



## JULY NEWS



***Dear Supporters,***

Thanks to your stellar advocacy, the Fiscal Year 2016 budget supports children's behavioral health in a few key ways. The \$38 billion budget, signed by Governor Baker today, includes:

- \$40,000 to expand the number of school districts that can implement substance abuse prevention tools in FY16.
- Full funding for MCPAP and MCPAP for Moms.
- Funding for flex services in the Department of Mental Health's Child and Adolescent line item.
- Level funding for early childhood mental health consultations.

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### **Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Efforts Move Ahead**

Many thanks to those who joined us in person and on social media for the launch of the CMHC's newest initiative, the [Addiction Free Futures Project](#)! More than 100 advocates and policymakers came out to support the project launch at the State House yesterday morning, and hear more about efforts bring about universal access to evidence-based, cost-effective substance abuse screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment (SBIRT) for youth and young adults.

The launch was followed by a hearing on H. 1796/S. 284, [An Act Relative to preventing adolescent substance abuse by expanding SBIRT](#) before the Joint Committee on Mental Health

and Substance Abuse. If passed, the bill will add substance abuse screening and brief counselling to the list of health screens already done in schools. After hearing from a number of experts, advocates, and parents the Committee went moved to give the bill a favorable recommendation. Stay tuned for next steps!

You can find coverage of the Addiction Free Futures Project and the efforts to bring SBIRT to schools statewide [here](#) and [here](#).

We are also excited to be partnering with The MGH Clay Center for Young Healthy Minds to put out a series of blogs and podcasts on SBIRT. [You can find the first one here.](#)

As always, thank you for your support, and special thank you to everyone who made yesterday's launch and hearing a huge success! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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