

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services**



**Public Hearing on the Mayor's Proposed FY 2014 Budget Request for the
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services**

Testimony of
BB Otero
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services

Committee on Health
Yvette Alexander, Chairperson
Council of the District of Columbia

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Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good afternoon Chairperson Alexander, members of the Committee, and members of the community. My name is BB Otero, and I am the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Gray's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget for the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services and confidently share that the proposed budget fully addresses my office's funding needs. To support the continued growth of the District of Columbia, Mayor Gray's FY 2014 Budget submission focuses on three priorities: (1) growing and diversifying the economy; (2) educating our children and preparing our workforce for a new economy; and (3) improving the quality of life for all residents. The agencies in the Health and Human Services cluster play a critical role in achieving these priorities.

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) supports the Mayor's priorities by coordinating a comprehensive system of benefits, goods and services across multiple agencies to ensure children, youth and adults, with and without disabilities, can lead healthy, meaningful and productive lives.

My office provides leadership for policy and planning; coordination and cross-collaboration within the cluster and with other Deputy Mayors and the City Administrator; and communication and community relations for the agencies under its jurisdiction including:

1. Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA)
2. Department of Disability Services (DDS)
3. Department of Health (DOH)
4. Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF)
5. Department of Human Services (DHS)
6. Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)
7. Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
8. Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS)
9. Office of Disability Rights (ODR)
10. Office on Aging (DCOA)

This office also provides oversight of the Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC).

Working alongside the professionals in our city agencies as well as in the community, my office has identified and prioritized a number of areas where progress can be meaningful through *coordinated interagency and cross-cluster collaboration; improved policies and programs; and compliance with local and federal mandates*. Staff in this office work diligently on these areas to support the Mayor's overall priorities and our agency.

Within our Health and Human Services cluster, we have worked with agency directors to craft approaches and budgets in ways that keep families at the center of our attention. We attempt to strengthen families and communities to reduce the need for intrusive high cost interventions.

Our cluster has focused our efforts on ...

- developing integrated case management systems;
- unifying case plans;
- positive youth development through joint staff training;
- developing a common understanding of trauma-informed practice; and
- eliminating duplicated services and reinvesting savings into a true system of care.

Our efforts in the Health and Human Services cluster look at the whole continuum of life to assure...

- timely pre-natal care;
- high quality early childhood education;
- prevention of teen pregnancies;
- economic security for families, and
- healthy, independent, and productive lives in our golden years, with a primary focus on developing the Age-Friendly City Initiative.

We are working with our sister agencies in the education cluster on initiatives such as...

- truancy prevention;
- early childhood development;
- school improvement; and
- preparing children to grow into successful adults.

Table HG0-3
(dollars in thousands)

Comptroller Source Group	Actual FY 11	Actual FY 12	Approve d FY 13	Proposed FY 14	Change from FY 13	Percent Change*
11 - Regular Pay, Continuing Full Time	0	407	435	600	165	37.9
14 - Fringe Benefits	0	73	97	139	42	43.4
Subtotal Personal Services (PS)	0	480	532	739	207	38.9
20 - Supplies and Materials	0	11	10	9	-1	-7.0
31 - Telephone, Telegraph, Telegram	0	1	4	7	3	62.4
40 - Other Services and Charges	0	96	52	22	-29	-56.8
41 - Contractual Services - Other	0	0	0	1,165	1,165	00
70 - Equipment and Equipment Rental	0	34	0	3	3	00
Subtotal Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	0	142	66	1,207	1,141	1,732.6
Gross Funds	0	622	597	1,945	1,348	225.6

*Percent change is based on whole dollars.

Our FY 2014 budget is \$1,945,119. A significant portion of the increase in FY 2014 is due to an allocation of \$1 million in non-personal costs for truancy reduction support efforts geared to addressing barriers that may be preventing young people from attending school regularly.

DMHHS personnel costs have increased to include two additional FTEs in FY 2014. We are adding a Special Assistant for Health Policy and a Program Analyst for Human Services. Both of these areas are associated with significant reform efforts which my office must track and support. We will continue to supplement the budgeted personnel with detailed staff, Capital City Fellows, AmeriCorps Members and interns.

Additionally, my office continues to have a special focus on the five consent decrees within our cluster, tracking status and coordinating cross-agency issues that may impede progress in meeting agreed upon exit strategies.

The remaining \$207,000 will be used for non-personal expenditures including office supplies, telecommunication, equipment, a contract for the development of the Children's Budget and cross-agency integration, and two intra-district transfers for 311 service requests through the Office of Unified Communications and for support services standard for all offices in the Wilson building.

This concludes my written testimony. I am happy to answer any questions at this time.