

NJAMHAA Applauds Level State Funding

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The budget also includes some increases, which NJAMHAA also appreciates. Charity care is being increased by \$10 million and a \$30 million increase has been allocated for Graduate Medical Education. According to Dr. Wentz, the charity care increase demonstrates the State Legislature's and Administration's recognition of the increased demand for treatment in hospitals by individuals who currently do not have insurance. "They also clearly acknowledge that New Jersey has many universities that are training physicians, psychiatrists and other mental health professionals of the future. This is an especially critical time to ensure that New Jersey has a sufficient, qualified and trained workforce as people are making more demands on the healthcare system, particularly as a result of healthcare reform."

"While we applaud New Jersey for preserving the system despite enormous budget deficits, it must be recognized that the state's mental health and addictions treatment community, which serves more than 500,000 children and adults annually, already is stretched to the breaking point after years of increased demand and costs and stagnant or reduced costs," Dr. Wentz added.