

Children's League of Massachusetts – 101 Tremont St., Suite 1000, Boston, MA 02108
617-695-1991
Health Law Advocates - 30 Winter St., Suite 1004, Boston, MA 02108 617-338-5241
M-POWER – 98 Magazine Street, Roxbury, MA 02119 617-442-4111
Massachusetts Association of Behavioral Health Systems – 115 Mill St., Belmont, MA 02478
617-855-3520
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, Inc. - 130 Bowdoin St., Suite 309 Boston, MA
02108 617-742-7452
Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition - 15 Vernon St., Waltham, MA 02453
781-788-8803
Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance - 25 Kingston St., Suite 3F Boston, MA 02111
617-367-6447
Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association – 17 Cocasset St. Foxboro, MA 02035
508-698-0010
MA Organization for Addiction Recovery – 30 Winter St. Boston, MA 02108 – 617-423-6627
Massachusetts Psychological Association – 195 Worcester St., Suite 303, Wellesley, MA 02481
781-263-0080
Massachusetts Psychiatric Society – 40 Washington St., Suite 201 Wellesley, MA 02481 781-
237-8100
Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children - 99 Summer St., Boston,
MA 02110 617- 587-1500
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts – 251 West Central St.,
Suite 21, Natick, MA 01760 508-647-8385
NAMI-Massachusetts - 400 West Cummings Park, Suite 6650, Woburn, MA 01801
781-938-4048
National Association of Social Workers Massachusetts Chapter – 14 Beacon St., Suite 409,
Boston, MA 02108 617-227-9635
National Empowerment Center, Inc. - 599 Canal St., Lawrence, MA 01840 978-685-1494
Nurses United for Responsible Services, P.O. Box 920711 Needham, MA 02492
617- 332-0422
Parent/Professional Advocacy League – 45 Bromfield St., 10th Floor, Boston, MA 02111 617-
508-947-7964
Statewide Mental Health Advisory Council – 161 Main St. Lakeville, MA 02347
508-947-7964
The Transformation Center – 98 Magazine Street, Roxbury, MA 02119 617-442-4111

June 25, 2009
(By Hand)

Hon. Deval Patrick, Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick,

We are writing to urge that you not make any further reductions to the line-item accounts for the Department of Mental Health (DMH) beyond those recommended by the Conference Committee and enacted by the House and Senate.

As the leading organizations advocating for and representing children, adolescents and adults with behavioral health disorders, their families, and service and treatment providers, we are very much aware of the spending reductions already imposed on DMH, its providers, clients and family members. The budget proposed for FY 2010 and presently on your desk is more than **\$40 Million less** than what was proposed for FY 2009. To be sure the 9C cuts in the fall of 2009 reduced the FY 2009 spending by some \$30 Million, resulting in the layoff of more than 100 DMH case managers and other personnel as well as hundreds of staff from community providers serving DMH clients. The impact of these lay-offs was exacerbated by the elimination of entire service categories and the reduction of other services such as clubhouses.

DMH was able to lessen the full impact of the FY 2009 9C cuts by a “one-time” use of trust funds. We are told that option is not available in FY 2010, so DMH is still facing a \$12 to \$13 Million cut.

Moreover, DMH is undergoing a transformation of its system and it is doing so with less resources, less personnel. Obviously, this has placed a severe strain on the entire mental health system, yet we remain committed to doing the very best for our clients, families and organizations.

As you know, an Inpatient Study Commission will soon make recommendations relative to the inpatient capacity and needs of DMH. This is part of DMH’s effort to address the deficit, and to foster a “Community First” approach for its clients.

We respectfully request that in light of the significant cuts already sustained at DMH, its projected FY 2010 shortfall and the ongoing transformation DMH is making to the delivery of care system, that you do not make any further reductions to its line-items.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request.

Respectfully,

Bernard J. Carey, Jr., Executive Director
MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION FOR MENTAL HEALTH, INC.

Deborah Delman, Executive Director
THE TRANSFORMATION CENTER

Vicker DiGravio, President & CEO
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE CORPORATIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC.

Elena Eisman, Ed.D., Executive Director
MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Joseph Finn, Executive Director
MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE

Daniel Fisher, M.D., Ph.D, Executive Director
NATIONAL EMPOWERMENT CENTER, INC.

Linda Fountas and Gail Shamon
M-POWER

Maryanne Frangules, MOAR Project Coordinator
MA ORGANIZATION FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY

Lisa Lambert, Executive Director
PARENT/PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY LEAGUE

Sandy Levine, Chair
STATEWIDE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Laurie Martinelli, Executive Director
NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS OF MASSACHUSETTS"

Theo C. Manschreck, M.D., President
MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY

David Matteodo, Executive Director
MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

Sharon Reynolds, Legislative Committee Chair
NURSES UNITED FOR RESPONSIBLE SERVICES

Matthew Selig, Esquire, Acting Executive Director
HEALTH LAW ADVOCATES

Reva Stein, Executive Director
MASSACHUSETTS CLUBHOUSE COALITION

Marylou Sudders, President & CEO
MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN, INC.

Barbara Talkov, Executive Director
CHILDREN'S LEAGUE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Carol J. Trust, Executive Director

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, THE MA CHAPTER

Midge Williams, Executive Director

MASSACHUSETTS MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS ASSOCIATION

Cc: Hon. JudyAnn Bigby, Secretary Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Hon. Barbara Leadholm, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health