



News Flash - EOHHS Budget Hearings for FY
2013

November 29,
2011

MetroWest
Center for Independent Living, Inc.



EOHHS Budget Hearings Scheduled for Next Two Fridays

Greetings!

Dr. JudyAnn Bigby, the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) has announced two upcoming public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2013 budget. The first hearing is this Friday, December 2, in Northampton, and the second hearing is next Friday, December 9, in Boston. Dr. Bigby's letter is below. In addition, please read the attached documents from the EOHHS about each hearing:



[Northampton flyer](#)

[Boston flyer](#)

Why are these hearings important? The Secretary is planning budget reductions at the same time as the state faces increased needs for services. She is asking that the community help her preserve core services for more people with less money. Unfortunately, this request is too familiar, with too many budgets already depleted. The hearings won't address why EOHHS expects less money, but they are an opportunity for the Disability Community to remind Secretary Bigby that EOHHS services are a *critical lifeline for many Massachusetts residents*. The hearings are also an opportunity to highlight the fact that community services are cheaper than institutions and provide a meaningful quality of life for many people. Please attend a hearing, and add your voice.

from Paul Spooner, Executive Director

Announcement from
EOHHS Secretary JudyAnn Bigby

"The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) will be conducting two

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public hearings on the upcoming Fiscal Year 2013 budget. Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, M.D., and the Assistant Secretaries at EOHHS are looking forward to hearing the views of members of the community regarding the agencies under their purview. The hearings will be held on:



Friday, December 2, 2011 from 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Department of Mental Health Western Massachusetts Area Office
Northampton Haskell Building
1 Prince Street
Northampton, MA 01061

Friday, December 9, 2011 from 2:00-6:00 p.m.
McCormick Building
One Ashburton Place, 21st Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Since FY09, the Patrick-Murray Administration, in partnership with the Legislature, has solved over \$14 billion in cumulative budgetary shortfalls. Because of several one-time revenue sources and the continued demand for services, FY13 will be challenging and require cuts and reductions and the need for the Administration to make difficult decisions.

To overcome this budget challenge, we will need to work together to reexamine all public services and their delivery and find innovative solutions so that we can continue our mission with minimal disruption. Governor Patrick, Secretary Bigby and all of us at EOHHS are seeking your input about the best ways to preserve core services to the fullest extent possible without additional expenditures.

Due to the number of individuals anticipated to attend the hearings, oral testimony will be limited to three minutes per individual. In the interest of time, representative panels are welcome and will be limited to a total of five minutes of oral testimony. If you need accommodations please call 617-573-1600 and let the receptionist know. Additionally, if you are planning to present oral testimony at the Boston hearing, please note that you must be in the building by no later than 5:50 p.m.

Written testimony is also strongly encouraged and may be mailed to:

Secretary JudyAnn Bigby, EOHHS
One Ashburton Place, Room 1109, Boston, MA 02108

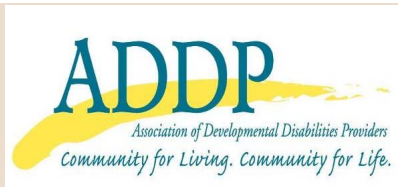
Or emailed to:

eoahshearings@massmail.state.ma.us

...note that if you are interested in providing oral testimony, you only need to attend one of the two hearings."

ADDP Perspective

Gary Blumenthal of the
Association of Developmental



Disability Providers provides a compelling perspective with this excerpt from the ADDP Newsletter.

Is the Massachusetts Economy Recovering or Slumping?

"Bigby's announcement was jarring to many advocates, particularly in light of the Administration's public stance noting two years of continued economic growth that allowed the Administration, this past month, to allocate another \$350 million to the rainy day fund bringing year's total fiscal 2011 stabilization fund deposit to \$712 million. Furthermore, Bigby's announcement seems to conflict with Governor Patrick's state and national stance, on behalf of the Obama Administration, boasting of his Administration's success in leading the Massachusetts economic recovery.

Other indications of strong economic standing by the Commonwealth this past year include the recent action by the Governor and Legislature to invest an unexpected \$65 million in local aid to towns and cities in the recent FY 11 Supplemental Budget Bill, and the state's ability to give state employees, including state managers 3% salary increases.

Noting that the Commonwealth has cut hundreds of millions of dollars from human service programs since 2008, the Administration had been expected to leave remaining safety net programs intact and even restore some earlier devastating cuts that have left 10,000 people with developmental disabilities and their families without respite and family support services."

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