

**Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Related Items
In the 2009-2011 Biennial Budget
Final**

The following identifies the final status of items of interest to mental health advocates.

Medicaid Coverage for Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment for Substance Abuse: this new Medicaid benefit will reimburse primary care providers for substance abuse screening and brief intervention. Goes into effect 1/1/11.

Community Recovery Services (1915i state plan amendment): this new Medicaid option will allow counties to draw down federal Medicaid funds using county tax levy or community aids as match. The benefit will cover a variety of psychosocial rehabilitation services. This option allows counties to limit the number of people they serve under the benefit. A maintenance of effort requirement, included in the Governor's proposal, was removed.

Counties Pay "State" Share of Mental Health Institute Stays for Youth and Elders: Governor's recommendations to require counties to pay full state share of Medicaid for youth under 21 and elders over 64 at the two state mental health institutes was approved. The budget language was modified to allow counties to draw down the enhanced federal Medicaid matching rate during the recovery period—about \$1.3m each year. The Legislature also expanded language in the Governor's budget to require law enforcement to obtain county approval before all emergency detentions.

Community Mental Health Services: The Governor's recommendation to provide \$1m. in year one and \$3m. in year two for community mental health services with unspecified method of distribution was included in the budget. These funds can be used for crisis intervention, community support program services and comprehensive community services benefits.

Coordinated Service Team Expansion: The budget did not include provisions to expand this initiative.

Corrections: Additional funds were provided for enhanced mental health services at Taycheedah. The opening of Wisconsin Resource Center female offender unit was delayed until June 1, 2011. Implements recommendations from the Justice Reinvestment Initiative including \$10m. Becky Young Community Corrections appropriation for purchasing community services to reduce recidivism. Creates community reintegration program (formerly the conditional release pilot) for about 4 inmates/month.

Cigarettes: Increases tax by \$.75/pack; reduces funding for the Tobacco Control Board by 55%.

Independent Living Centers: Governor's recommendations to cut funding approved, but JFC changed to a one-time lapse with base funding to be restored in the next biennium.

July 1, 2009

Aging and Disability Resource Centers: Governor's funding recommendations approved. Advocates do not believe funding formula is adequate based on DHS' analysis.

Children's Long Term Support: Governor's recommendations to add 1000 long-term support slots in four years approved; JFC restored funding to the respite care program.

Medicaid Funding: DHS is required to identify \$500 m. in savings to Medicaid. The Governor vetoed a legislative amendment that would have required a review by the Joint Finance Committee of DHS proposals to achieve these savings.

Autism Coverage: Coverage of up to \$50,000/year for intensive services and up to \$25,000/year for non-intensive services required to be provided in health insurance coverage.

Vendorship: Licensed social workers, professional counselors and marriage and family counselors licensed by DRL must be independently reimbursed by insurance. Requirement for a physician prescription for Medicaid mental health services removed.

Tax exemption for low-income housing: Statutory language changes to keep non-profit agencies that provide housing to persons of low income, with some limitations, off the tax rolls. Income limits established for benevolent housing provided to seniors.

Reductions in school aids, youth aids, shared revenue: These reductions will have an unknown impact as counties/school districts make decisions for 2010.