



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Legislative Update # 1
February 5, 2020

Happy first day of the legislative session! Since the session falls on an even-numbered year, it will be a “short” session and will last three months. The session will end May 6, 2020 and things will move very quickly. This means hearings on important bills that impact DMHAS will happen over a compressed period of time. I will use these updates to help keep you informed as bills move through the legislative process.

To kick off the start of session, Governor Lamont released his Fiscal Year 2021 Recommended Budget Adjustments. This document can be found at the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/OPM/Bud-Budgets/Bud-Budgets/FY-2021-Budget-Adjustments>.

The proposed FY 2021 DMHAS budget adjustments include:

- An additional \$3 million in funding to support community placements for individuals in inpatient beds who are ready for discharge. This funding will support twenty placements during FY 2021.
- Realignment of funding for 45 DMHAS Human Resources staff who will report to the Department of Administrative Services and the Office of Policy Management as a result of the statewide centralization of Human Resources.
- Money in the biennial budget to address the impact of the increased minimum wage for employees of private providers.

The Appropriations Committee has scheduled a hearing on the proposed FY 2021 DMHAS budget on February 21, 2020 at the Legislative Office Building (LOB). The evening of February 21st will be reserved for public comment. Sign-up for in-person testimony, which is limited to three minutes per person, begins at 9:00 A.M. in the LOB on the day of the hearing.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about any of the information contained in the legislative updates. I can be reached at (860) 418-6839 or mary.mason@ct.gov. During session, you may want to try to reach me on my cell phone at (860) 985-2120 since I am often at the Capitol and away from my desk phone.