

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

May 8, 2015

Facts at a Glance

- 1 in 4 Americans will experience mental illness
- 1 in 4 has substance abuse in their families
- 8.4 million Americans have co-occurring disorders, both a mental illness and substance use disorder
- Only 7% get treatment for both conditions and 56% get no treatment at all.

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association

Governor Wolf's proposed FY 2015-2016 budget initiatives include investments to support individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders to help them recover and live healthy, happy, and productive lives.

"Mental illness and substance use disorders affect Pennsylvania families from all walks of life and in every community in the commonwealth," said DHS Acting Secretary Ted Dallas. "Through HealthChoices, Pennsylvanians have access to quality mental health and substance use disorder services they need to manage their recovery."

FY 2015-2016 Proposed Budget Initiatives and HealthChoices Access

- Ensure 600,000 Pennsylvanians in need have access to behavioral health services through HealthChoices
- \$20.5M to counties for mental health and substance use disorder services, restoring 1/3 of FY 2012-13 funding cuts
- \$4.7M to provide 90 individuals currently residing in state hospitals the opportunity to transfer from institutional placements to home and community-based settings
- \$2.5M to provide additional services to address heroin and opioid addiction
- \$25M (\$12M of which are state funds) for the Jail Diversion Program to enable inmates to be immediately transferred to D&A residential treatment facilities upon release

Impact: Suicide Prevention Training in the Community

On May 6, DHS hosted suicide prevention trainings to students and staff at Spring Grove Area High School. Lynn Patrone, chief of staff at DHS' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, spoke about suicidal ideation, how to ask if a loved one is feeling suicidal, and what prevention methods are successful.

"Many Pennsylvanians struggle with depression and other mental health conditions every day," Patrone said. "There are techniques proven to help, and I look forward to sharing these techniques in the hopes of avoiding just one more preventable death."

