

# Memo

## The House Appropriations Committee (D)

TO: House Democratic Members and Interested Parties

FROM: Rep. Joseph Markosek, Chairman

SUBJECT: **FACT CHECK: Corbett's Claims on Intellectual Disabilities Funding**

DATE: January 25, 2013

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### Claim

Governor Corbett claims his budget last year (2012/13) dedicated \$17.8 million for individuals on the "waiting list" for Intellectual Disability services and has announced that he will again set aside \$20 million in his 2013/14 proposal for this purpose to provide services to 1,200 people on the waiting list.

### Reality

What is noteworthy is that he is **actually** proposing **ANY** additional funds for the intellectual disability program because **in reality, last year's Executive Budget (2012/13) provided NO funding for those on the Intellectual Disability waiting list.** Funding under Corbett's first **two years** has been so deficient that 15 people already have been admitted to state institutions (ID Centers) due to the lack of community based care, compared with eight people during Rendell's **two terms**. Institutional care is a last and very expensive resort.

- Not until the legislature negotiated a final budget last year were additional funds provided for the waiting list. In fact, House Democrats offered an amendment (A10525 to SB 1446) to provide the necessary funding to remove 1,130 people from the waiting list, including the 700 special education graduates and the 430 individuals with elderly caregivers.
  - Check for yourself: see the Department of Public Welfare's budget documents where this initiative would have been listed last year compared with similar documents under Gov. Rendell (Excerpts provided below).
- In fact, Rep. Bernie O'Neill (R) asked Secretary Alexander about the **ABSENCE** of funds available in the budget for the "waiting list" in last year's Department of Public Welfare budget hearing. Secretary Alexander confirmed the **ABSENCE** of funds saying:
  - "We ... – don't have any extra money in the budget currently to address that waiting list" (Source: DPW House Budget Hearing Transcript Pages 66-68).
- Moreover, when the Governor presented his "Spring Update" to his 2012/13 budget request for the Department of Public Welfare in June 2012, there still was no mention of additional funding for the waiting list (Spring Update attached).

Gov. Corbett brags about additional funds but they are small compared to the need. Look at the Rendell record:

- During his two terms in office, Governor Rendell requested (and the General Assembly appropriated) a total of **\$185 million in state and federal funds so that an additional 8,475 Pennsylvanians would receive community ID services.**

**Budget Documentation: Corbett's budget last year included NO additional funds for the ID program.**

**Corbett Administration Budget Documentation – the funds would have appeared here:**

INITIATIVES				
<b>GRANT &amp; SUBSIDY</b>				
<b>1. Adult Protective Services Initiative</b>				
A. Provides funding for the implementation of provisions under Adult Protective Services legislation to protect cognitively impaired individuals ages 18 through 59:				
	\$544	\$206	\$0	\$750
<b>2. High-Cost Case Reviews Initiative</b>				
A. Savings generated through intensive review and case management of high-cost consumers enrolled in Medical Assistance programs that reimburse for services based on utilization and fee schedules:				
	(\$17,000)	(\$17,000)	\$0	(\$34,000)
<b>Subtotal Initiatives</b>	<b>(\$16,456)</b>	<b>(\$16,794)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>(\$33,250)</b>

Source: Governor's Executive Budget "Blue Book," from the Department of Public Welfare 2012/13, p.267.

**Compare with a Rendell Administration Budget Documentation:**

INITIATIVES				
<b>1. Initiative - Expanded Community Mental Retardation Services</b>				
<b>GRANT &amp; SUBSIDY:</b>				
A. Provides five-month funding of community residential services for 106 individuals on county waiting lists:				
	\$3,882	\$3,583	\$0	\$7,465
B. Provides five-month funding of community residential services for 107 individuals in special categories who are in need of emergency services:				
	\$3,945	\$3,641	\$0	\$7,586
C. Provides five-month funding for daytime activities for 500 special education graduates:				
	\$1,718	\$2,084	\$0	\$3,802
D. Provides five-month funding for services to 80 individuals with mental retardation who will turn 21 years of age and will no longer be eligible for services under the Medical Assistance EPSDT program:				
	\$1,743	\$2,114	\$0	\$3,857
E. Funding to address the changing needs of individuals enrolled in the Consolidated Waiver:				
	\$3,821	\$4,109	\$0	\$7,930
<b>Subtotal Grant &amp; Subsidy</b>	<b>\$15,109</b>	<b>\$15,531</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,640</b>
<b>Subtotal Expanded Community Mental Retardation Services Initiative</b>	<b>\$15,109</b>	<b>\$15,531</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$30,640</b>

Source: Governor's Executive Budget "Blue Book," from the Department of Public Welfare 2009/10, p.234.

Note: "Intellectual Disabilities" was formerly referred to as "Mental Retardation."