



**Legislative Update # 28
August 1, 2011**

Legislative “Wish List”

I am beginning to solicit ideas and suggestions for the DMHAS legislative package that would be submitted in the 2012 session. While the process has not yet been finalized, in order to allow enough time, I would need your input no later than Monday, September 12th.

I am seeking ideas for statutory changes that would improve service delivery or patient care, make your work easier or which may replace outmoded procedures/language in the current statutes. *(Please note that requests for increased funding or new programs are considered “budgetary” items and, thus, would not be part of this exercise.)*

To assist you, I enclose a copy of criteria developed at a legislative retreat in order to “weigh” potential ideas for inclusion in the DMHAS legislative package. I would be happy to meet with groups in early September (or to speak with you by phone) if you would like to discuss whatever legislation you believe is necessary to enable DMHAS and its constituency groups to carry out our mission in the most productive way.

Please call me at (860) 418-6967 to set up a meeting during the first two weeks of September or get me your suggestions or drafts no later than Monday, September 12th. That should leave enough time for the DMHAS Executive Committee to assess the need for the change(s) people have proposed, as well as to prepare the draft legislative package and supporting documentation for submission to OPM and the Governor’s office.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Enclosure: Criteria

Criteria for Inclusion in the DMHAS Legislative Package

1. Does the suggested change support DMHAS' mission?
2. Does it help to eliminate barriers?
3. Is it one which does not stigmatize our client population?
4. What are the potential costs (or savings) involved if this is implemented?
5. Can this proposal be accomplished, while ensuring the public's safety?
6. Will the proposed change streamline current administrative procedures?
7. Does the suggested change affect other agencies? (If so, which ones?)
8. Would this promote collaboration?
9. Who will be for (or against) this change?
10. Is this suggested change client focused?
11. Is it doable?
12. Is it necessary?
13. What is the timing for implementation?
14. What is the efficacy of the proposed change versus the impact?
15. Is the proposed change supported by research?
16. Is such a change consistent with (or on the cutting edge of) national trends?

Accessing Information via the Connecticut General Assembly Web Page:

If you wish to get the details/status on a bill, read the text of a bill, or check on committee agendas or upcoming events in the Bulletin, log onto the Connecticut General Assembly web page at:

<http://www.cga.ct.gov>

If you wish to look up committee agendas or check upcoming events in the Bulletin, these can be accessed on that same page by scrolling down and clicking on the appropriate item.

If you are seeking info on a specific bill, type the bill number in the box (upper right of page) – just the actual number, you do not need S.B. or H.B. – and click on “GO.” The page which will come up shows the bill history, summary, etc. for that bill. If you wish to read the bill text, scroll down the page, and click on the bill text, and the bill will come up on the screen.