

## **2010-2011 EXECUTIVE BUDGET TALKING POINTS**

### **Overall: *Preserve the safety net***

- Overall mental hygiene funding was maintained after significant cuts in the 2009-10 budget
- Legislature must support the mental hygiene funding proposed by Governor and protect from cuts; we are not asking for any new funds
- Localities must be held harmless: local programs are just getting by financially and must be viable to serve those in greatest need

### **Medicaid Managed Care Pass-through: *Strongly Support***

- Currently, Medicaid managed care plans reimburse mental health services at well below the cost of providing the service. In some cases 40-50% below cost
- 21-day amendments to health budget authorizes DOH to use existing dollars to increase Medicaid managed care premiums to behavioral health plans and requires plans to pay the APG rate to plans with the funding pass-through
- Requires no new funding appropriation, managed care plans are only required to increase payment commensurate to DOH allocation

### **Extending Social Work Licensure Exemption to 2014: *Strongly Support***

- Exemption relieves public mental hygiene programs from strict licensure requirements under the social work and mental health practitioner statutes
- Due to expire this June, Education Budget proposes extension to June 1, 2014
- Failure to extend would cost state **\$62 million** and local programs **\$227 million per year** (increased salary and training costs)
- Insufficient number of licensees available to comply with licensure laws
- Public mental health system is already strictly regulated; far more than private practice which licensure law was modeled after

### **Increased OMIG Recovery Target and Civil Penalties: *Strongly Oppose***

- Executive Budget sets the Medicaid fraud target at \$1.2 billion - an increase of \$300 million in additional audit recoveries. It also imposes new civil penalties on providers for Medicaid violations in order to close state budget gap
- For county operated programs, this amounts to using county dollars to plug holes in the state budget
- OMIG itself has stated that up to 90% of recoveries are based on technical billing or documentation errors and are not fraud
- Many recoveries are based on new interpretations of law or regulations that did not exist at time that the service was provided
- Overseeing state agency (e.g. OMH) guidance on regulatory compliance often differs from OMIG interpretation of compliance, leaving programs in the middle