

2005-2007 BIENNIAL BUDGET

MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET PRIORITIES

Status—July 2005; Reflecting Gubernatorial Vetoes

PRIORITY INITIATIVES RELATED TO YOUTH.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention:

- \$900,000 in the biennium to support recommendations from the Governor's Call to Action on Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, including money for respite care services for families with youth with emotional disturbances and parent education for adults with MH/AODA disorders.
 - **Approved by Legislature**
 - **Although the Governor proposed this in his budget, this language was vetoed as a result of changes he made to modify the Legislature's property tax proposal.**
- \$1.5m for universal and targeted home visiting program.
 - **Deleted**

Improved Care of Families in the Child Welfare System and Youth Transitioning Out of that System

- \$1.4m. for a pilot MH/AODA screening, assessment and treatment initiative for parents and children in the child welfare system outside Milwaukee.
 - **Deleted**
- Changes in Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, including establishing a MH stabilization clinic for children and parents.
 - **Legislature continued some funding and added funds to serve children and families at imminent risk of abuse but deleted funding for MH stabilization clinic and recruitment and retention of caseworkers.**
 - **The Governor, in his veto message, indicated he will direct the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare to divert some existing funds to support increases in wages for child welfare workers to support recruitment and retention and to support continued operation of the W-2 oversight office in Milwaukee.**

- \$4.1m. for Child Welfare Program Enhancement including improved practices and uniform training.
 - **Approved**
- \$800,000 for MA coverage for youth leaving out of home care.
 - **Deleted**
- Medicaid benefit savings by extending case management to high-cost recipients able to transition from child-centered to adult health services.
 - **Approved**

PRIORITY INITIATIVES RELATED TO ACCESS TO CARE.

Long-Term Care Reform

- \$1m. for 80 additional slots in Children’s Long-Term Support Waiver
 - **Approved 20 slots in first year, 30 slots in second year**
- Savings of about \$200,000 from implementing Community Opportunities and Recovery Waiver.
 - **Approved**
- Require evaluation of SSI managed care initiative prior to expanding to additional areas.
 - **Legislature approved Governor’s request to expand SSI managed care but also approved language requiring DHFS to report to Legislature on status of program by 1/1/07.**
 - **The Governor vetoed the requirement for the report.**
- \$3.1m to reduce COP waiting lists for person with mental illness.
 - **Not included in Gov’s budget.**

Maintaining Quality of Care

- Eliminate physician prescription requirement for MH services under MA
 - **Not included in Gov’s budget.**
- Prohibit DHFS from restricting access to medications to treat mental illness beyond current restrictions.
 - **Approved by Legislature for two years.**
 - **Governor vetoed this provision.**

- Provide additional funds to support access to benefit specialists for persons with disabilities in order to provide ongoing information on Medicare Part D issues.
 - **Approved \$600,000 of \$900,000 requested for elderly benefit specialists but additional funds not provided for benefit specialists for persons with disabilities.**
- Provide \$20m. during the biennium to assume 1/3 of the cost of Medicaid services for which counties currently pay the state share.
 - **Not added to budget.**

PRIORITY INITIATIVES RELATED TO ADULT AND JUVENILE JUSTICE.

Improvements in mental health treatment within institutions

- \$4.8m in the biennium to provide improved mental health services for adult inmates.
 - **Was not included in Gov's budget nor added by JFC.**
- \$1.3m in the biennium to continue the intensive treatment program for mentally ill offenders at Southern Oaks Girls School (SOGS).
 - **Approved funding SOGS through program revenue but also passed a second motion requiring Dept. of Corrections to close one of the juvenile institutions or achieve a savings to allow the daily rate to be reduced to \$187.**
 - **Governor partially vetoed this section so that closing of one institution is not required and that rate reduction is not mandated. He will require the DOC to submit a report to the Legislature and how realistic reductions to operational costs could be made in the future.**
- \$1.7m in the biennium to create a 174 bed AODA unit at Racine and a 36 bed unit at Taycheedah.
 - **Partially funded: 100 beds at Racine and 15 at Taycheedah.**
- Oppose contracting for health care services, as this has led to poorer health care in other states and usually results in more restrictive drug formularies.
 - **Deleted. Legislature requires DOC to submit a plan for how it will manage health care and health care costs by Jan. 2, 2006.**

Improved reintegration of offenders with mental disorders

- \$3.3m. in biennium to support enhanced reintegration services to mentally ill, female and medium security inmates prior to release from prison.

- **Approved \$3.1m. Funding for three non-profit agencies to provide community reintegration services. Approved a \$100,000 transfer of funds from DOC to Medicaid to fund a 12 person pilot program for individuals leaving WRC (\$43,000).**
- \$8m. in the biennium for purchase of services to support offender transition to community, including housing and treatment.
 - **Partially funded (\$3.8m.).**
- \$280,000 for Female Offender Reintegration Program to support services to nonviolent women and their dependent children.
 - **Approved with modification to reflect changed budget and phase-in assumptions (190,000).**

OTHER ITEMS

- Substance Abuse Offender Accountability and Public Safety Act (Treatment Instead of Prison)
 - **The Legislature added this to the budget.**
- Health Insurance Risk Sharing Program (HIRSP)
 - **The Legislature added language to change HIRSP into a legally distinct, nonprofit organization governed by a 13-member board of directors nominated by the Commissioner of Insurance. DHFS would have no role in the new HIRSP program.**
 - **The Governor vetoed this language, although he indicated that he was supportive of the concept but wanted a more open process to work it out.**
- Medicaid
 - **Legislature instituted no major cuts to eligibility or services. Legislature increased copayment for generic drugs from \$1 to \$3.**
 - **Governor vetoed increase in copayment for generic drugs. Governor vetoed increases in rates for hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies. Governor also required an additional \$60m. in savings from cost containment and reduced caseloads.**
- Corrections
 - **The Legislature added language to create a pilot program in which a private vendor would supply and distribute pharmaceuticals at one adult correctional institution.**
 - **The Governor modified this language so that the program could be implemented in more than one institution.**

- Medicaid
 - **The Legislature added language that would require the DHFS to submit a report by July 1, 2006 that would identify potential savings if Medicaid, BadgerCare and Senior Care recipients were limited to 5 brand name prescriptions per month (after which brand names would be subject to PA).**
 - **Governor vetoed this provision.**
- Division of Disability and Elder Services
 - **The Legislature added language to allow Community Support Program expansion funds to be used for the new Comprehensive Community Services benefit.**