

# OMH 2014-2015 Fiscal Year Fact Sheet

## Greater Binghamton Health Center and Elmira Psychiatric Center Operations and Community Mental Health Investments in the Southern Tier

The 2014-2015 enacted State Budget reflects the continued operation of both Greater Binghamton Health Center and Elmira Psychiatric Center in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Additionally, the enacted Budget provides \$8.1 million in new funds, \$4.3 million for the region served by Greater Binghamton Health Center (GBHC) and \$3.8 million for the region served by Elmira Psychiatric Center (EPC), for the provision of community-based mental health services.

The 2014-2015 State Budget makes historic investments into services designed to bring high quality community-based care to the region that will reduce the need for and length of costly psychiatric hospitalizations. The Southern Tier region will receive this funding out of an overall \$44 million statewide investment for community-based mental health services focused primarily on decreasing avoidable hospital admissions and readmissions. The creation and expansion of community-based services in the Southern Tier will allow over 550 additional residents to receive community mental health services at full program implementation.

These innovative community-based services funded through the enacted Budget were developed through community input with strong representation from the Southern Tier. Regional Advisory Committees were convened across the State over the past year to identify those services and supports that most effectively reduce psychiatric hospitalizations and lengths of stay, and to optimize community living for adults with serious mental illness and children with serious emotional disturbance.

The following services may be developed in the Southern Tier as a result of Regional Advisory Committee recommendations, which directly informed the 2014-2015 Budget and will be further refined through ongoing community outreach and planning. These services are designed to enhance the existing system of care.

- **108 new Supported Housing units (60 in the GBHC service area and 48 in the EPC service area) including supported housing and family care beds.** These apartments, with related supports and services, are the cornerstone of recovery and resiliency and are integrated into local communities for individuals leaving inpatient and other group living situations. This resource will provide opportunities for more people to live productive and satisfying lives in the community.
- The conversion of up to **16 Crisis and Respite Beds (8 at GBHC and 8 at EPC)** will provide a short term (1-21 days), non-hospital trauma sensitive, therapeutic living environment for children and youth in crisis that will enable intensive work with families to support their return to home with ongoing support.
- **16 new Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver slots (8 in the GBHC service area and 8 in the EPC service area)** for children will be established. Participation in this program enables children and their families to receive a multitude of services designed to prevent psychiatric hospitalization. This will be accomplished through intensive services in the home and community, which include: respite services

providing family caregivers with a needed rest or time to care for themselves, skill building for children and families, crisis response, family support, intensive in-home supports and care coordination.

- **Mobile Integration Team for Youth and Families.** Such a team would respond to calls from schools, families and pediatric services to provide on-site crisis assessment and intervention. It would also provide in-home treatment, in-school behavioral support and consultation as needed. This team would provide “Community Respite” services, which are services provided to a family in their natural environment, providing family caregivers with a needed rest or time to care for themselves.
- **Expansion of Tele-Psychiatry** will improve access to quality evaluations and treatment in rural settings and emergency departments that do not have on-site child psychiatric services. Tele-psychiatry allows access to skilled and experienced psychiatrists by means of audio/video conferencing technology on computers or other dedicated equipment.
- **Mobile Crisis and Support Team for Adults** would work with adults of all ages and their families and include peers who have experienced and recovered from a mental illness. A Mobile Crisis and Support Team provide on-site assessment, supportive care and treatment to individuals, thus avoiding unnecessary police calls, emergency room visits, and hospitalizations. This team would also provide support to people who have recently begun to live in the community, helping them to maintain their residence and social and vocational progress. The goal is to help people be successful in leading full and productive lives.

Other services identified through the Regional Advisory Committee process and in consultation with local governmental units, supported through additional reinvestment funding, may include:

- **School and BOCES-based clinic satellite programs**, supporting children in accessible and integrated educational settings.
- **Forensic intervention and training programs**, diverting individuals with serious mental illness from the criminal justice system to treatment.
- **Family supports**, including parent training and support network creation.
- **Expansion of recovery services** that foster vocational, educational, and social growth.
- **First Episode Psychosis** programs and other early identification/intervention strategies to mitigate the onset of psychotic disorders.
- **“Bridger” staff** to personally guide individuals through transitions from inpatient institutions into integrated and clinically-supported community living.

The Office of Mental Health is committed to continue to work with county and local government officials in the development and review of community-based service investments to best support the children, adults and families of the Southern Tier.