

ADDP

*Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers
Community for Living. Community for Life.*

Dear Gary,

ADDP Supports the Following Restorations:

- **Line Item 5911-2000 Community Programs** which has been cut by \$45 million. If this cut takes effect 11,000 Commonwealth citizens with disabilities will lose essential services that keep them from being placed in more costly state institutions. Services that are jeopardized include Family Support, Respite, Day and Employment Services, and services for students leaving special education programs turning 22.
- **Line Item 5920-2000 Residential Programs.** This line item has been cut by over \$8 million jeopardizing community residential programs at the same time that the Commonwealth is trying to close state institutions and move people into the community. Failure to fund this line item also makes it very difficult to comply with last year's enactment of Rate Reform.
- **Line Item 4120-3000 Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission.** The House One budget eliminates the Extended Employment Program for People with Severe Disabilities. This will cause hundreds of people with multiple

Governor Pledges \$21 Million in Enhanced Medicaid for Partial DMR Restoration



Step in the Right Direction

ADDP will continue to seek remaining service restoration dollars from Massachusetts Legislature

In a move welcomed by disability advocates, Governor Deval Patrick announced today that he will use Enhanced Medicaid Stimulus dollars to partially restore cuts made to the Department of Mental Retardation/Developmental Services budget.

The Governor announced he will support the use of \$21 million to restore Family Support Programs that

disabilities to lose their jobs.

- **Line Item 1599-6901 Salary Reserve.** The House One budget fails to provide a salary increase for direct support workers earning low wages. The absence of this \$23 million line item hurts the lowest paid workers in our state, predominately hurting working women.

had been deeply reduced by a \$45 million cut from the Community Programs budget.

He also indicated that he will restore an additional \$20 million to his Community First Initiative which funds community integration efforts across the Health and Human Services secretariat.

ADDP has not been able to determine whether there have been any Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission Restorations. Disability advocates have been concerned about a nearly \$8 million cut that will shut down the Extended Employment Program for people with significant disabilities.

Secretary JudyAnn Bigby indicated that while the Administration would like to provide more funding for restorations, continuing uncertainty about the Commonwealth's declining revenue is forcing the Administration to make funding decisions upon conservative revenue assumptions.

While ADDP is grateful to the Governor, and the EOHHS Secretary, for this partial restoration, the Association will continue to advocate for sufficient resources to maintain service at FY 09 levels. Without further restorations coming from the Massachusetts Legislature, we will still see thousands of people losing service.

If the restoration funds announced today are used exclusively to restore the Family Support line items, it is likely that those dollars will go towards supporting critically intensive services, however it does appear that 11,000 individuals and families will continue to lose basic individual assistance supports.

ADDP is also concerned about additional non-restored aspects of the DMR budget that have the potential to undermine the delivery of "wrap services" to people in day services. Though it appears that day and employment services may be able to be maintained at FY 09 levels, it is questionable whether the department will have the resources to provide the

additional supports that help people with multiple disabilities be able to participate in day services. If the Legislature and Governor do not provide full or increased DMR restoration, then there will still remain a threat for people with disabilities who wish to remain employed or in day services.

ADDP will continue to work with members of the House and Senate to ensure that Commonwealth citizens with disabilities do not lose their exiting services. We continue to believe that the Enhanced Medicaid Stimulus should be used first to restore disability and other human service related cuts, before taking dollars from this fund to support non-human service concerns.

The Patrick Administration, Congress and the President have identified the Enhanced Medicaid Stimulus as "Safety Net Dollars". ADDP believes it is inconsistent with the Congressional legislative intent of these dollars to only use a fraction for Safety Net restorations.

It is essential to note that we are trending in the right direction. And each day more and more legislators are signing onto Rep. Tom Sannicandro's effort to restore all of the Community Funding cuts.

We continue to urge ADDP members to call or write your own House Member to urge them to sign onto Rep. Sannicandro's letter.

To phone your House member, you may obtain their phone number [HERE](#) or visiting:
<http://www.mass.gov/legis/memmenuh.htm>

To write your House Member to urge them to sign Rep. Sannicandro's letter, you may also use the [ADDP ACTION CENTER](#) to send an instant email to your individual member.