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Expanded mental health services needed to plug state funding gap

Proviso Township Mental Health Commission warns some services could be cut

HILLSIDE, Ill. – The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission (PTMHC) warned today that state funding for critical Mental Health services has decreased to a level where many social services are being curtailed in the near west suburbs. PTMHC has stepped up to fill the void where it can, but there is a fear that without increased state aid, local mental health service providers will be forced to reduce or cut services entirely.

“One area of funding elimination that is significantly harmful is Psychiatric Services and Medication Monitoring that are no longer being funded by the state general revenue funds,” said PTMHC Executive Director Jesse Rosas. “Medicaid is reimbursing Psychiatric Services at about \$85 an hour while the standard rate for such services is \$190 to \$240. In the past, state grants would help bridge the gap. Now, social service organizations are on their own.”

PTMHC is pleased that the Healthcare Alternative System's (H.A.S.) Broadview branch is now offering expanded outpatient services to individuals 14 years old and older because of increased demand. “This is an extremely important service to our community, especially with the cuts that many mental health and substance abuse agencies are facing right now,” Rosas said. “The fact that they offer bilingual services in Spanish and English is also very important for our client base.”

The Proviso Township Mental Health Commission funds 24 agencies that serve a variety of needs, from children, to families, to troubled youth, to veterans and seniors. “We are shoring up these agencies, but the dramatic cut in state funding is putting all of these people at risk,” Rosas said.

Many agencies are feeling the financial burden and are in financial distress. Some agencies have been able to fill the holes that are growing in the mental health safety net, but these are few in numbers and are limited. “Local units of government, such as the Proviso Township Mental Health Commission are the last line of support for people who are working to stay healthy and productive in the community,” Rosas said.

About PTMHC

Located in Hillside, Illinois, Proviso Township Mental Health Commission provides financial assistance in the form of annual or special grants by assessment of annual tax on real property to agencies involved in providing treatment services to township residents in the areas of mental health, developmental disabilities, substance use disorder.

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