

OMHDD 2023 Legislative Funding Request

The Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (OMHDD) has a statutory mission to promote the highest attainable standards of treatment, competence, efficiency, and justice for persons receiving services for mental illness, developmental disabilities, chemical dependency, or emotional disturbance. We advocate for clients' rights, health, and well-being; monitor service delivery systems; and provide recommendations for systemic improvements, with fewer than 19 FTE. In FY 22, OMHDD staff opened 7,798 cases, with Regional Ombudsman averaging 621 cases per FTE and our Nurse Reviewers averaging 794 death reviews per FTE. Caseloads of these sizes compromise OMHDD's ability to respond to the increasing volume of client concerns while also addressing systemic problems.

OMHDD appreciates inclusion in the Governor's proposed budget and H.F. 2847. However, we are seeking a slightly larger appropriation, reflected in S.F. 2934, to fully implement our strategic plan to better meet the needs of our clients and stakeholders.

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET / H.F. 2847

- 1 Nurse Reviewer
- 3 Regional Ombudsman
- Assistant RO/Investigation Supervisor

OMHDD REQUEST / S.F. 2934

- 2 Nurse Reviewer
- 4 Regional Ombudsman
- Assistant RO/Investigation Supervisor
- Training and Outreach Coordinator
- Case Management Upgrade

Impact of full funding request

OMHDD seeks to expand service capacity to meet the ever-increasing demand for, and broadening scope of, our critical services.

- 4 Regional Ombudsman FTEs will reduce caseloads, allow for more in-depth client assistance, investigations, and recommendations in every region of the state.
- 1 Assistant Regional Ombudsman and Investigation Supervisor FTE will identify and oversee systemic investigations and recommendations.
- 2 Nurse Reviewer FTEs will allow for more in-depth death report investigations and recommendations for systemic improvements.
- 1 Training and Outreach Coordinator FTE will allow for ongoing strategic outreach to and relationship building with underserved communities.
- Upgrading our case management system will improve our ability to identify emerging trends, advocate on systemic issues, and track the implementation of OMHDD recommendations.