

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative William J. Lippert Jr.; Chair, House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Sarah Squirrell, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

DATE: 2/8/19

SUBJECT: Department of Mental Health Legal Issues Overview Question and Answer

---

Please find below a response from the Department of Mental Health, submitted in response to inquiries received during the 1/30/19 testimony on the overview of legal issues within the mental health system of care.

**Question:** Can you provide an explanation of the 4 alternative beds and 2 commissioner beds at HCRS? What is the distinction between “alternative” and “commissioner”?

**Answer:** At HCRS, the Crisis Bed Program operates a total of six (6) crisis beds. Four (4) of the beds, which they call “Alternative beds” are standard Crisis Beds with access managed by the Designated Agency. The additional two (2) beds are referred to as “Commissioner beds” because referrals and access to these beds are managed by DMH’s Care Management team, to maintain a statewide resource for hospital step-down.