



**KANE COUNTY
MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL**

making a difference ...together



Message of the Month

March, 2012

www.kanecountymentalhealth.org

Kane County Mental Health Council

- The Association for Individual Development
630-966-4000
- Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center
630-859-6562
- Delnor Community Hospital
630-208-3000
- Ecker Center for Mental Health Services
847-695-0484
- Family Counseling Service of Aurora
630-844-2662
- Family Service Association of Greater Elgin Area
847-695-3680
- Gateway Foundation/Aurora
630-966-7400
- Greater Elgin Family Care Center 847-608-1344
- Kane County Health Department 630-208-3801
- Larkin Center 847-695-5656
- League of Women Voters
630-365-2138
- INC Board 630-892-5456
- National Alliance on Mental Illness, DeKalb, Kane-South, Kendall Counties, Inc.
630-896-6264
- National Alliance on Mental Illness-Kane County
847-931-4715
- Provena Mercy Medical Center
630-801-2657
- Provena St. Joseph Hospital
847-931-5521
- Senior Services Association
847-741-0404
- Suicide Prevention Services 630-482-9696
- TriCity Family Services
630-232-1070
- VNA Health Care
630-978-9835

Mental Health legislation takes center stage in Springfield

As many of you know, over half of the mental health services provided in the State of Illinois are publicly funded (State of Illinois, counties, cities and townships). Less than half are provided by insurance, local funders using donated funds, and out-of-pocket payments. As a result, much of the attention of the mental health community (providers and residents alike) is focused on what goes on in Springfield, both legislatively and financially.

As for proposed legislation, in what was anticipated to be a quiet "off year", there are several proposed laws that would directly affect services by further limiting the ability of local governmental units to address local needs (HB4608, SB2862 and SB2073). It is unclear as to whether these bills will advance or not. There are also a number of bills that would enhance services and training. We applaud these efforts.

There is also a great deal of concern in the mental health community about proposed budget cuts, averaging 9%, for all state departments, including the Division of Mental Health. This could mean the elimination of services for one out of every eleven residents currently being served. There is considerable discussion of Medicaid reform, which could also limit who receives mental health services currently funded by Medicaid. The anticipated closure of state-operated mental health facilities could also result in a reduction of bed availability, forcing these individuals to seek services in their community. The Governor's Office and the Legislature will work on the 2012-13 budget between now and the end of the fiscal year.

We would ask that everyone who reads this message to tell your local legislators and candidates in the upcoming elections, that you "Support Mental Health" and do not favor balancing the state's budget on the backs of some of Illinois' most vulnerable citizens.

Jerry Murphy, Executive Director, INC Board

Info Corner

Web sites to help you keep up to date with Mental Health legislation in Springfield:

www.stateline.org

illinoisissues

State of Illinois