

DP 70: This new proposal funds 3 FTE in FY06 and an additional 2 FTE in FY07. The staff would be located in five regional offices. The proposal adds \$260,000 of federal funds for the biennium. The general fund portion of staff and operating costs would be from the MHSP general fund services appropriation. This still leaves the MHSP with a higher level of funding for services than the FY04 base budget.

The regional staff will give the division the needed community presence necessary to improve regional and institutional service delivery. The staff would work independently and in team settings with community service providers. They will provide clear and accurate policy direction and guidance, evaluate and analyze regional program accuracy, conduct compliance audits, and perform other administrative tasks to assure the development of a cost-effective, responsive and efficient service delivery system.

This staff will concentrate on coordinating services and funding for adults who have severe disabling mental illness. This includes :

- Representing AMDD philosophy of providing recovery based services
- Providing training to service providers
- Assisting consumers in accessing the appropriate level of service
- Assisting communities in developing specialized resources
- Working with mental health professionals, the courts and others to clearly understand the services
- Assisting Service Area Authorities in their development efforts
- Providing a link between local communities, service area authorities and AMDD
- Facilitating community collaboration and coordination

We expect the work of this staff to result in overall cost savings to the mental health system of care for adults in the following ways:

- Staff will facilitate local planning efforts for service delivery and will ensure that the admissions to Montana State Hospital are necessary and appropriate
- Staff will develop new community services that will facilitate discharges from Montana State Hospital
- Staff will work with county attorneys and the courts to increase their understanding of local resources
- A more complete community service system will increase family, consumer and community satisfaction
- Staff will provide a more proactive, faster response to issues that concern the needs of adults needing services and to providers, families and communities in providing these services.

A local representative will provide a communication loop between communities and the Helena offices, consumers and providers.