



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office of Health and Human Services
 Department of Public Health
 250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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 OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
 CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

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 INTERIM COMMISSIONER

Ms. Donna P. Lopez
 Interim City Clerk
 Office of the City Clerk
 City of Cambridge
 City Hall 795 Massachusetts Avenue
 Cambridge, MA 02139

November 18, 2012

Dear Clerk Lopez;

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) is in receipt of the resolution submitted by Vice Mayor Denise Simmons and cosponsored by the entire Cambridge City Council pertaining to preserving FY 14 funding for CASPAR, Inc. at current or increased levels.

The DPH values the services provided by CASPAR to individuals struggling with substance use disorders and homelessness. Currently, the Department's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) funds the CASPAR "wet" shelter and a number of residential treatment programs. Funding for these services, like all services, are dependent upon a combination of state and federal appropriations. The Department has no plans to reduce or eliminate CASPAR funding, assuming that current and future appropriations to the BSAS remain status quo.

Funding for these services falls under Chapter 9 of the Acts of 2008, which places authority for determination of reimbursement rates for human and social services with the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). This means that under state law, the contract for the shelter will eventually move from a cost contract to a unit rate contract. Additionally, the unit rate for residential programs will also be reviewed. The EOHHS Purchase of Service Policy Office and the Center for Health Information and Analysis will conduct a rate setting process on each of these categories as outlined in <http://www.mass.gov/hhs/chapter257>. This process, by statute, includes multiple points for provider feedback and input and is designed to enact fair, equitable rates across the Commonwealth's providers that reflect critical patient-centered value.

Until the Chapter 257 rate setting process is completed, the current contracts will be extended as interim contracts. Once new rates are established, new procurements will be released. As with all procurements, any interested provider can submit a proposal to provide the service at the agreed upon rate/s.

I hope this information addresses your concerns. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Hilary Jacobs".

Hilary Jacobs, LICSW, LADC I
Director
Bureau of Substance Abuse Services
617-624-5151