

December 18, 2012

DHH Announces Mid-Year Reductions Waiver Services Spared

On Friday, December 14th, the Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) announced mid-year reductions at the agency that are part of the State's overall mid-year reduction plan to address the budget shortfall in the current fiscal year. DHH Secretary Bruce D. Greenstein announced reductions of \$51.8 million in State General Fund for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 which amounts to a total impact of \$82.6 million when federal matching funds are considered.

For complete information on all DHH reductions, [click here](#) for the DHH press release. Below are some highlights of these budget cuts.

People served by programs in the **Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities (OCDD)** can breathe a sigh of relief – at least for now. That office and home and community based waiver services were almost completely spared. OCDD's reductions of \$170,280 will come through implementation of new eligibility criteria in the Flexible Family Fund program. Waiver rates and services were left intact.

The **Human Services Districts and Authorities** sustained reductions to their budgets in varying amounts. The DHH press release states that “each will achieve savings through various techniques, including restructuring services to optimize available resources, eliminating vacant positions or downsizing programs to negate the need to hire more staff, supply and travel reductions and better use of Patient Assistant Programs to save on pharmacy costs.”

The **Early Childhood Supports and Services (ECSS)** program, funded by the Office of Behavioral Health, will be eliminated. This program provides community-based specialized behavioral health services to children at-risk for mental health conditions.

The **Office of Public Health** cuts will result in the loss of fifteen vacant direct-care service positions in parish health units and reducing contracts for wraparound services in the Genetics program.



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