



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

**NED LAMONT**  
**GOVERNOR**

**NANCY NAVARRETTA, MA, LPC, NCC**  
**INTERIM COMMISSIONER**

**Legislative Update # 1**

**February 22, 2022**

Welcome to the legislative session! Since the session falls on an even-numbered year, it will be a “short” session and will last three months. Due to the pandemic, this session will be conducted using a hybrid method in the first few months. This means hearings will be conducted via Zoom, and to watch all the action that occurs at the Capitol during hearings or sessions of the House and Senate we all must tune into YouTube or [CT-N](#). Information on how to watch the proceedings will be available on the [Legislative Calendar](#). The public does have access to the first floor of the legislative office building so constituents may be able to see lawmakers in person. I will make every effort to use these updates to help keep you informed as bills move through the legislative process.

The Governor has unveiled his proposed update to the state’s current budget. He has prioritized mental health and significant funds for behavioral health services are included in his proposed budget. The full budget bill ([HB 5037](#)) is available for review. DMHAS budget addition highlights related to behavioral health included:

\$1.2 million for the Home and Community Based Services

\$2.5 million to support clients discharged from the hospital

\$1.2 million to fund peer supports for individuals in emotional distress in local emergency departments

\$3 million to enhance mobile crisis services at existing private nonprofit agency mobile crisis sites

\$1.6 million to assisting in bridging mobile crisis services and longer term treatment and recovery services for individuals accessing mobile crisis

\$1.4 million to enhance respite bed services for forensic populations to improve DMHAS capacity to provide community based restoration to competency to stand trial

\$1.125 million for wrap around services that will accompany new housing vouchers

***The virtual public hearing on the DMHAS budget adjustments is February 24<sup>th</sup> at 2p.m.*** Individuals who wish to testify via Zoom must register using the [On-line Testimony Registration Form](#). To submit testimony in writing email [APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov)