



DiGravio: More mental health funding needed

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While the proposed budget from the House Ways and Means Committee offers an overall increase in funding for the Department of Mental Health, there are still areas where the budget threatens to undermine the important work being done in communities throughout the state of providing treatment to those suffering from mental disorders.

The House Ways and Means Committee recommends \$342 million for adult mental health community services, \$241,000 more than the amount appropriated in the Governor's budget proposal. This additional funding will allow for the creation of approximately 4 additional community placements for adults who are currently living in DMH inpatient facilities.

While this is a positive step towards improving mental health services across the state, additional funding is vital to improving current services and offering new services to those in need.

The proposed budget allocates \$300,000 less than the Governor's budget proposal to child and adolescent mental health services. Furthermore, the account includes language that enables the DH Commissioner to allocate funds from children and adolescent mental health services to other EOHHS departments.

To provide adequate care to community members throughout Massachusetts who are living with mental disorders, I urge House budget leaders to recommend increased funding to the Department of Mental Health's children and adolescent mental health services and adult mental health services.

VIC DiGRAVIO
President/CEO,
Massachusetts Association for Behavioral Healthcare