



October 30, 2009

To: ABH Members
Fr: Vic DiGravio, President/CEO
Re: Thank Governor Patrick

As you know, Governor Patrick announced \$277 million in FY 2010 9C budget cuts yesterday. While the Governor cut \$10.3 million from the Department of Mental Health, state contracted community-based mental health services were not cut. In addition, the Governor did not make cuts to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services primary line items. We are asking ABH members to call the Governor and thank him for preserving funding for community-based behavioral healthcare services.

At this point, MassHealth is not included in the 9C budget reductions (with the exception of a \$3.5 million cut to the MassHealth administrative account). However, we do anticipate that cuts to MassHealth will be made in the near future. As a result, please ask Governor Patrick to preserve funding for MassHealth behavioral health services.

Finally, as part of his budget plan, the Governor has asked the Legislature for expanded 9C powers to make an additional \$75 million in cuts to other areas of the state government (i.e., the legislature and constitutional offices). Expanded 9C authority will help further protect behavioral healthcare funding. The Governor has stated that he will not make cuts to local aid if given this expanded authority.

Action Requested

1. Call Governor Patrick's office at **617-725-4000**.
 - When you call, one of his staff members will answer the phone. Give the staff member your name, title, the organization for which you work, and the community in which you live.
 - Thank the Governor for preserving funding for state contracted mental health and substance abuse services.
 - Ask the Governor to preserve MassHealth Behavioral funding.
2. Call your state Senator and Representative and ask them to grant the Governor expanded 9C powers. If you are unsure who your representative is or need contact information, click [here](#).

MassHealth Behavioral Health Talking Points

- Please preserve funding for MassHealth behavioral health services
- MassHealth day treatment services provide essential services for individuals being discharged from state hospitals. These services help individuals remain in their communities.
- MassHealth behavioral healthcare services also include vital substance abuse services for individuals across the Commonwealth.