

## Issue Brief – Medication Costs

UTAH STATE HOSPITAL

NUMBER DHS-07-09

### MEDICATION COSTS

The Utah State Hospital (USH) has experienced increased costs associated with medications. USH is requesting an appropriation of \$280,000 with \$201,600 from General Funds, \$22,400 from dedicated credits and \$56,000 from federal Medicaid funds for FY 2007.

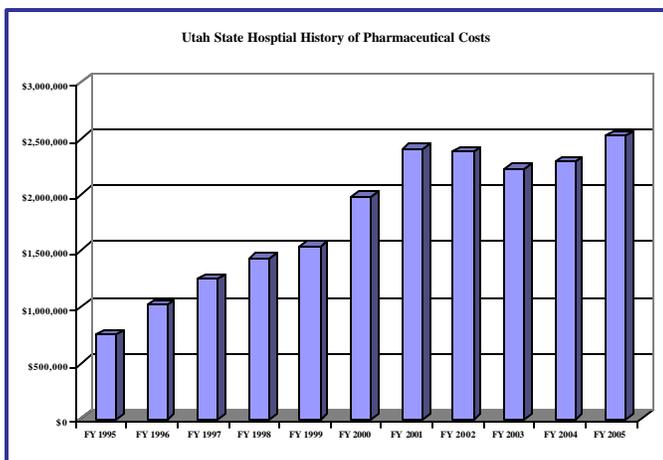
### OBJECTIVE

The objective of the USH is to provide cost effective drug therapy to stabilize, and discharge patients in a timely manner.

### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The patients at the State Hospital have chronic, treatment-resistant mental illnesses. Most of the patients come to USH because they cannot be stabilized in the community health care setting and require drug therapy.

Older generation psychotropic medications are less expensive but carry adverse side affects. The new atypical antipsychotic drugs account for 70 percent of the medication budget at the USH. The following graph shows the increase in costs since FY 2005 (Note: the lower medication costs in FY 2003 are because of the closure of 30 geriatric beds and the temporary closure of 26 forensic beds):



### RECOMMENDATION

The Subcommittee may want to prioritize this request for funding of \$280,000 with \$201,600 from General Funds, \$22,400 from dedicated credits and \$56,000 from Medicaid funds to cover the increase cost of medications at the Utah State Hospital.