



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

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

NANCY NAVARRETTA, MA, LPC, NCC
COMMISSIONER

Legislative Update # 1
February 15, 2023

The Connecticut General Assembly convened the 2023 legislative session and since it falls on an odd-numbered year, it will be a “long” session for budget negotiations and implementation, and will last until June 7, 2023. Due to the pandemic, this session will again be conducted using a hybrid method, meaning hearings will be conducted both in person and via Zoom. To watch all the action that occurs at the Capitol during hearings or sessions of the House and Senate virtually you can tune into YouTube or [CT-N](#).

The Governor has unveiled his proposed Budget, he has again prioritized mental health and significant funds to support our services are included. The full budget bill and addendum are available for review:

- [GovBudget_2024-25_Final-Web-Version.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)
- [Program_Addendum2024-25_Final.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)

DMHAS budget highlights:

- \$2.7 million for the Discharge and Diversion Program
- Over \$3 million to fund the New 988 Suicide Hotline
- \$500 thousand new caseload growth for the Young Adult Services Program in each year of the biennium
- Over \$1.2 million to support the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Demonstration. (Funding reallocated from the Substance Use Disorder Waiver Reserve account in the Department of Social Services) to enhance Pregnant Parenting Women programs.
- Over \$1.2 million to support contractual obligations for Beacon Administrative Services Organization Contract for the Behavioral Health Partnership

The Commissioner will testify on the proposed DMHAS budget on February 21 at 2:30 p.m. A public hearing for individuals who wish to testify on the proposed budget will be held February 28 at 10:00 a.m. Testimony may be provided in person or by Zoom, you must register using the [On-line Testimony Registration Form](#). Please submit written testimony by email prior to the hearing to APPtestimony@cga.ct.gov.

The DMHAS Legislative Unit is happy to welcome Kelly Ramsey-Fuhlbrigge in the role of Director of Communications, Regulations and Legislation. Kelly joins DMHAS with a wealth of experience at the Capitol negotiating the legislative process. Mary Kate will assist Kelly during the session as she acclimates to her new roles. Kelly can be reach at 203-500-9293.