

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Budget



Fiscal Year 2017

Volume II – Health and Human Services

Gina M. Raimondo, Governor

Agency

Office Of The Mental Health Advocate

Agency Mission

To ensure the legal, civil, and special rights of people with mental illness in Rhode Island.

To protect the liberty interests and treatment rights of individuals subjected to involuntary commitment and to the involuntary administration of medication in psychiatric facilities, including penal inmates.

To protect the legal rights of clients of the mental health system by means of direct legal representation and/or referral to appropriate resources.

To monitor and evaluate the quality of services available to clients of the mental health system, and to investigate incidents. To address shortcomings and gaps in the services and programs administered by the mental health providers.

To address stigmatizing legal inequities and social barriers that impact upon the lives of individuals with mental illness by means of legislative advocacy, litigation, education, support for the mental health consumer movement, and by outreach to the public at large.

Agency Description

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate accomplishes its mission by providing legal representation at involuntary commitment proceedings, monitoring procedures and policies at in-patient treatment facilities and community-based mental health programs, proposing and evaluating legislation, and litigating civil rights and treatment rights disputes. The Office also provides counsel to clients of the mental health system who bring complaints involving mental health issues and other issues vital to maintaining quality of life, such as housing and protection from creditors. The Office is also charged to protect the treatment rights of criminally insane persons and prison inmates in the forensic hospital (patients who are under criminal process) and to provide legal representation for indigent persons receiving in-patient substance abuse treatment.

Statutory History

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate was created in 1975 when the legislature re-wrote and reformed the Mental Health Law of Rhode Island. This reform was part of a national movement toward deinstitutionalization of mentally ill individuals, a movement which began in the 1950's and became a centerpiece of public policy in the 1970's after the United States Supreme Court declared that all states must provide Constitutional Due Process and legal counsel to individuals subjected to involuntary hospitalization. The original statute authorizing the Mental Health Advocate is codified at RI General Laws, Sections 40.1-5-13, 40.1-5-22 and 24 (Public Laws 1974, Ch. 119).

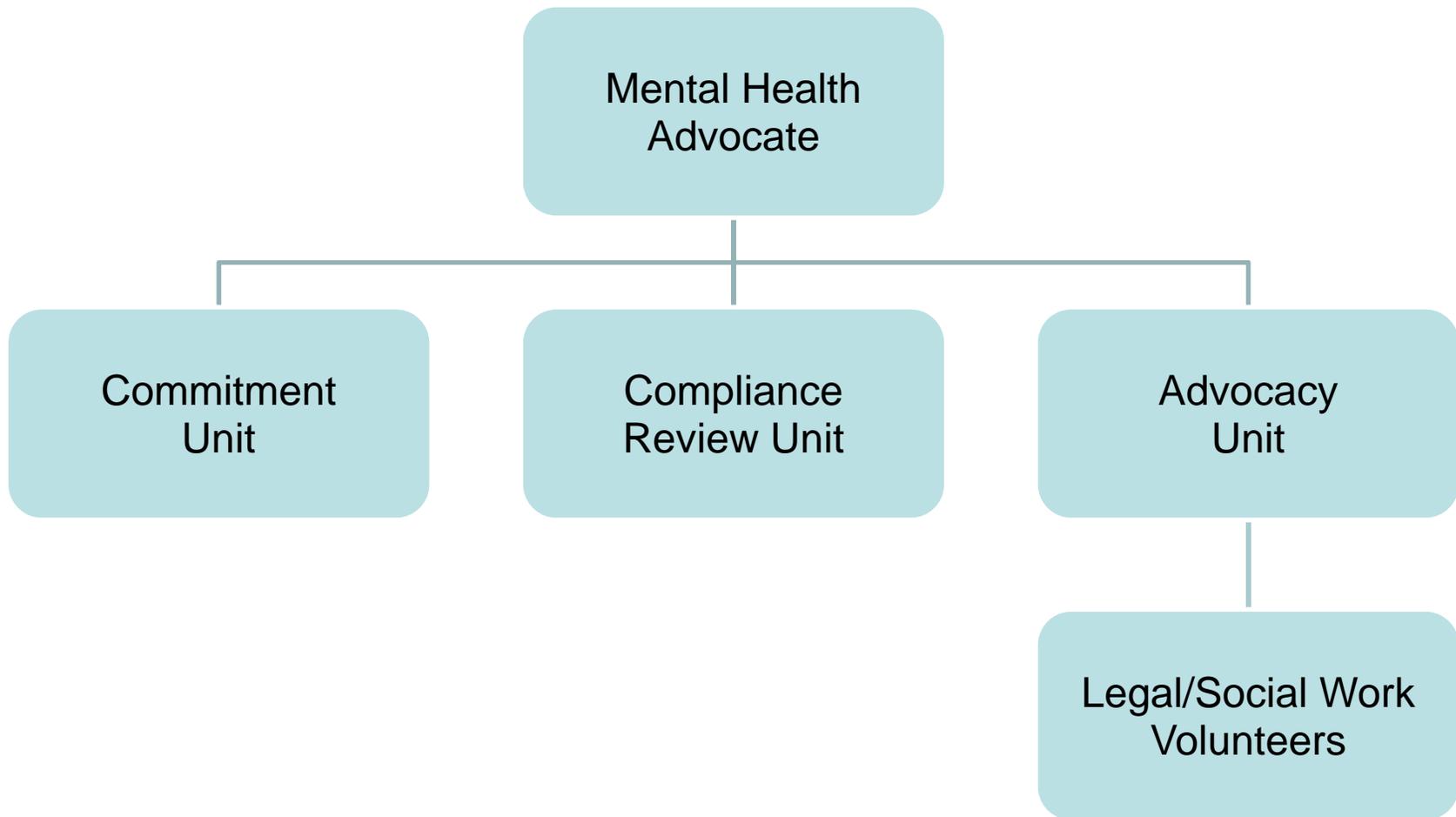
Budget

Office Of The Mental Health Advocate

	FY 2014 Audited	FY 2015 Audited	FY 2016 Enacted	FY 2016 Revised	FY 2017 Recommend
Expenditures By Program					
Central Management	485,005	504,149	508,251	549,419	542,009
Total Expenditures	\$485,005	\$504,149	\$508,251	\$549,419	\$542,009
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	474,708	492,119	487,132	528,445	530,915
Operating Supplies and Expenses	10,297	12,030	11,119	10,974	11,094
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	485,005	504,149	498,251	539,419	542,009
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	10,000	10,000	-
Total Expenditures	\$485,005	\$504,149	\$508,251	\$549,419	\$542,009
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	485,005	504,149	508,251	549,419	542,009
Total Expenditures	\$485,005	\$504,149	\$508,251	\$549,419	\$542,009
FTE Authorization	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0

The Agency

Office of the Mental Health Advocate



Personnel

Office Of The Mental Health Advocate Central Management

	Grade	FY 2016		FY 2017	
		FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified					
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE	00862F	1.0	106,237	1.0	106,800
STAFF ATTORNEY III	00832A	2.0	161,209	2.0	162,481
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	00323A	1.0	53,695	1.0	49,233
Subtotal		4.0	\$321,141	4.0	\$318,514
Total Salaries		4.0	\$321,141	4.0	\$318,514
Benefits					
Payroll Accrual			1,837		1,845
FICA			24,568		24,367
Retiree Health			19,172		19,015
Health Benefits			65,419		65,813
Retirement			79,736		84,431
Subtotal			\$190,732		\$195,471
Total Salaries and Benefits		4.0	\$511,873	4.0	\$513,985
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temporary and Seasonal)			\$127,968		\$128,496
Statewide Benefit Assessment			\$14,772		\$15,130
Payroll Costs		4.0	\$526,645	4.0	\$529,115
Purchased Services					
Clerical and Temporary Services			200		200
Other Contracts			100		100
Medical Services			1,500		1,500
Subtotal			\$1,800		\$1,800
Total Personnel		4.0	\$528,445	4.0	\$530,915
Distribution By Source Of Funds					
General Revenue		4.0	\$528,445	4.0	\$530,915
Total All Funds		4.0	\$528,445	4.0	\$530,915