

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Current Budget Impasse to Effect Services at TCV MH/MR, Inc.**

Currently, Pennsylvania does not have an approved budget. Each of the budgets proposed in Harrisburg have demonstrated drastic cuts to social service programs such as Mental Health/Mental Retardation and Drug & Alcohol.

TCV MH/MR, Inc., a local non-profit, provides these services to individuals living in the Mon and Turtle Creek valleys. Without the money that could potentially be cut from the state budget, the services that TCV MH/MR, Inc. provides would not be accessible for the community.

Currently, Governor Rendell and the legislature are far apart on how to accomplish a balanced budget. The governor is proposing an increase to the personal income tax along with major cuts in spending. However, a number of Republican legislators vehemently oppose any tax increase. Republicans proposed balancing the budget by drastic cuts in spending. If their version were to pass it would have drastic consequences overall and agencies like TCV that provide MH/MR and D&A services would be hit particularly hard.

Not only would new services be eliminated but individuals currently receiving services would lose their services. Hopefully, a compromise can be reached that will allow our current services to continue.

We urge you to contact your senator and representatives to keep this funding for the mental health/mental retardation and drug & alcohol service lines. Substantial data shows that cutting social/human service funding will increase crime, homelessness, poverty and will have to use the cut funding for increased police support.

Established in 1970, Turtle Creek Valley MH/MR, Inc. is a private, non-profit agency which offers mental health counseling and treatment; mental retardation services and drug and alcohol treatment and intervention for families, individuals, children and adolescents in Allegheny County. Please visit [www.tcv.net](http://www.tcv.net) for more information.