

MENTAL HEALTH - 4230, 4310, 4322

MISSION

The mission of the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is to ensure that residents of Albany County living with mental illness or emotional disturbance, alcohol and/or substance abuse problems or developmental disabilities, as well as their families, attain meaningful improvement in the quality of their lives, renewed connection to their communities and lasting recovery so that their personal goals can be achieved.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

In accordance with NYS Mental Hygiene Law, the DMH provides direct services to individuals living with mental health and/or substance abuse and chemical dependency challenges and contracts with community agencies to provide services in all three areas of disability. It is imperative that we serve individuals living with multiple mental health challenges who do not fit into the "silo" system of service delivery that has been created and reinforced over the years. Many individuals live with co-occurring mental hygiene conditions, often complicated by co-existing medical conditions, and receive care from multiple providers that is frequently poorly coordinated or inadequate.

The Department has progressively reduced service fragmentation by influencing its State mental hygiene partners to configure the local adult crisis system to better address the needs of Albany County residents. In 2008 and 2009, the Department took a step towards this goal with the successful creation of the Community Assessment and Referral Team (CART). CART provides intensive hospital and jail diversion services as well as creates additional case management opportunities and increased outpatient capacity. CART now offers these crucial services on a 24/7 basis.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$5,550,949
1999:	\$5,396,345
2000:	\$5,713,617
2001:	\$5,994,624
2002:	\$6,479,170
2003:	\$7,211,317
2004:	\$7,087,196
2005:	\$7,371,727
2006:	\$7,692,979
2007:	\$7,774,225
2008:	\$24,459,192
2009:	\$24,968,621
2010:	\$23,509,166

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Mental Health
County of Albany
175 Green Street
Albany, New York 12202
Office: (518) 447-4537
Fax: (518) 447-4577

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Since the Department assumed responsibility for implementing the Albany County Reentry Task Force, 221 clients returning from prison have been served. The Task Force also manages a caseload of high risk, high need clients- to date, 24 out of 42 have successfully completed the program while reintegrating into the community. The goal of this program is to reduce recidivism and increase public safety.
- The Program Services Coordinating Committee (PSCC) is a multi-disciplinary, cross system group chaired by DMH that reaches out to high need behavioral health individuals in an attempt to decrease their dependence on emergency services and improve their quality of life in the community. Significant cost savings are also achieved by providing this level of intervention. Thus far in 2010, 32 PSCC clients were served, saving \$498,200 when compared to client's pre-PSCC involvement.
- The Youth in Transition Task Force began as a collaborative effort with the Department for Children, Youth and Families to ensure children requiring mental health services manage the transition to the adult provider system without a break in their supports.
- NYS Office of Mental Health has announced 18 new supported housing units will become available in Albany County. As the housing coordinating body, DMH will move forward with this increased capacity through the Housing Single Point of Access.
- The Road to Recovery Program has expanded into the new Clinical Case Management program for non-violent felony offenders who need additional assistance engaging in treatment in order to avoid recidivism.

MENTAL HEALTH - 4230, 4310, 4322

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

In the 2011 Executive Budget, the broad offering of the Early Retirement Incentive and the reduction of currently vacant positions result in a decrease of 14 total positions. This will ensure that critical, mandated services directly provided by DMH can continue. The Department will no longer operate its Substance Abuse Clinic as numerous community providers in Albany County continue these clinical services.