

Oklahoma Department of Mental Health
and Substance Abuse Services

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Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Statement on Budget

It has been a very difficult year for state budgets. The department is very appreciative of legislative efforts to minimize the impact of funding cuts to the ODMHSAS budget. There was a great deal of work by key legislative leaders, and the Governor, to protect funding for mental health and substance abuse services. We are grateful for their passion and support.

Still, the final budget numbers mean that ODMHSAS will have to make about \$3.5 million worth of cuts. Level funding for ODMHSAS this year, meaning the amount of funding needed to maintain current service levels and meet federal behavioral health Medicaid state share requirements, would be \$330.9 million. ODMHSAS has been appropriated \$327.4 million, which is \$2.7 million more than last year, but \$3.5 million short of what we had to have to avoid cuts.

Additionally, we will be unable to undo the devastating therapy caps and rate cuts that had to be made earlier this year.

A determination of how these cuts will be managed has not yet been made. We are reviewing all options. As always, the final decision will be based on how to do the least harm and impact the fewest number of Oklahomans in need as possible. Regardless, it will mean that services will be impacted to some extent.

We will continue to work with state leaders to find solutions to future challenges. We believe that funding for desperately needed mental health and substance abuse services can and will save tax dollars, in addition to saving lives. We look forward to continued discussion.

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