

**Association for Behavioral Healthcare** – 251 West Central St., Suite 21, Natick, MA 01760  
508-647-8385

**Children’s Hospital** - 300 Longwood Ave., Boston, MA 02115 617-355-6000

**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

**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 Psychiatric Society** – 40 Washington St., Suite 201 Wellesley, MA 02481 781-  
237-8100

**Massachusetts Psychological Association** – 195 Worcester St., Suite 303, Wellesley, MA 02481  
781-263-0080

**Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children** - 99 Summer St., Boston,  
MA 02110 617- 587-1500

**Mental Health Legal Advisors Committee** - 399 Washington Street, 4th floor, Boston, MA,  
02108

**National Alliance on Mental Illness of 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

**Nurses United for Responsible Services** - P. O. Box 620024 Newton, MA 02462-0024

**Parent/Professional Advocacy League** – 45 Bromfield St., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Boston, MA 02111 617-  
542-7860

**Statewide Mental Health Advisory Council** – 161 Main St. Lakeville, MA 02347  
508-947-7964

August 10, 2010

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

Hon. Therese Murray, President  
Massachusetts Senate  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Hon. Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker  
MA House of Representatives  
State House  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Patrick, President Murray and Speaker DeLeo,

**As a result of recent action in Washington, DC, there is reason for optimism that the Commonwealth may receive an infusion of federal Medicaid funds (FMAP). While**

**the timing, as well as the amount, are presently unclear, we wanted to express our expectation and our request that the Department of Mental Health receive its fair share of any FMAP funds that are received.**

As the leading organizations advocating for and representing children, adolescents and adults with behavioral health disorders, their families, and service and treatment providers, we strongly support DMH's and the Administration's Communities First Initiative and the integration of DMH clients into the community. We supported the expansion of community based programs as recommended by the Department of Mental Health Inpatient Study Commission, in its June 30, 2009 Report to JudyAnn Bigby, M.D., Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. Moreover, the Commission itself emphasized the critical importance of investment in the community from any savings resulting from its recommendations.

We are grateful for what each of you has done and for the support all of you have expressed for the citizens of the Commonwealth living with mental illnesses. We believe you have collectively attempted to guide the Commonwealth through difficult economic times in ways that lessen the harm and disruption to those populations who depend most upon government.

We believe the receipt of FMAP funding provides an opportunity to restore the dramatic reductions that have occurred at DMH as well to help stabilize the community based services network which is being asked to provide services for more DMH clients at a time of declining resources and increased operating costs. Additionally, the FMAP funds could help alleviate some of the enormous time pressures DMH is experiencing in rapidly discharging large numbers of patients from State Hospitals to the Community due to inpatient bed closures.

As a result of lowered budgets and multiple 9C cuts, by the end of FY 2010, more than 850 people at DMH had been laid off, taken a voluntary lay-off or retirement. If you compare the numbers back to FY 2009, the number of people lost increases to over 1,000. Additionally, hundreds of staff for community-based provider organizations have been laid-off over the past two years due to funding and program cuts.

As we write this letter, DMH Commissioner Leadholm has already announced another round of lay-offs as a result of the reductions made in the FY 2011 budget.

We are all aware the fiscal crisis continues and we know whatever FMAP are received, will not come close to restoring all that has been lost. And, we firmly believe the cuts to community-based, public mental health services, occurring at the same time clients are being rapidly discharged from DMH hospitals, mental health centers and other facilities into the community is a recipe for failure, re-hospitalizations and additional costs well above any perceived savings.

For people with severe and persistent mental illnesses to live successfully in the community there needs to be a variety of community based services including the

Department's Community Based Flexible Supports (CBFS), Clubhouses, Program for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT), partial hospitalization and outpatient programs, including those funded by MassHealth, peer mentoring and other peer directed programs. We all know funding for mental health services is both cost-effective for the state as well as consistent with the core principles of a humane, civilized society.

We hope you will do all that you can to provide FMAP funding for DMH and the families and individuals it serves.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this request.

Respectfully,

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

David R. DeMaso, M.D., Psychiatrist-in-Chief & Chairman of Psychiatry  
**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL**

Vicker DiGravio, President & CEO  
**ASSOCIATION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**

Elena Eisman, Ed.D., ABPP Executive Director/Director of Professional Affairs  
**MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

Joseph Finn, Executive Director  
**MASSACHUSETTS HOUSING AND SHELTER ALLIANCE**

Linda Fountas, President & Florette Willis, Coordinator in Charge  
**M-POWER**

Marie Hobart, MD, M.D., President  
**MASSACHUSETTS PSYCHIATRIC SOCIETY**

Lisa Lambert, Executive Director  
**PARENT/PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY LEAGUE**

Frank J. Laski, Executive Director  
**MENTAL HEALTH LEGAL ADVISORS COMMITTEE**

Sandy Levine, Chair  
**STATEWIDE MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL**

David Matteodo, Executive Director  
**MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEMS**

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

Sharon Reynolds, Legislative Committee Chair  
**NURSES UNITED FOR RESPONSIBLE SERVICES**

Matthew Selig, Esquire, 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**

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