



Department of Children and Families

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 9, 2024

Update 2024-1

WELCOME TO DCF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the first edition of the DCF Legislative Update for the 2024 session of the General Assembly. The legislative session began on Wednesday, February 7th. Updates will be issued periodically during the legislative session and will provide timely notice of bills, meetings and hearings of interest to the Department.

Governor Lamont Addressed the State on February 7th: Governor Lamont presented his budget modifications during his state of the state address on the first day of session. Highlights are shared below in this update.

Adjournment. The General Assembly Adjourns on May 8th at midnight.

Governor Lamont's Budget Address

Governor Lamont gave his state-of-the-state speech on opening day of session and highlighted key components of his midterm budget adjustments. Below is a brief summary of the budget initiatives that affect DCF.

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- The Governor's budget provides an additional \$8.8 million for children's behavioral health sustainability: \$2.5 million in additional ARPA funding under DCF and \$2.9 million (\$5.8 million after factoring in the federal share) under the Department of Social Services (DSS) to fund Medicaid costs for UCCs, which provide behavioral health diversion services for youth experiencing a behavioral health crisis who would otherwise go to the emergency department for evaluation and short-term treatment; and an additional \$500,000 under ARPA to maintain peer-to-peer coordination activities that facilitate the timely and safe transition of children from acute or sub-acute levels of care to clinically appropriate services in the community.
 - The additional year of ARPA funding for DCF will provide the time necessary to address permanent sustainability for these critical new services through both commercial insurance and Medicaid coverage. DSS has already initiated work to develop new service billing codes and rates for Medicaid coverage as approximately 60 percent of the participants are anticipated to be Medicaid eligible. Additional ARPA funding will provide bridge supports, giving providers time to work with commercial insurers to cover these services in their coverage plans and networks.
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BILLS OF INTEREST

[H.B. No. 5048](#) Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING JUNE 30, 2025. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

[H.B. No. 5049](#) Request of the Governor Pursuant to Joint Rule 9 AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024. To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS – 2024 SESSION

Senator Martin Looney (D) – *Senate President Pro Tempore*

Senator Bob Duff (D) – *Senate Majority Leader*

Representative Matthew Ritter (D) – *Speaker of the House*

Representative Jason Rojas (D) – *House Majority Leader*

Senator Kevin Kelly (R) – *Senate Minority Leader*

Representative Vincent Candelora (R) – *House Minority Leader*

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS – 2024 SESSION

COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

www.cga.ct.gov/kid/

Cognizance of all matters relating to the Department of Children and Families, including institutions under its jurisdiction, and children.

Chairs: Sen. Ceci Maher (D), Rep. Liz Linehan (D)

Vice-Chairs: Sen. Julie Kushner (D), Rep. Sarah Keitt (D)

Ranking Members: Sen. Lisa Seminara (R), Rep. Anne Dauphinais (R)

Members:

Rep. Pat Boyd (D)

Rep. Robin Comey (D)

Rep. Kadeem Roberts (D)

Rep. Robert Sanchez (D)

Rep. Rick Hayes (R)

Sen. Saud Anwar (D)

Sen. Christine Cohen (D)

Rep. Brian Lanoue (R)

Rep. Mary Welander (D)

Rep. Gale Mastrofrancesco (R)

Rep. Ronald Napoli (D)

Rep. William Pizzuto (R)

Rep. Tom Arnone (D)

PREVIOUS MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

The Committee on Children met on Thursday February 8th to review concept bills, all of which passed.

The agenda can be viewed [here](#).

Agenda items 10-13 are placeholder bills and were not discussed like items 1-9.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Tue, Feb 13 - 11:00 AM	Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee*	Room 1A
Wed, Feb 14 - 10:00 AM	Senate Session	Capitol
Wed, Feb 14 - 11:30 AM	House Session	Capitol
Wed, Feb 14 - 2:00 PM	Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council	ZOOM
Thu, Feb 15 - 10:00 AM	Rep. Hughes and Social Welfare Action Alliance CT Chapter	Room 2A
Thu, Feb 15 -11:00 AM	Human Services Committee Meeting	Room 2B
Thu, Feb 15 - 2:00 PM	Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee Meeting	Room 1E

***EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

The Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee will hold a public hearing, followed by a committee meeting, on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 11:00 A.M.** in **Room 1A** of the LOB and via **Zoom**. The public hearing can be viewed via **YouTube Live**. In addition, the public hearing may be recorded and broadcast live on **CT-N.com**. Individuals who wish to testify via Zoom must register using the **On-line Testimony Registration Form**. Registration will close on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 3:00 P.M. Speaker order of approved registrants will be posted on the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee website on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. under Public Hearing Testimony. If you do not have internet access, you may provide testimony via telephone. To register to testify by phone, call the Phone Registrant Line at 860-240-0452 to leave your contact information. Please submit written testimony using the **On-line Testimony Submission Form**. The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators, Constitutional Officers, State Agency Heads and Chief Elected Municipal Officials. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

SUBJECT MATTER: Executive and Legislative Nominations

Jodi Hill-Lilly of Bloomfield to be Commissioner of Children and Families

Attorney Shirley Skyers-Thomas of Bethany to be Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Protection

Richard Balducci of Deep River to be reappointed to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

Alex Harris of Ridgefield to be a member of the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

GENERAL ASSEMBLY WEBSITE

For complete legislative information, visit the Connecticut General Assembly's website at - www.cga.ct.gov

<p>For additional information regarding legislative matters, contact Michael Carone, DCF Legislative Program Director, at 860-936-6353 or Vincent Russo, DCF Chief Administrator of Government Relations & Policy, at (860) 461-6689.</p>
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