

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Fiscal Year 2019 Budget



Volume II – Health and Human Services
Gina M. Raimondo, Governor

Agency Summary

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Agency Mission

To advocate for the legal and civil rights of people with mental illness in Rhode Island.

To ensure the right to appropriate and accessible treatment for people with mental illness in Rhode Island, including persons with mental illness who are incarcerated due to lack of appropriate treatment in the community.

To protect the constitutionally protected liberty interests and treatment rights of individuals subject to involuntary commitment and to the involuntary administration of medication in psychiatric settings.

To provide legislative advocacy, education, and support for the mental health consumer movement.

Agency Description

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate is a law office comprised of three full time attorneys and one administrative assistant. The Office accomplishes its mission by providing legal representation and advocacy related to a number of issues unique to persons living with mental illness. These include representation at Civil Commitment Proceedings and Petitions for Instruction regarding substituted consent for medication; housing retention including defending tenants from eviction proceedings; and monitoring and ensuring right to treatment for forensic patients, that is persons involved in the criminal justice system who are deemed incompetent to stand trial, not guilty by reason of insanity, and who need specialized services that are not available in a correctional setting. The Office also engages in legislative advocacy, community outreach and education, collaboration in promoting policies and practices conducive to improving the Mental Health System and combating stigmatization and discrimination associated with mental illness. The Office also provides consultation to members of the Bar regarding clients with mental health issues, and responds to inquiries where direct representation cannot be provided by referral to appropriate services, legal or otherwise.

Statutory History

The Office of the Mental Health Advocate was created in 1975 when the Mental Health Law of Rhode Island was revised to reflect the national movement toward deinstitutionalization of mentally ill individuals and protection of civil, legal and liberty interests. This movement, begun in the 1950's, 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 statute authorizing the Mental Health Advocate is codified at RI General Laws Sections 40.1-5-13 through 40.1-5-25.

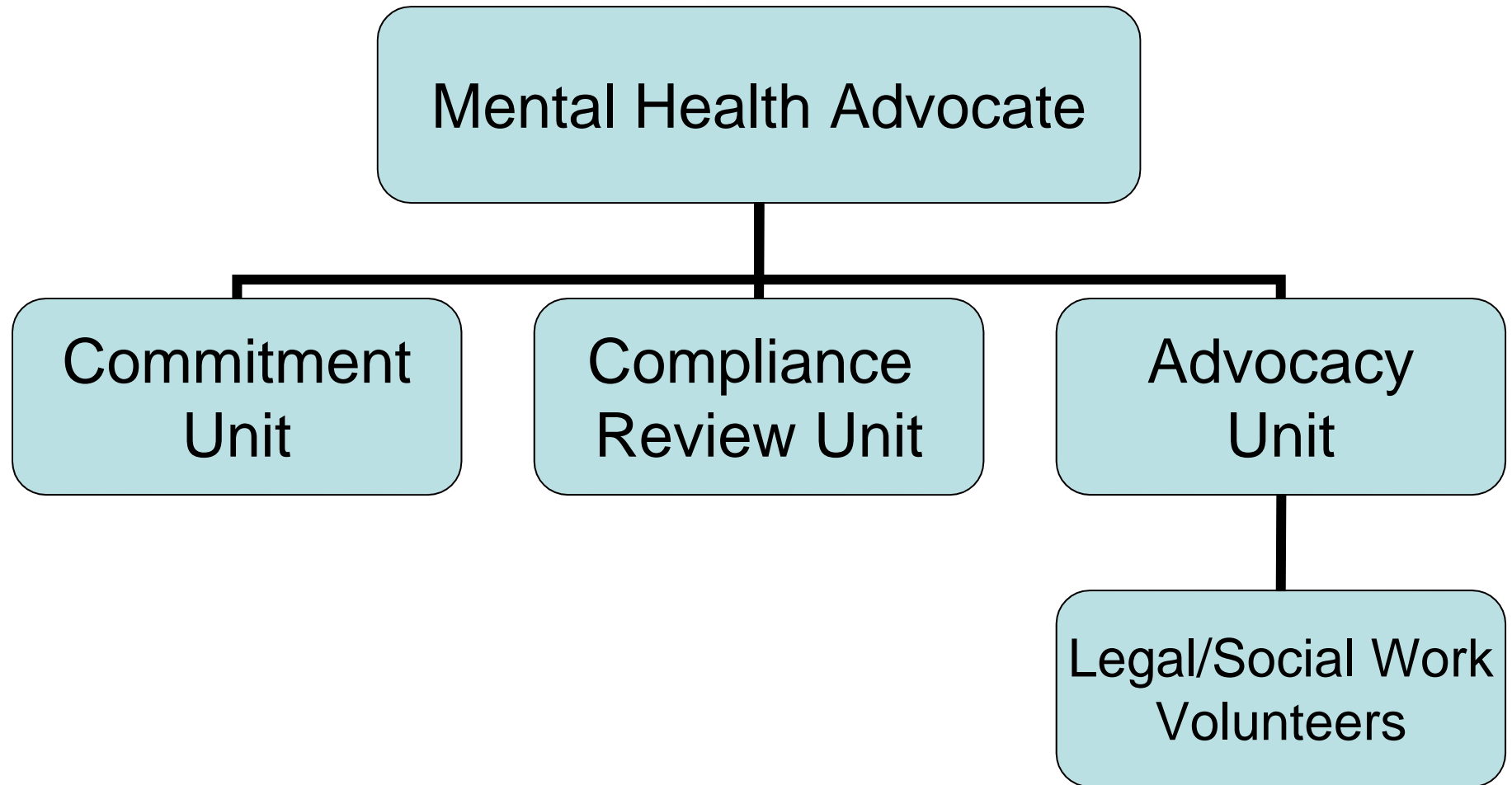
Budget

OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

	2016 Actuals	2017 Actuals	2018 Enacted Budget	2018 Revised Budget	2019 Recommended
Expenditures by Program					
Central Management	545,220	540,899	549,563	628,771	639,764
Total Expenditures	545,220	540,899	549,563	628,771	639,764
Expenditures by Object					
Salary And Benefits	526,115	529,566	535,404	533,563	541,726
Contract Professional Services	754	335	1,950	1,950	2,200
Operating Supplies And Expenses	10,574	9,887	11,709	92,758	95,338
Subtotal: Operating	537,443	539,788	549,063	628,271	639,264
Capital Purchases And Equipment	7,777	1,111	500	500	500
Subtotal: Other	7,777	1,111	500	500	500
Total Expenditures	545,220	540,899	549,563	628,771	639,764
Expenditures by Source of Funds					
General Revenue	545,220	540,899	549,563	628,771	639,764
Total Expenditures	545,220	540,899	549,563	628,771	639,764
FTE Authorization	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

The Agency

Office of the Mental Health Advocate



Personnel

Agency: OFFICE OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE

Central Management

	FY 2018		FY 2019	
	FTE	Cost	FTE	Cost
Unclassified				
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	1.0	57,484	1.0	57,484
MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE	1.0	106,800	1.0	106,801
STAFF ATTORNEY III	2.0	160,911	2.0	160,911
Subtotal Unclassified	4.0	325,195	4.0	325,196
Subtotal	4.0	325,195	4.0	325,196
Seasonal/Special Salaries/Wages		0		(920)
Total Salaries		325,195		324,276
Benefits				
FICA		24,879		24,879
Health Benefits		63,419		66,844
Payroll Accrual		1,880		1,867
Retiree Health		19,448		19,448
Retirement		85,085		89,453
Subtotal		194,711		202,491
Total Salaries and Benefits	4.0	519,906	4.0	526,767
Cost Per FTE Position (Excluding Temp. and Seasonal)		129,977		131,691.75
Statewide Benefit Assessment		13,657		14,959
Payroll Costs	4.0	533,563	4.0	541,726
Purchased Services				
Clerical and Temporary Services		200		200
Medical Services		1,500		1,500
Other Contracts		250		500
Subtotal		1,950		2,200
Total Personnel	4.0	535,513	4.0	543,926
Distribution by Source of Funds				
General Revenue		535,513		543,926
Total All Funds		535,513		543,926