



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Suite 1, Room 311
410 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-739-3621

The Honorable John Carney
Governor

John McNeal
SCPD Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 21, 2017

TO: The Honorable Melanie G. Smith, House of Representatives
Chair, Joint Finance Committee

The Honorable Harris McDowell, III, Senate
Chair, Joint Finance Committee

Members of the Joint Finance Committee

FROM: Ms. Jamie Wolfe, ^{JW/JS} Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: FY 2018 Budget Cuts

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) was recently apprised that the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF) is being considered for reductions in State funding for direct care. We understand that specifically, there has been discussion on eliminating Drug Court resources which are used to purchase Community Based Mental Health and Substance Use treatment services for children and youth. It appears that foster care and services for youth transitioning out of foster care are also areas that may be targeted for cuts. We know and understand that the State of Delaware has a huge financial deficit; however, we need to keep the needs of our children in forefront when making such though decisions on budget cuts. Cuts to behavioral health services for children will have a devastating impact on our children's health and wellbeing. This impact will be felt not just here and now but for years to come. Also, we have seen that oftentimes negative impact will lead to a trickle-down effect on future generations as well. We have a duty and a responsibility to do all that we can to continue to not just provide mental health and substance abuse services for our children and youth but to enhance and increase those services, not cut them.

SCPD is charged in 29 Del.C. Section 8210 with the responsibility of proposing and promoting state and federal laws, regulations, programs and policies to improve the well-being of individuals with disabilities. If you have any questions on our comments, please contact John McNeal, Executive Director of

SCPD. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

cc: The Honorable Members of the General Assembly
The Honorable Josette DelleDonne Manning, Esq, DSCYF
Ms. Susan Cychk, DSCYF, DPBHS

FY 18 Budget Cuts 6-21-17