



Support for Budget Amendment of 5% Increase (\$3.65 million)  
in State Contracts to Community Mental Health Providers:

Report to the Tennessee General Assembly  
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Two programs that would receive improvement dollars are the Peer Support Centers and the Criminal Justice/Mental Health Liaison program. Both programs effectively prevent or reduce psychiatric hospitalization. Psychiatric Inpatient services at a Regional Mental Health Facility (RMHI) cost an average of \$457.00 per day. Since July, 2006 psychiatric inpatient services must be paid with 100% state dollars with no federal Medicaid match.

There are 49 Peer Support Centers in Tennessee with annual state allocations ranging from \$102,700.00 for rural centers serving an average of 60 individuals per month to \$113,200 for urban centers serving an average of 115 persons per month. Members attend the center two days per week on average where they attend classes, support groups, social activities and receive a meal. Peer Centers provide transportation to and from the center, although some rural centers have decreased van routes to stay within budget. Personnel are individuals with mental illness who have recovered and returned to work. The role modeling component of the centers provides a cost effective method to encourage financial independence.

Criminal Justice/Mental Health Liaisons are boundary spanning personnel that facilitate communication and coordination between the community, the criminal justice and mental health systems. Liaisons work in the mental health centers and jails, providing case management to individuals with mental illness who are incarcerated or at risk of incarceration. There are eighteen CJ/MH Liaisons in Tennessee serving twenty-five counties. Grants range from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually. In FY2006, Liaisons served 3230 unduplicated individuals for a total of 13,854 contacts.

	Monthly cost per person	Federal Match
Peer Support Center	\$82.00 <sup>1</sup>	Mental Health Block Grant
Criminal Justice/Mental Health Liaison	\$23.00 <sup>2</sup>	Mental Health Block Grant
Psychiatric Hospitalization	\$13,685.00 <sup>3</sup>	None
Incarceration in County Jail	\$1,266.00 <sup>4</sup>	None

<sup>1</sup> Sources: DMHDD Statewide Peer Support Center Member Survey , 7/13/2007, DeWitt, Paula  
DMHDD Drop In Center Unduplicated Monthly Goals for 2003/04

<sup>2</sup> DMHDD Criminal Justice/Mental Health Liaison Projects 2006/07 Report

<sup>3</sup> Tennessee Comptroller, DMHDD Performance Audit, 2006

<sup>4</sup> DMHDD, Survey of County Jails, 2003, Medication Report, Diehl, Sita