



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Facilities Receive National Healthcare Service Corps Site Designation

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) today announced that all six of its state-operated outpatient facilities have been approved as National Healthcare Service Corps (NHSC) sites. The NHSC is a federal program that provides scholarships and repays the educational loans of primary care physicians and other health care providers who agree to serve a minimum of two years in federally designated Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA).

With the goal of recruiting and retaining professionals within their field of expertise in eligible HPSAs, the NHSC has worked to increase access to quality health care in communities with significant health professional shortages. The NHSC currently supports more than 20,000 primary care medical, dental, and behavioral health providers through scholarships and loan repayment programs.

“More than half of Americans report that COVID-19 has had a negative impact on their mental health, and in Connecticut around 40% of adults reported symptoms of anxiety or depression,” said Governor Ned Lamont. “With staffing shortages in the healthcare industry across the country, this will provide a vital boost to Connecticut’s behavioral health workforce, enabling more people to connect with the care that they need.”

“Connecticut’s urban areas, where our State Operated Local Mental Health Authorities are located, have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 and opioid crises. Connecticut has seen elevated reports of mental health concerns and substance misuse,” said DMHAS Commissioner Nancy Navarretta. “This NHSC designation will assist DMHAS in its competitive recruitment and retention of behavioral health professionals which, in turn, will help to increase our capacity to provide mental health and substance use disorder treatment across our state system of behavioral healthcare.”

The NHSC-approved DMHAS sites are Capitol Region Mental Health Center (Hartford), Connecticut Mental Health Center (New Haven), River Valley Services (Middletown), Southwestern Connecticut Mental Health System (Bridgeport), Southeastern Mental Health Authority (Norwich), and Western Connecticut Mental Health Network (Danbury/Torrington/Waterbury).

For more information about the NHSC and its programs, please visit <https://nhsc.hrsa.gov>.

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