2013 Ulster County Budget Fact Sheet

Department of Mental Health

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Michael P. Hein
County Executive

I. Overview

County Executive Hein's 2013 Executive budget proposes restructuring Mental Health service delivery to better position the County financially for the future, while preserving critical services.

II. Background

New York State's behavioral health system is undergoing rapid changes, including dramatically reduced aid levels and additional demands on how services are to be provided. This is having a dramatic impact on Ulster County's ability to operate its outpatient behavioral health clinics.

III. Proposed 2013 Budget Action

Children and Families: With the support of the New York State Department of Mental Health, Ulster County will close its Child and Family Services Unit effective December 28, 2012. Astor Services for Children and Families, which has been providing quality mental health services across the Mid-Hudson Valley since 1953, will expand its operations into Ulster County so that mental health services to children and families remain available. This change will come at no cost to the taxpayers.

The Executive Budget continues funding to preserve the *Kids Together Program*, which serves children and young adolescents experiencing social, emotional and behavioral difficulties.

Adults: Ulster County will streamline adult mental health services to improve efficiency and operate in more cost-effective ways. Details include: (1) relocating the satellite clinic currently located in Highland to a more accessible and better-suited location in New Paltz; (2) providing services in Ellenville and New Paltz on a part-time basis; and (3) increasing productivity standards, including full implementation of an electronic medical records system.

This plan will result in a reduction of the current workforce by 28 positions, as well as the removal of 25 vacant but previously funded positions, for a total of 53 less positions.

IV. Fiscal Impact

These actions will save approximately $1.5 million.