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UNH Fiscal Year 2020 Budget & Policy Priorities **Mental Health Initiatives**

Council Mental Health Initiatives – Last year, the City Council continued its support for several key mental and behavioral health initiatives, recognizing the valuable role that these programs play in promoting community health and safety. These initiatives include:

- **Autism Awareness** – The Autism Awareness Initiative supports programming for children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), including after-school programs, social skills programming, and summer camps, as well as supportive services for families of children with ASD.
 - FY 2020 Preliminary: \$0
 - FY 2019 Adopted: \$3.24 million
- **Children Under Five Mental Health Initiative (CU5)** – CU5 provides early childhood mental health services to young children and families, allowing organizations to work with children to develop psychosocial and educational skills, as well as cope with trauma resulting from witnessing or experiencing domestic violence, sexual abuse, or physical or mental abuse.
 - FY 2020 Preliminary: \$0
 - FY 2019 Adopted: \$1.002 million
- **Geriatric Mental Health Initiative (GMHI)** – GMHI supports mental health services specifically for older adults, including counseling in senior centers and other community settings, home visits, depression screenings, and group counseling. It is designed to strengthen the capacity of senior service programs to assess and provide mental health services to older adults in non-stigmatizing ways.
 - FY 2020 Preliminary: \$0
 - FY 2019 Adopted: \$1.9 million
- **Medicaid Redesign Transition:** This initiative helps community-based organizations that provide mental health services to transition from a fee-for-service model to value-based payments, as required by State Medicaid Redesign. The transition requires providers to upgrade their data and information technology platforms to measure and report value, and the initiative supports programs in upgrading their data tracking, analytics, and reporting capacity to better understand their impact and make more strategic judgments.
 - FY 2020 Preliminary: \$0
 - FY 2019 Adopted: \$500,000

Given their long track record of success and the continued need for high-quality, local behavioral health services, we urge the City Council to renew and expand these initiatives to ensure that small and mid-size providers can continue to offer quality behavioral health services to their communities.

UNH Recommendation: Renew and expand Council Mental Health initiatives for children, youth, and older adults:
Autism Awareness Initiative: \$4m; Children Under Five Initiative: \$2m;
Geriatric Mental Health Initiative: \$2.5m; Medicaid Redesign Transition Initiative: \$1m.

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