



2016 Legislative Agenda and Talking Points

The following 2016 legislative agenda and associated talking points were approved by the Board of Directors of the Association on October 25, 2015. The Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Public Information and Policy Committee, is authorized to modify this agenda on an emergency basis as circumstances dictate prior to and during the 2016 session of the General Assembly.

1. Amended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Appropriations Acts

The Association supports DBHDD's Amended FY 2016 and FY 2017 Appropriations requests. For FY 2017, DBHDD has requested \$46,738,057 in additional state funds, which includes \$16,800,000 for 3 new Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCC's) in Regions 2, 3, & 5; \$11,375,000 for a DD Provider Rate Increase; and \$1,223,897 for Waivers for Planning List Transitions. No additional funds are sought in the Amended FY 2016 request.

2. Governor's Criminal Justice Re-Entry Initiative

During the past year, CSBs, the Department of Corrections, the newly created Department of Community Supervision, as well as DBHDD continue to be engaged in expanding activities to support the re-entry of former inmates with behavioral health challenges into community life. The Association has participated and continues to participate in The State Reentry Task Force of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry, which addresses the needs for successful reentry and recovery. The Association advocates for increased funding for housing, employment, and service delivery should the Governor recommend funding to support the re-entry of former inmates with behavioral health challenges into community life, or increased funding for treatment courts and further, advocates that such services should be integrated into the existing public safety net system of care.

3. Governor's Juvenile Justice Reform

The CSBs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and DBHDD continue to work to expand activities to support the re-entry of youth with behavioral health challenges into community life. The Association has and continues to participate on The Reentry Task Force of the Department of Juvenile Justice in addition to leading pilot projects across the state addressing protocols for transition and evidence based practices for behavioral health treatment of youth integrating back into community life. The Association supports any increased funding should the Governor recommend appropriations that support the reentry of youth with behavioral health challenges into community life, or increased funding for treatment courts and further, advocates that such services should be integrated with the existing public safety net system of care.