



JEFFREY L. BROWN, Executive Director

DATE: September 29, 2009
FROM: Jeffrey L. Brown, Executive Director
TO: Oakland County Public Mental Health Stakeholders
RE: FY10 State of Michigan Budget Crisis

As of September 29, 2009, there is no approved State of Michigan Budget for the Fiscal Year 2010. The 2010 budget year begins on Thursday October 1, 2009. While the State of Michigan's budget is not appropriated and its fiscal future stability is uncertain, please know Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority (OCCMHA) will continue our commitment of providing quality services and supports to the people we serve as they recover, become increasingly independent in the community and improving the quality of life of their choosing. We will continue our mission even if there is no budget appropriated and will continue to do so as long as we can. Below are answers to some of the questions you may have about the State of Michigan's FY10 Budget Crisis and the potential impact on the delivery of public mental health services in Oakland County.

How does the State of Michigan's budget Crisis affect the Community Mental Health system in Oakland County?

Our State Constitution prohibits payments from the state treasury without a legislative appropriation. Simply put the dollars OCCMHA receives on a monthly basis from the State of Michigan will stop October 1, 2009. There will be no funding from the State to the OCCMHA until a budget is passed. If a shut down does occur we are not expecting it to be long lasting. We are expecting that when a budget is passed the funding will be at the level that we anticipated in our FY10 planning, but at this time there are no guarantees. If this crisis were to occur, all services funded by the State of Michigan would be affected. This will also stop the payment of Medicaid dollars to the public mental health system. While Medicaid is funded primarily by the federal government, the dollars flow through and are matched by the State of Michigan. The funding that would stop on October 1, 2009 comprises the vast majority of our operating budget.

How are OCCMHA and the Core Provider Agencies responding to the State of Michigan's Budget Crisis?

OCCMHA and the Core Provider Agencies are planning in a coordinated effort to ensure that the community and the persons we serve receive the services and supports they need. For the first week, services and supports will be provided with no changes. If the crisis persists, we will adjust our resources, supports and services to continue as long as we can with the resources we currently have at our disposal. The State of Michigan's budget crisis must be resolved.

The county of Oakland, OCCMHA and the Core Provider Agencies are committed to relying on existing resources to minimize the impact of this crisis. We are actively planning strategies to maximize the use of existing resources, and honor the commitments we have made to the community and the persons we are currently serving. We are involved in understanding and reacting to this rapidly changing fiscal environment. We will provide regular information as the situation changes. Please visit our website at www.occmha.org for the latest information from the OCCMHA.

What can we all do?

It is our expectation that the State Legislators and our Governor will approve a budget before October 1st to avert a statewide crisis. However, all of us should communicate with our elected officials demanding a resolution to this State Budget Crisis that is timely and addresses appropriately the needs of the citizens of Michigan.

Supporting the Advancement of Social Equity and Improved Quality of Life for those we serve.