the services you provide or receive.** Please be as specific as possible. Your statewide association advocates for you daily in Harrisburg. Having the facts strengthens those efforts!

Thank you for your continued advocacy!

The MH/MR Coalition includes all of the major associations that represent mental health and/or mental retardation provider agencies and counties in Pennsylvania: Mental Health Association in PA (717.236.8110), MH/MR Program Administrators of PA (717.232.7554), PA Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (717.657.7608), PA Association of Resources for People with Mental Retardation (717.236.2374), PA Community Providers Association (717.657.7078), The Arc-PA (717.234.2621), and United Cerebral Palsy of PA (717.761.6129). For additional information, [contact any of the organizations listed.](#)