



Office of Mental Health

April 2015 News

New York State Office of Mental Health’s 2015/16 Enacted Budget By the Office of Financial Management

The Office of Mental Health’s (OMH) final 2015/16 Enacted Budget includes more than \$3.93 billion in All Funds Appropriations, which represents a net year to year increase of \$283.18 million.

Aid to Localities

OMH’s Local Assistance appropriations totaling \$1.423 billion in the 2015/16 Enacted Budget bills were increased from the Executive Budget Recommendation by approximately \$8.782 million for the following legislative actions:

2015/16 OMH Enacted Budget All Funds – Appropriations				
	State Operations	Aid to Localities	Capital	Total
2014/15 Available	\$2,197,002,000	\$1,362,391,500	\$90,165,000	\$3,649,558,500
Net Executive Changes	\$0	\$52,093,500	\$222,307,000	\$274,400,500
2015/16 Executive Budget	\$2,197,002,000	\$1,414,485,000	\$312,472,000	\$3,923,959,000
Net Legislative Changes	\$0	\$8,782,000	\$0	\$8,782,000
2015/16 Enacted Budget	\$2,197,002,000	\$1,423,267,000	\$312,472,000	\$3,932,741,000

- South Fork Mental Health Initiative (\$175,000)
- NLP Research and Recognition Project, Inc. (\$800,000)
- United Health Services Hospitals, Inc. (\$1,000,000)
- Crisis Intervention Teams (\$500,000)
- FarmNet (\$300,000)
- Mental Health Association in New York State, Inc. (\$100,000)
- North Country Behavioral Healthcare Network (\$100,000)
- Children’s Prevention and Awareness Initiatives (\$1,000,000)
- Riverdale Mental Health Association (\$250,000)
- Jewish Board of Family and Children’s Services (\$150,000)

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- Mental Health Association of Rockland County, Inc. (\$150,000)
- Family Residences and Essential Enterprises, Inc. (\$50,000)
- Joseph P. Dwyer Veteran Peer to Peer Pilot Program (\$3,207,000)
 - Jefferson County (\$185,000)
 - Rensselaer County (\$185,000)
 - Saratoga County (\$185,000)
 - Suffolk County (\$185,000)
 - Erie County (\$185,000)
 - Monroe County (\$185,000)
 - Nassau County (\$185,000)
 - Niagara County (\$185,000)
 - Onondaga County (\$185,000)
 - Orange County (\$185,000)
 - Westchester County (\$185,000)
 - University at Albany School of Social Welfare (\$150,000)
 - Additional grantees to be determined (\$1,022,000)
- Crisis intervention services and diversion programs (\$1,000,000)

The 2015/16 Enacted Budget accepted the Executive proposals to control growth while supporting an expansion of forensic mental health services and reinvesting savings to support an expansion of community based mental health services to reduce the need for State inpatient services. The final OMH Budget includes:

- Expansion of forensic community based services, including care coordination, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) housing slots, and supported housing units (\$8.0 million).
- Funding for 1,700 new residential pipeline beds including adult home (400), nursing home (100), and NY/NY III homeless housing and other initiatives (1,200). (\$20.0 million).
- A two-percent cost of living adjustment (COLA), effective January 1, 2015, for direct care and direct support staff, and another 2% salary increase effective April 1, 2015 for those same direct care and support workers as well as clinical workers (\$20.0 million).

The final Budget provides funding in other state agency budgets that will improve community services and improve the coordination of community care, including:

- Funding for a supported housing stipend increase of \$750 annually on average to cover the cost of higher rents for more than 14,000 units located downstate and in counties facing the greatest fair market value cost pressures that jeopardize these programs. (\$10 million).
- Funding for a new NY/NY IV homeless housing initiative that will significantly expand access to housing for homeless populations throughout the state by developing 5,000 new housing units over the next five years (\$124.5 million). A portion of the \$124.5 million (\$10 million per year for five years) is directed to an increase in stipends for existing supportive housing units overseen by OMH.

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- Grants to establish coordination between the health homes and the criminal justice system and for the integration of information of health homes with state and local correctional facilities (\$5 million).
- Grants for certified application counselors and assistants to facilitate the enrollment of persons in high risk populations, including but not limited to persons with mental health and/or substance abuse conditions that have been recently discharged or are pending release from state and local correctional facilities (\$1 million).
- Grants to not-for-profit agencies licensed, certified or approved by the OMH, Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) and the Office for Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (OASAS) for the acquisition of information technology systems, electronic health records, billing systems, or other hardware as well as any other infrastructure costs associated with the inclusion of behavioral health services in the Medicaid managed care (\$10 million).
- Competitive grants to eligible nonprofit human services organizations to improve the quality, efficiency, and accessibility to serve New Yorkers through technology upgrades related to improving electronic records, data analysis, or confidentiality; renovations or expansions of space used for direct program services; modifications to provide for sustainable, energy efficient spaces that would result in overall energy and cost savings; and accessibility renovations. State agencies included in this initiative are, but not limited to: the Office of Children and Family Services, the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, the OPWDD, the OMH, and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (\$50 million).

Importantly, the final Budget also includes funding to continue a full range of behavioral health transformation activities such as the integration of health and behavioral health services and facilitating the transition of behavioral health care services from a fee-for-service system to a managed care environment. More specifically, the DOH Budget includes \$115 million for:

- Managed care system readiness activities including training and start-up grants (\$10 million)
- Initiatives to promote the integration of behavioral and physical health (\$15 million)
- Health Home Plus expansion (\$10 million)
- OASAS residential restructuring (\$5 million)
- Home and Community Based Waiver Services expansion (\$30 million)
- Targeted funds to preserve critical access to behavioral health services (\$45 million)

State Operations

OMH's State Operations appropriations of \$2.197 billion in the 2015/16 Enacted Budget remain unchanged from the Executive Recommendation.

The final Budget accepted the Executive proposals to control growth while reinvesting State bed closure savings to expand community based services. Moreover, OMH's Budget achieves cost containment through the implementation of administrative and personal and non-personal services efficiencies, but also funds important new initiatives to expand forensic services that will improve the assessment, screening, and treatment of individuals having serious mental illness and histories of violence.

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More specifically, the final OMH Budget includes:

- Expanded clinical staff in prisons to conduct risk of violence assessments and violence reduction treatment and to expand clinical treatment services and discharge planning (\$5.3 million);
- Funding to expand civil capacity at State Psychiatric Centers for a new 20 bed inpatient secure intensive care unit and a new 20 bed transitional living residence (\$6.7 million).
- Increased funding that fully annualizes \$44M in prior year community reinvestment associated with State inpatient bed closures in 2014/15, including significantly expanded supported apartments, home and community based “waiver” services for children, mobile integration teams, and a full range of other community mental health services (\$18.9 million).
- Additional funding that will fully annualize to \$15 million for community reinvestment that will facilitate the expansion of State and voluntary-operated community based mental health services and the reduction of State inpatient beds (\$7.5 million).

Article VII Legislation

The final 2015/16 Enacted Budget included Article VII legislation to:

- Extend for three years, statutory language that authorizes facility directors to act as representative payees and to continue to use funds for care and treatment consistent with federal law and regulation;
- Extend for one year, statutory language that authorizes the recovery of exempt income from residential programs for the periods from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2016 for programs located outside of the city of New York, and from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016 for programs located within the City of New York;
- Extend for three years, statutory language that authorizes pilot programs that permit OMH to contract with school districts and/or BOCES for the provision of educational services for children in OMH hospitals;
- Require that ambulatory behavioral health fees paid by managed care organizations for patients enrolled in Child Health Plus (CHP) be equivalent to the fees paid under Medicaid managed care through December 31, 2017; and
- Extend the sunset of government rates to providers through managed care organizations and provide equivalent fees through the Ambulatory Patient Group (APG) methodology through December 31, 2017.



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39th Annual OMH Chief Nursing Officers Organization Fall Educational Conference

The Chief Nursing Officers of the NYS Office of Mental Health are actively planning the details of this Fall's Educational Conference being held on November 4-6, 2015 at the Villa Roma Conference Center in Callicoon, NY.

As speakers and presenters are confirmed, information will be posted here and on the [website](#).

If you have questions about the conference, please contact [Colleen Garrahan](#) at (518) 473-3570.

We anticipate another exciting and engaging event full of the latest news and information!

OMH Continues to Enhance Language Access Service in 2015

By Hextor Pabon, Director, Bureau of Cultural Competence

Since October 2010, the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) has been a leader in meeting Executive Order 26 (EO26) mandates in establishing appropriate language access service, training and resources. On behalf of OMH, the Bureau of Cultural Competence (BCC) ensures that appropriate language access services, training, and resources are provided at all OMH Psychiatric Centers and at Central Office.

The BCC has been working on five language access initiatives that would enhance how OMH provides language access service to those we serve within our inpatient and outpatient programs. The BCC has been working with OMH staff and internal work groups to develop and implement these initiatives by the end of 2015.

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A brief description of each initiative is provided below:

- 1. OMH and BCC Internet Home Updated:** The OMH Home Page has the 10 most common languages spoken within OMH listed, and information translated on the “About OMH” website. “Customer’s Relations”, “EO26 material” and other resources will be added to OMH’s Redesign Home Page soon.
- 2. OMH Vital Documents Translation Review Committee (VDTRC):** Committee membership was established on October 20th, 2014. In May 2015, OMH’s inside page will host a VDTRC portal and link to inform all OMH offices on of the VDTRC function and how to request translation approval for legal and vital forms.
- 3. BCC request for a Procurement Contract with OMH Consolidated Business Office (CBO) for the acquisition of “Real-time Live In-Video Interpreter Services” for OMH use in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016.** In April 2015, OMH CBO is in the process of procuring an approved contract for this service. This wireless and live in-video interpreter service is a significant cost effective practice in providing “face-to-face interpreter services”.
- 4. Creation of an OMH Facility Standardized Language Voice Message Drop-Down Menu Option Selection System** (provided in the nine common languages spoken at our OMH Center). EO26 requires that a language voice menu system be provided to serve Limited English Proficiency (LEP) speaking persons who call OMH’s inpatient and outpatient services for assistance. As of April 15, 2015 Manhattan Psychiatric Center and Kirby Forensic Psychiatric Center are establishing and testing its Language Voice Menu System. This new voice menu system will be provided at all OMH Centers by this summer.
- 5. Process for “Qualifying OMH Bilingual Staff as Medical Interpreters.** BCC on behalf of OMH is exploring the use of a web-based medical interpreter qualification curriculum with cost estimates provided by Language Line Academy (OGS Interpreter Vendor) for OMH utilization. This initiative has many benefits that include potential interpreter cost savings, enhancement of safety and effective communication practices within the Center’s operations. BCC has been working with Language Line Academy, New York State Psychiatric Institute, and State Operations at OMH to review the proposed curriculum and to make final recommendations for OMH leadership to approve by the end of June, 2015.

The five language access initiatives will enhance OMH’s current services by expanding how we provide effective communication and utilization of new interpreter technology services. The initiatives have the potential of saving OMH a significant amount of money for the fiscal budget year of 2015-2016, as well as enhance OMH’s quality of care, safety, promote effective-communication, and expand on language access services.

Mixed Income Housing in New York City - Transforming Lives Every Day

By Caren Abate, Director of Housing, New York City Field Office



Community Access, Cedar Ave, Bronx

This month marks the four-year anniversary of the opening of the first OMH-funded mixed income housing development in New York City. Sponsored by Community Access and located at Cedar Avenue in the Bronx, studio apartments for persons with mental illness are fully integrated with other affordable housing units for non-disabled persons. Today, there are nine OMH mixed income residential buildings operating in New York City and twenty-nine under development; a further six sites are being evaluated.

Mixed income housing refers to supportive housing which includes both apartments for individuals with serious mental illness and apartments for non-disabled individuals, couples and families. On-site staff provide supportive services and link residents to an array of community-based treatment and social services. The buildings include amenities such as front desk security, outdoor recreation, roof garden, gym, computer room, laundry facilities, and common areas for socializing. Some of the newer projects have urban gardens in which residents can grow their own flowers and vegetables.

These developments are built using a variety of financing, including OMH bonds, low income tax credits, other City or State agency funding streams and conventional bank financing. Each project uses a different combination of funding sources.

In addition to debt service, OMH provides service and property operating funds to the non-profit agencies that sponsor the housing. The construction is designed to be energy efficient, with an emphasis on durability and low maintenance.

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The key elements of mixed income housing are:

- Housing is fully integrated; consumers live in buildings in which a majority of apartments are not reserved for persons with mental illness;
- Consumers have the same rights and responsibilities as any other non-disabled tenant; there are no special lease provisions or “house rules” for those with a disability;
- Consumers can access services based on their needs and preferences; services can be adjusted as these needs change over time;
- Housing is not time limited; consumers can stay as long as they fulfill the terms of their lease;
- Consumers have access to on-site support staff; some staff may be peers who have themselves experienced living with a mental disability; and
- Consumers pay 30% of their income for rent and utilities.



ACMH, East 144th Street, Bronx

The growth of mixed income housing demonstrates OMH’s commitment to create permanent supportive housing for individuals formerly living in State facilities, acute care hospitals, residential treatment facilities, adult homes, nursing homes and shelters.

Moira Tashjian, Statewide Director of Housing and Support Service for OMH, describes mixed income housing as an equal experience for all. “Consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court’s Olmstead Decision, mixed income housing increases opportunities for people with disabilities to live integrated lives in the community.”

OMH recently had the opportunity to speak with an individual living at Hull Avenue in the Bronx, which is operated by Postgraduate Center for Mental Health. These apartments are a mix for individuals living with mental illness, formerly homeless families, and affordable units for individuals and families. Bart, 53, has lived at Hull Avenue for almost 3 years. Prior to this, he lived at an OMH licensed residence and before that, he spent time in the Bellevue men’s shelter and psychiatric inpatient hospitals.

“[Living at Hull Avenue] allows me to be my own person and follow my own recovery with support from the team when I need it. I can afford the rent, the team here is capable and helpful and I can come and go to my appointments as needed,” said Bart.

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ACMH, East 144th Street, Bronx

Concern for Independent Living’s mixed income building on East New York Avenue in Brooklyn is another great example of how mixed income housing fits well and is accepted by the larger community. Many of the tenants living at the East NY Avenue residence previously lived at the South Beach or Kingsboro Psychiatric Centers.

“This building has helped transform people’s perceptions and attitude towards individuals living with mental illness. It is so wonderful, so normalizing to see children, pets, individuals and families all in the same lobby going about their day,” said Elizabeth Lunde, Associate Executive Director for Concern for Independent Living. “Both the affordable and supportive housing tenants have told me that this is the nicest apartment they have ever had.”



ACMH, East 144th Street, Bronx

“Concern for Independent Living continues to provide outstanding, progressive and well-equipped housing for our clients. At every level, from top administration to line workers, Concern staff seem interested and motivated to provide the best care in the most open and accepting environment,” said Dr. Roseanne Gaylor, Executive Director of South Beach Psychiatric Center. “Concern has clients integrated into their communities and supports them. This type of housing is ideal for maintaining our clients in the least restrictive settings and normalizing their life experience.”

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

What's Great in Our State: A Celebration of Children's Mental Health Awareness at the NYS Museum in Albany. For more information, visit the [event website](#).

Friday, May 29, 2015

APNA & NYSOMH Chief Nurses Organization 7th Annual Educational Conference: *Innovating Mental Health Care: Nurses and Consumers Working Together to Lead Mental Health Reform*. For more information, visit the [APNA website](#).

We Want to Hear from You!

Send us your story ideas, events, pictures and artwork for the chance to be featured in the OMH News. Mail to: Public Information Office, NYS Office of Mental Health-
44 Holland Avenue, Albany, NY 12229 or you can [email us](#).

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