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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Joe Benning, Chair, Senate Committee on Institutions  
Senator Virginia Lyons, Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Welfare

FROM: Sarah Squirrell, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health  
Mourning Fox, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

DATE: April 17, 2019

SUBJECT: Residential Mental Health Analysis of Need- H.543 and H.528

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In follow up to discussions with the Senate Committee on Institutions and with the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, the Department of Mental Health is recommending the strikethrough and replacement of certain language in H.543, Section 28, and strikethrough of H.528, Section 2, (b) as presented on the following pages. The Department supports additional, data-driven processes to support any future investments in residential bed capacity.

H.543, SECTION 28. REPLACEMENT OF MIDDLESEX SECURE RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

Strikethrough section (a), sub-section (1,2); and replace as follows:

Sec. 28. REPLACEMENT OF MIDDLESEX PHYSICALLY SECURE RESIDENTIAL RECOVERY FACILITY

(a) Intent. To the extent that the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living (DAIL) amends its rules pertaining to therapeutic community residences to allow secure residential recovery facilities to utilize emergency involuntary procedures and that these rules are identical to the rules adopted by the Department of Mental Health governing the use of emergency involuntary procedures in psychiatric inpatient units, it is the intent of the General Assembly that the State shall replace the Middlesex Secure Residential Recovery facility by:

(1) constructing a physically secure State-owned residential recovery facility for up to an additional 16 beds; and

(2) exploring the placement of interim secure residential beds or permanent beds that could be flexible to meet other potential therapeutic community residential uses as determined by the Department of Mental Health under subdivision (b) of this section.

Strikethrough section (b) and replace as follows:

(b) DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; ANALYSIS OF RESIDENTIAL MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

(1) The Department of Mental Health shall evaluate and determine the mental health bed needs for residential programs across the State by geographic area and provider type including: long term residences (group homes), Intensive Recovery Residences and Secure Residential. This evaluation shall include but not be limited to: the review of current and historic occupancy rates, admission and referral data, assessment of barriers to access for individuals requiring residential services. The evaluatiuon will include consultation with providers.

(2) On or before December 15, 2019, the Department shall provide to the House Committees on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and on Appropriations its findings and recommendations. The report shall include an analysis of operating secure residential beds at Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC) and Rutland Mental Health Services (RMHS).

Strikethrough the entire section.

(Draft No. 1.1 – H.528)

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1 ~~Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; ANALYSIS OF~~

2 ~~MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS~~

3 ~~The Department of Mental Health shall determine the mental health~~

4 ~~service and mental health bed needs across the State by geographic area~~

5 ~~and provider type at least monthly during fiscal year 2020. On or before~~

6 ~~January 15, 2020, the Department shall provide to the House Committees~~

7 ~~on Health Care and on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on~~

8 ~~Health and Welfare and on Appropriations its monthly analyses for the~~

9 ~~first half of fiscal year 2020.~~