

**Clinical Services
63 Preble Street
Portland, ME
207-822-0232**

- We serve 3000 mentally ill and intellectually disabled adults. We had a total of 4625 patient visits for 2012
- We serve patients throughout the state. Our patient base includes most of southern and central Maine, many pts coming from Lewiston, Topsham, Auburn, Augusta and as far west as Fryeburg, as far south as Alfred and as far north as Farmington
- We are a teaching site for medical, nurse anesthesia, and hygiene students and are a possible site for dental students from UNE.
- Over 500 of our patients are so compromised, mentally or physically, that they require IV sedation to get any dental work done at all. We provide that service. We also do pelvic exams, minor medical procedures, lab work and immunization for these pts who cannot tolerate these procedures awake
- We have 224 caseowrkers on a waiting list for our service, each of these has 2-4 clients in need
- Our patients are all Mainecare patients.
- Mainecare reimburses dental care so poorly that most dentists do not accept it
- Moreover, Mainecare will not reimburse for general dentistry on adults. (We have been able to bill Mainecare because we are part of a hospital, Riverview.)
- Therefore, our patients have virtually no recourse to dental care in the community
- These patients are the most vulnerable in the state. They have multiple mental illnesses, severe cognitive deficits or multiple physical disabilities.
- The clinic has been operating in Portland since 1996. Closing it would lead to the rapid deterioration of our patients' already tenuous dental health and put them back on the doorstep of emergency rooms throughout Me
- 2010 study done by Muskie School of Public service and funded by DHHS reported:
 - 11,960 ER visits related to dental care
 - dental diagnoses the top reason for ER visits among patients aged 15-44.
 - These visits cost the state of Maine \$7,176,000.
 - An ER visit to MMC for dental pain costs \$531 (+ \$300-400, if they get a shot for pain or antibiotic)

**Joint Standing Committee on
Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Mailing address:

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

5 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0005

Please use this list to contact Senators and Representatives to express your support to continue funding of the services at Clinical Services.

Senator Dawn Hill (D-York), Chair

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Senator Emily Ann Cain (D-Penobscot)

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Senator Patrick S. A. Flood (R-Kennebec)

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Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

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*Raking Minority Member