



On Thursday of this last week, the NC State Legislature agreed to vote on a series of budget matters this coming Tuesday June 2nd. They will be voting over taking in excess of a billion dollars away from Medicaid/Medicare to a degree that will literally wipe out Home Health Care and Community Support. There is no nice way to say this: people will die. These deep cuts will devastate supports for people with developmental disabilities, addictive diseases and mental illness. **This is not a sustainable cut:** services will stop, providers will go out of business, and jobs will be lost. Families will be forced to put children in institutions or hospitals, if those services are even available given the current demand. Ultimately many will find their way onto the streets with obvious implications on law enforcement, Individual lives and community impact. **Your help is needed today to avert a major crisis**

The proposed budget has 18 pages of cuts. Some are as follows:

- Reduction in CAP/MR use of state supplemental funds
- Reduction in state funded services for people currently authorized.
- Freeze enrollment in health choice for children.
- Eliminates funding for Special Olympics.
- Reduces special assistance rates paid to group homes for room and board.
- Reduces VR funding.
- Reduces all rates by 4%.
- **Reduces then completely eliminates community support services next year.**
- Eliminate therapeutic camps for kids with DD.
- Freezes CAP slots.
- Consolidate case management services.
- Reduces personal care services by 50%.
- Reduce staffing for state funded programs, i.e. **reducing staff in hospitals that have experienced deaths due to inadequate staffing.**

This means that rates will decrease, services will be discontinued, staff will be laid off, small providers will go out of business. This means that children receiving waiver services will get less service, less hours, and lower paid staff, resulting in turnover and injuries/accidents due to inadequate training. This means that people who are now kept out of the psychiatric hospital with community services will now be hospitalized. For Monarch, that's over 500 people. This means that case managers will be busier, less qualified, and lower paid with higher case loads. This means that anyone who receives waiver services will no longer be able to receive ADVP or ADAP services. People who currently have a full day of supports will now have partial day, and services will be in groups, not one to one. This means that people who need personal care to take a shower or use the bathroom will have their supports cut by 50%. (Do you suppose that the legislators expect people to only use the bathroom 50% of the time?) This means that anyone on a waiting list will still be waiting. This means less people with disabilities can get jobs, and about half the thousands of people currently employed in the field will be laid off. This means that people who live in group homes may be discharged to families or the street. This means that with inadequate staffing and supervision, people will die.

Some experts predict that North Carolina unemployment will soar to 20% and result in a depression in our state.



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There is no way to balance the budget without cuts. The legislature has refused to look at the overhead in the Dept Of Health and Human Services nor do they require any cuts in the Local Management Entities who disperse the money. These entities have lobbied their way out of accountability! Therefore we MUST raise revenue, which means raising taxes. Neither republicans nor democrats want to raise taxes because they are afraid they will be voted out of office. Tell them if they follow through with these cuts, they will lose your vote. Tell them to raise taxes.

Take action by calling or emailing your own Legislator and House majority and minority leadership (more info below on how to do so). Tell them that these cuts will be devastating and **you support them in raising taxes to fund mh/dd/sa community services and supports.** NC cannot cut its way out of the budget hole and these cuts are not to "wasteful" spending. The true waste is when people are left without services, jobs and support.

Who to contact:

1) Call your own **NC House Legislator.** A listing of House members and info on how to find yours can be found at <http://www.ncleg.net/GIS/RandR07/Home.html>. Please call or email. If you cannot determine who to call, call our office at 704-986-1500 and press 0 for the receptionist. She will help you.

2) Call NC House Democrat and Republican Leadership:

- Speaker of the House Joe Hackney, office phone 919-733-3451 Joe.Hackney@ncleg.net,
- House Majority Leader Hugh Holliman, office phone 919-715-0873 Hugh.Holliman@ncleg.net
- House Minority Leader Paul Stam, office phone 919-733-2962 Paul.Stam@ncleg.net

3) Call the members of the house appropriations committee, to be found at the above website under House, committees, appropriations.

The proposal to cut funds for Home Health Care & Community Support is untenable. There is no nice way to say this: people will die. This is not a sustainable cut:

The Message: *****

- 1) These cuts are devastating and people will die.
- 2) These services and supports are keeping people alive, well and in their homes/communities. These cuts will cause institutionalization and greater costs to the state.
- 3) The state needs to raise taxes; we cannot cut our way out of a 4.8 billion dollar budget hole. I am willing to pay higher taxes to make sure people have services and supports.

Stop what you are doing and call or email NOW. Your job, your families and the lives of people you support depend on it.