



March 4, 2010

2010-2011 State Budget: H.B. 2279 was released today, it is the House version of the budget that will be introduced by Representative Evans. Our line items are the same as contained in the Governor's budget proposal. The House has indicated that they will be prepared to move the budget onto the agenda so that a vote can be taken the week of March 22. Some in the Senate have indicated that we will face another impasse if there are any new taxes contained in the budget.

Gaming funds for Substance Abuse Services: PACDAA, the Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services (BDAP) and the Pennsylvania gaming Board met to discuss the development of a strategic plan, training needs, and treatment services. SCA's will be receiving funding through two separate provisions of the recently enacted gaming legislation. Three Million dollars will be available for assessment of gambling problems and residential treatment services for substance abuse problems. These funds will be allocated to each SCA by BDAP. We have reason to believe that these funds will be available in the very near future. We will be working with BDAP to determine the best method for ensuring that the funds are available and spent within the current fiscal year. We are waiting for official notification that the funds are available. BDAP will be developing an allocation formula so that SCA's know their allocation as quickly as possible.

We will also be receiving a minimum of \$1.5M per fiscal year that is to be used for prevention and treatment of compulsive gambling problems. The Department of Health will allocate these funds at the beginning of the next fiscal year. PACDAA will be working with BDAP and the Council on Compulsive Gambling to increase the number of certified counselors and training that is available.

BDAP funding Agreement: We had a very productive meeting with BDAP on Tuesday to discuss the issues around continuation of the functional treatment service model. BDAP will be including language that describes the requirements for continuation of the functional units and will be conducting site visits of each functional unit over the course of the next fiscal year.

Treatment Data System: CORE Solutions continues to work with BDAP, SCA's and providers to develop a statewide data system for substance abuse treatment services. The provider workgroup is meeting for the next 5 weeks to develop forms and work flows.

Expedited Enrollment: Nineteen SCA's are working with OMHSAS, their HealthChoices MCO and providers to change the HealthChoices enrollment date to the date of admission in a residential treatment facility, saving thousands of Act 152 dollars. Please utilize the HUB at Lycoming Clinton Drug & Alcohol Commission to redistribute these funds.

Transition: OMHSAS Deputy Secretary Joan Erney announced that she will be leaving state government in May to take a position with Community Behavioral Health Care in Pittsburgh. Several other OMHSAS staff will be retiring in the near future – Robbie Altendor and Linda Zelch. We will be working to make sure that we have clearly documented the process for the 152/BHSI HUB before these transitions occur.

Prevention Needs Assessment: Representatives from PACDAA will be meeting with BDAP on Monday to discuss recommendations and next steps. KIT Solutions continues to work on the conversion of the PBPS data system and will be working with Western region SCA's to pilot test the system.