



The Cutting Edge

MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION IN NJ

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Carolyn Beauchamp, President and CEO

Special Legislative Action Edition

Re-opening Hagedorn Gero-Psychiatric Hospital is Not a Solution to Solving the State Psychiatric Hospital Issues, This is Why:

SCR96 (Codey/Vitale) was submitted in response to reports of overcrowding at Greystone Psychiatric Hospital. While we agree that conditions in the hospitals need to be addressed, re-opening Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital is not a solution. The solution is to develop community resources that meet the needs of the populations awaiting community placement.

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey requests that you vote to oppose the re-opening of Hagedorn Psychiatric Hospital, (SCR96) which is scheduled for vote in the Senate on Monday, March 26th.

As of December 2017, approximately 30% of the persons in NJ State Psychiatric Hospitals are on CEPP status (Conditional Extension Pending Placement), awaiting placement, due to lack of adequate community resources.

In Greystone, specifically in January 2018, 41 percent (60/146) of the population over age 60 were on CEPP status. For those under age 60, 31 percent (117/376) were on CEPP status. If there were appropriate community resources for those individuals, the census would be more manageable.

It is imperative that we use our funds to develop community resources instead of opening a hospital. If community resources were adequate, many fewer would need this level of restricted care. It costs upwards of \$250,000 for a person to be confined in a state hospital. The costs for supported housing in the community are approximately \$45,000. The most intensive levels of community care costs are approximately \$100,000, still far less costly and more recovery focused.

More information is needed to understand how conditions can be improved. Overcrowding is one of the issues, but not the only one. The hospitals are understaffed. The hiring of psychiatrists due to national shortages and non-

competitive salaries remains a problem. Opening Hagedorn would only make this situation worse, not better.

To see MHANJ's full testimony, [click here](#).

For more information, contact Barbara Johnston, MHANJ, Director, Policy and Advocacy, bjohnston@mhanj.org.



**Mental Health
Association
in New Jersey, Inc.**

The Mental Health Association in New Jersey is a statewide private non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to improving access to treatment and opportunities for adults and children living with mental illness and substance use disorders, through legislation and advocacy efforts.

Learn more about [MHANJ's Government Affairs](#) efforts.

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