

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

BUDGET COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

Mission Statement:

The Mental Health Board (MHB) Budget Committee reviews and makes recommendations regarding the budget to the MH Division and MHB.

Committee Composition:

- MH Board representatives (4)
- Consumer representatives including children & youth, adults, older adults (4)
- Family representatives including parent and caregiver (4)
- MH Division representatives (4)
- Provider representatives (4) – *nonvoting members*

Charges:

- Makes budget recommendations (new services or reductions) including comments on service impact
- Considers possible new revenues
- Considers public comment in all aspects of process
- Provides public education regarding the budget
- Creates recommendations or reports as requested by the MHB, MHB Chair or MH Director.

Guidelines for Budget Reduction / Augmentation:

- Maintain a “systems” perspective
- Review mandatory programs initially regarding requirements; review discretionary programs
- Preserve direct services to individuals, particularly integrated services. Integrated programs would include those programs that provide mental health services and supports including medication services.
- Preserve services that foster recovery, resiliency, autonomy (adults), family preservation (children and youth) and possible exit strategies. These are consistent with consumer preference for education, employment and meaningful activity within the community.
- Maintain services that divert from acute psychiatric facilities, locked facility placement and jail/juvenile hall.
 - Olmstead decision (least restrictive level of care)
 - Mental health division philosophy
 - Less expensive
- Bare minimal standards for drastic reductions – safety net, out of psychiatric hospital/institutions/jail and domiciled (stable living environment).
 - Children and Youth – maintain in school and home
 - Adults – maintain out of psychiatric hospitals/institutions and domiciled
 - Older Adults – maintain out of psychiatric hospitals/institutions, not isolated