

March 20, 2012

Dear Senators Rosen and Representatives Flood and Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Services, I am here to provide a summary regarding the implementation of fiscal year 2011-12 funding for mental health services, including housing, for individuals not eligible for MaineCare pursuant to Public Law 2011, c. 380, Part XX.

During the biennial budgeting process for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13, the Department of Human Services submitted a funding request, as part of the Governor's biennial budget proposal, to meet mental health service and housing needs of individuals not eligible for MaineCare. The request, made in order to conform with Consent Decree requirements to provide services to people with mental illness, was based on a June 25, 2010 Progress Report to the Court from the court master in *Bates v. DHHS* (the so-called AMHI Consent Decree case). The funding request was for an allocation of \$4,664,250 to restore prior mental health services for non-MaineCare clients and \$995,000 in additional funds for housing through the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) in FY12 and FY13. The final appropriation was \$4,664,250 for mental health services and \$995,000 for housing in FY 12, and \$995,000 for housing in FY 13.

Public Law 2011, c. 380, Part XX, required the Commissioner of DHHS to report to the Legislature's Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Committee on Health and Human Services no later than February 1, 2012 "regarding the implementation of fiscal year 2011-12 funding for mental health services for individuals not eligible for MaineCare and for housing services."

The attached report demonstrates how these "Additional Grant" (AG) funds for mental health services, including housing, were allocated by service, and the number of new people served over the first six months of FY 12.

Below are highlights of the details regarding use of Additional Grant funds in FY 12.

- 1,020 individuals have received a variety of mental health services with Additional Grant funds over the first six months of FY12. Those services include community integration, assertive community treatment, daily living supports, medication management, and wraparound funds, as well as BRAP subsidies.
- Additional Grant funds have assisted in meeting the unique, previously unmet needs of 22 forensic individuals covered by the Consent Decree.
- A wait list remains for Community Integration (CI) services, despite 315 people having received this service in the first six months of FY 12. Community Integration is often the entry point into community mental health services and assistance with applying for MaineCare based on disability.
- Due to staffing changes at the Department, not all Additional Grant funds were encumbered by the beginning of the fiscal year. Additional Grant funds were quickly disseminated once new leadership was established. Funds for medication management services, for example, were encumbered in October. Thus the 167 individuals who received those services reflect needs for only one quarter.
- Additional Grant contracts require mental health service providers to assist consumers in applying for MaineCare based on disability. Within the first six months, 38 people qualified to receive full MaineCare services for the foreseeable future based on disability.
- Flexibility in managing Additional Grant funds has enabled the Department to shift Additional Grant funding from one kind of service to another in order to meet needs evidenced by existing wait list and utilization data.

As noted above, the final appropriation included in PL 2011, c. 380 continued the appropriation of \$995,000 in fiscal year 2013, representing only the BRAP housing component of the initial request. The need for community mental health services for those not eligible for MaineCare has not decreased over the last year (see attached trend report from APS Healthcare). The Department requests the continued appropriation of \$4,664,250 to address the ongoing unmet need of those in the community. This proposal would continue to provide funding for mental health community services received in FY 12 into FY 13.

Public Law 2011, c. 380, Part XX anticipated that the Department's report to the Legislature would include recommendations from the court master. Department representatives have met with the court master, and understand that the Department's request is consistent with his recommendation. He has told the Department that he intends to write separately to the Committees.