

Rep. Donahue mental health budget language

Sec. A. INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET; BUDGET TRANSFER FROM
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH TO DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT
HEALTH ACCESS

(a) The legislative budget process is an essential structural component of ensuring that the State is supporting the principle of fully integrating mental health into the health care system. The separation of Medicaid mental health expenditures between the Department of Vermont Health Access and Department of Mental Health’s proposed budgets is an obstacle to achieving the General Assembly’s mental health reform principle of “ensur[ing] equal access to appropriate mental health care in a manner equivalent to other aspects of health care as part of an integrated, holistic system of care,” as codified in 18 V.S.A. § 7251(4).

(b) The Agency of Human Services and the Departments of Mental Health and of Vermont Health Access shall integrate public funding for inpatient mental health care services with the funding for other health care services within the Department of Vermont Health Access budget, while maintaining oversight, utilization review, care management, and data collection within the Departments of appropriate jurisdiction based on legal custodial obligations and responsibilities. This integrated funding shall begin in fiscal year 2023.

Sec. B. MENTAL HEALTH BUDGET PRESENTATION; FISCAL YEAR 2022

(a) In anticipation of the fiscal year 2023 budget realignment, the Departments of Mental Health and of Vermont Health Access shall provide a report on caseload,

expenditures, and utilization as part of their fiscal year 2022 budget presentation, identifying the budget categories incorporated into each Department's budget for inpatient services by the following funding categories, including any subdivision between persons served by the community rehabilitation and treatment program:

- (1) the State-run inpatient hospital;
- (2) Level 1 inpatient psychiatric services delivered in private hospitals;
- (3) other involuntary inpatient psychiatric services; and
- (4) voluntary inpatient psychiatric services.

(b) The Departments' fiscal year 2022 budget presentations shall also include any implementation recommendations to achieve integrated funding in accordance with Sec. A(b) of this act.