Licensed Psychiatric Hospital
Beds: Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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September 26, 2014
What is the impact?

- 4 years, little overall change in total psych inpatient capacity
- 14 beds or 1% increase in adult
- 59 beds or 17% increase in geriatric
- Loss of 27 beds or 13% in child/adolescent
What are the *real* issues?

**Availability**
- Stigma
- Reimbursement
  - Across all payors: Commercial and Public

**Access**
- Geographic and age distribution inequity
- Psychiatric emergency room boarding
- Lack of robust, assertive community services
Financial disincentives

- Reimbursement does not cover cost of inpatient bed
  - (nor contribute to unit and/or hospital overhead)
- Perverse insurance incentive for emergency room utilization

Quality

- High rate of recidivism
- Lack of evidence based community services
Emergency room experience of behavioral health and non behavioral health patients

- ED > 24 hours
  - BH
  - Non BH

- Admitted
  - BH
  - Non BH

- Hospital transfer
  - BH
  - Non BH

- D'cd to OP
  - BH
  - Non BH
Challenges and Opportunities

Challenges:

- Mental Health advocacy needs to find a common voice and priorities
- Lots of talk the talk….we need to walk the walk
- It is an election year

Opportunities:

- It is an election year
- Our voices: Enough is enough