

From: Tom McAlvanah
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Subject: OPWDD Budget Briefing

Hi All,

Below is the Governor's Budget Briefing booklet.

OPWDD called a brief meeting with the Provider Associations to review the Governor's proposed 2021/2022 Fiscal Year Budget. The overview follows with lots of details not yet known to OPWDD. There are Article 7 Bills that are less substantial than the rest of the Budget language. They include: extending authority for State Facility Directors to provide Representative Payee status for those individuals who do not have representation; a Bill to continue OPWDD authority to assign a provider as a Temporary Operator of a failing certified program when the health and safety of individuals are at risk; a Telehealth Bill that will promote access and equity for individuals who would benefit. This last one will need further clarification according to Willow Baer.

The Budget Briefing Book

The Mental Hygiene Section begins with an overview of all MH Departments, beginning on page 116. The proposal lists annual spending growth for the sector as a whole of 1.3%. For OPWDD an overall increase of 2.8% is proposed.

The OPWDD section, pages 120-121, list the accomplishments of the past years' spending and includes the following targeted spending areas:

1. A proposed an additional \$15M for Housing supports in the community.
2. The transition to Managed Care remains under review and assessment by OPWDD.
3. Managed access to Residential Programs based on the needs of individuals seeking housing opportunities. OPW will seek to 'offer' new-to-the-system individuals the most integrated and independent setting. It also includes opportunities for individuals in State Operated Residences to transition to a voluntary operated provider while opening up the opportunities for individuals with more intensive needs who are aging-out of Residential schools out of state to move to the State Operated Residences.
4. The Local Assistance payment reduction of 5% to take effect on 4/1/21. There remains the 20% withhold in this current FY that is proposed to be reduced in the last quarter of State's FY, 1/21-4/21 from 20% to 5%. The State may also restore the spending reductions of this past year depending on what Federal COVID Relief action is directed to New York. More to come there.
5. IBR will be transitioned from OPWDD to OMH. There may be additional resources to support research under the OMH umbrella.

OPWDD will have additional details in a call scheduled for this Thursday, 1/21. And once again, there is no COLA in this year's proposed Executive Budget. More details to come.

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/archive/fy22/ex/book/briefingbook.pdf>