



1/18/17

Governor Cuomo's 2017-2018 New York State Budget Proposal Highlights

After a very quick look at the Governor's 2017-2018 New York State Budget proposal that was released late last night, following are some highlights of interest. We will provide further details as they become available.

The Budget Documents are all available at DOB's website at:

<https://www.budget.ny.gov/pubs/executive/eBudget1718/ExecutiveBudget.html>

Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

- Most significantly, there is no additional funding toward a living wage for OPWDD low wage staff for our #bFair2DirectCare request.
- The Budget proposal once again defers the annual COLA for human services which would have been a 0.8% increase this year.
- \$17 million to support the direct cost of FY 2018 while also covering the annualized 2017 minimum wage increases for OPWDD, OMH and OASAS not-for-profits.
- Makes \$120 million (state and Federal funding when fully annualized) in additional funding "available" for supports and services for individuals living at home with their families or in residential schools and **"other programmatic reforms."** The bolded piece is added language, compared to previous years that will need an explanation from OPWDD.
- \$15 million in capital funds to develop independent living housing.
- Additional resources for new residential opportunities will also be supported through the broader five year \$20B affordable and supportive housing plan.
- An additional \$12 million for START crisis prevention program in the downstate area.
- Transition to managed care with regional Care Coordination Organizations (CCOs) roll-out at the end of 2017. Voluntary enrollment in managed care is expected to begin in 2019.
- Recognizes that implementing managed care for the OPWDD service system requires investments for start-up and administration costs which will be supported by the global Medicaid cap.
- Convene a Blue Ribbon Panel to examine moving the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR) from OPWDD to City University at the College of Staten Island.

State Education Department

- Even though the Governor lauded his 4.1%/\$1 billion Education increase as the largest in State history, there do not appear to be any funding increases for 4410 or 853 Special Education schools.
- The Governor highlighted the \$800 million for universal pre-k, \$163 million in new funding for free SUNY/CUNY tuition for families who earn under \$125,000 which he said "in the scope of things is not a big number."

Department of Health

- Early Intervention “reforms” including proposals for increased third party insurance.
- Elimination of the “Human Services COLA” for DOH and State Office for the Aging programs as they have been too “complicated” to implement.
- \$500 million for capital improvements of “essential” health care facilities including \$30 million for community based organizations.
- Eliminates the prescriber’s right of final determination in both fee for service and managed care, excluding mental health medications, when the justification for use is not clinically supported.”
- \$225 million to support the direct cost of the FY 2018 minimum wage increases for health care workers that provide services reimbursed by Medicaid.
- Establishes the Health Care Regulation Modernization Team to “create a more efficient health care system by modernizing the State’s health regulatory framework.”
- \$567 million/3.2% Medicaid growth.
- Proposal for the State to cap the cost of prescription drugs.

Office of Mental Health

- \$17 million to support the direct cost of FY 2018 minimum wage increases for OPWDD, OMH and OASAS not-for-profits.
- \$11 million in Community Reinvestment dollars based on the elimination of state psychiatric beds that have been unused for over 90 days.
- Support 280 additional Community Beds.
- \$10 million to enhance support for existing Residential Programs.
- Re-direct \$3.5 million in consumer wrap around service dollars to fund “a variety of emergency and non-emergency expenses.”
- Revamp Hutchings Children & Youth Services.
- Establish Jail-Based Restoration Programs for Certain Defendants. “NYS counties would be voluntarily authorized to develop residential mental health pod unit(s) within local jails for the purposes of housing, treating, and restoring felony-level defendants to competency as they await trial. Similarly, this proposal would voluntarily authorize DOCCS, by agreement with OMH, to develop similar restoration unit(s) within the NYS correctional system.”
- Extends Behavioral Health Provider Government Rates until March 2020 and adds a value based payment requirement.
- Raises the age of criminal liability from age 16 to 18.

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