

March 3, 2010

To: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Delivery System Stakeholders
From: Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment
Subject: Substance Use Disorder Treatment Delivery System Budget Management

In light of the continued weakness in the state's revenues and the proposed budgetary holdbacks under consideration by the legislature, we would like to communicate the status and projected impacts on the substance use disorder treatment system budget. The challenge of reducing the number of clients in the state-funded treatment system from a high of 4,700 clients in May 2009 to a level sustainable in the current budget climate has been difficult. The system currently has 3,040 clients in treatment, 2,560 adults and 480 adolescents. Despite this reduced census, the monthly expenditures on treatment continue to exceed the budgeted levels. In addition, a holdback of \$866,500 was proposed for the fiscal year 2010 treatment budget to be made on-going in fiscal year 2011.

The Interagency Committee on Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment is meeting regularly to address this budget shortfall. With a goal of effectively managing the decreased funds through the final months of the fiscal year, the Committee has asked Business Psychology Associates to reduce the number of adult clients in outpatient treatment by 20% and the number of adolescents by 15%, considering length of stay and responsiveness to treatment. In addition, the Committee asked that the number of clients placed in residential services be carefully managed. With regard to Recovery Support Services, the Committee requested that case management services be suspended when a probation or parole officer is engaged with the client. Transportation Services and Family, Marriage, Life Skills Classes will be suspended for all clients. Due to this continued budget shortfall, BPA will not maintain a wait list for treatment services. Business Psychology Associates will be communicating the implementation details of these strategies.

The Interagency Committee will continue to monitor expenditures and the effect of these decisions on the provider network and the clients in treatment. It is hoped that with continued oversight, we can meet the requirements of a reduced budget while minimizing the impact to the system and the clients it serves.

Please call me with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

Sharon Burke
Office of Drug Policy