

Join NJAMHAA in Advocating for a COLA for Behavioral Healthcare Providers

NJAMHAA is looking for support for a long overdue Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for behavioral healthcare providers' staff. The lack of any COLA increases for several years can cause high staff turnover rates and directly affect the individuals with mental health, substance use and other disorders, as they are dependent on continuity of care from their behavioral health staff. NJAMHAA understands that while the need for a full 5 percent COLA is present, achieving the full 5 percent in a single budget may not be a reality. However, we are asking for State Legislators' support to ensure that some increment of a COLA is included in the FY 2014 State Budget for community care workers.

Including some increment of a COLA in next year's budget will be a clear signal to New Jersey's residents that the State recognizes the need to address the chronic underfunding of our mental health and substance use treatment system. A COLA would also be an investment in our State's recovery from events that cause mental health and/or substance use disorders such as natural disasters including Hurricane Sandy and a prolonged recession, as well as our veterans returning home from two wars. With national calls to strengthen treatment and services, a COLA would be a step towards strengthening our safety net system and preventing mental health and substance use crises.

Please advocate to your local State Legislators to help secure their support for this much needed funding!