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## ABH Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2020

### Department of Mental Health

- DMH redesigned adult community services for individuals with serious mental illness last fiscal year. The Legislature committed substantial additional funding to this system that serves the Commonwealth's most vulnerable individuals living with a mental illness. ABH supports the Governor's recommended funding levels for House 1 as it would maintain existing services for adults (5046-0000), including the historic investment in FY19.
- **ABH requests that \$2.8 million in additional funding above House 1** be included in the line item that funds children's community services (5046-5000). This funding level would be comparable to FY19 projected spending and preserve existing services. We are concerned the Governor's budget may include cuts to long term placement funding for kids in DMH care.
- Please fund the line item that supports **DHCD Rental Subsidies for DHM clients (7004-9033) at \$6.5 million**. This funding is essential to support individuals in DMH community placements in acquiring the safe and stable housing they need to lead healthy and productive lives in the community. This is identical to the Governor's proposal.

### Bureau of Substance Addiction Services

- ABH requests that the Legislature fund **BSAS programs and operations account (4512-0200) at \$184.9 million**, a \$45.5 million increase over the administration's House 1 recommendation. We are requesting increased funding for the following programs:
  - **\$7 million to preserve and expand access** to the Massachusetts Access to Recovery (MA-ATR) program reduce waitlist times and conduct post-ATR services research to identify long-term recovery outcomes;
  - **\$3.5 million to cover start-up and costs to procure five additional Recovery Centers** in "hot spot" cities and towns across the state;
  - **\$20 million to expand Family Sober Living programs** that are specially designed to address the complex issues involved in family substance use treatment and recovery, to support active housing and employment searches, and to assist families with children in meeting their personal goals and objectives;
  - **\$10 million to support the expansion of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to those in correctional settings, specifically through BSAS' provision of training and technical assistance to Department of Corrections (DOC) and Houses of Corrections (HOCs)** around implementation and provision of these services in accordance with the pilot program created by the legislature in Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018; and,
  - **\$5 million for SUD Workforce Development**. Amidst the opioid epidemic, SUD providers face many challenges when staffing their programs, and investment in the SUD workforce is a critical need.

### Reserve Accounts

- **ABH requests that the Legislature fund line-item (1599-0105) at \$10 million** to support the DOC and HOCs implementation of the MAT pilot program created by the legislature in Chapter 208 of the Acts of 2018.
- **ABH strongly supports the Governor's House 1 recommendation that the Chapter 257 Rate Reserve fund (1599-6903) be funded at \$20.3 million**. This account will enable the administration to fund the rates it anticipates setting in FY20.