

**BUDGET PROPOSALS REVIEW – 4.29.2021**

<b>HHC Proposal (see 2.24.2021 budget letter)</b>	<b>HAC Budget Proposal</b>	<b>Senate Budget Proposal</b>
Funding for DA and SSA Staff and Others: \$2.6m for <u>3%</u> COLA for employees of DMH contracted community mental health and developmental disability peer agencies, including Alyssum and Another Way	Sec B.301 <u>2%</u> COLA	Sec B.301 <u>3%</u> COLA
Pathways Vermont: Maintaining 24/7 Peer Warm Line	Sec B.314 Added \$389k	Same
Office of Racial Equity: Developing Office of Health Equity <u>\$100,000</u>	Sec B.1102 To the Agency of Administration Office of Racial Equity: <u>\$180,000</u> for activities related to health disparities and health equity	Sec B.1106 <u>\$180,000</u> to the Agency of Administration Office of Racial Equity for activities related to health disparities and health equity.
Expanding the Health Care Workforce:		
1) Nurse and Primary Care Physician Scholarships. \$3,000,000 to be spent over three years and matched with federal dollars on programs established in 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155. <u>\$608,419</u> to the VDH in each of the three years for scholarships for third- and fourth-year medical students who commit to practicing primary care in this State after graduation and <u>\$1,035,957</u> to VDH in each of the three years for additional scholarships for nursing. VDH should administer the primary care physician scholarships in collaboration with the AHEC Program at UVM College of Medicine and provide the funds for the nursing scholarships to VSAC.	Sec. C. 100 To the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment Program: <u>\$2,000,000</u> for the State match for the 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155 Registered Nurse and <u>Primary Care Physician Scholarship Program, as amended in Sec. E. 311.3 of this act.</u> Of these general funds, \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2022, and \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2023.	Sec. C.100 (1) To the Agency of Human Services, Global Commitment Program: <u>\$2,000,000</u> for the State match for the 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 155 Nurse Scholarship Program and <u>University of Vermont College of Medicine, Medical Student Incentive Scholarship Program, as amended in Sec. E. 311.3 of this act.</u> Of these general funds, \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2022, and \$1,000,000 is for expenditure in fiscal year 2023.
2) Long-Term Care/LPN Partnership Program	Passed in H315/Act 9	Passed in H315/Act 9

<b>GOVERNOR's BUDGET PROPOSALS</b>		
Mobile Response Unit in Rutland <u>\$600,000</u> HHC did not support	Sec. B.1102 <u>\$1,200,000</u> to provide mobile crisis intervention funding in Rutland for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This appropriation may be adjusted to the extent that the Department, in coordination with the Agency of Human Services, determines that funding from the Global Commitment can be substituted as a result of the increased federal match to 85 percent in the American Rescue Plan Act for mobile crisis intervention programs.	Sec. G.200 <u>\$600,000</u> to the Department of Mental Health to fund a pilot mobile crisis intervention program in Rutland. It is the intent of the General Assembly that any continuation of this pilot program or expansion of the program to other areas of the State be designed and implemented in a manner that meets the requirements to draw federal Medicaid funding for these services as specified in ARPA.
Nurse tax incentive - HHC did not support	Not included	Not included
Justice Reinvestment: we recommend that the House Committee on Appropriations explore whether it would be more appropriate for these funds to come from the Department of Corrections' General Fund budget instead of the Department of Mental Health's or from one-time funds that could serve as a "bridge" to support this initiative until the Department of Corrections savings are realized		

HHC Passed Bills:

- H.430 Dr. D Like Expansion Bill – Funded in B.310 - \$1,400,000
- H.210 Funded as described in above table
- S.88 Unmerging of Markets – Funded in Sec. B.1106 (a)(4) \$32,500 to GMCB

Senate H&W Actions

- S.120 – Funded in Sec B.1106 (a)(8) – Legislature to support contract for analytical work for Health Care Task Force - \$175,000
- Sec.E.227 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL REGULATION; ESSENTIAL HEALTH BENEFITS; BENCHMARK PLAN REVIEW

**USE OF ONE-TIME FUNDS (H.314/ACT 9)**

Addressing Health Care Disparities \$500k

- 1) \$66,000 to GMCB to enhance the State’s capacity to collect demographic data regarding equity in access to and use of health care services by Vermonters.
- 2) \$134,000 towards H.210

1) and 2) Sec. 14. GREEN MOUNTAIN CARE BOARD; DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH; HEALTH CARE DISPARITIES; DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

(a) The sum of \$66,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Green Mountain Care Board in fiscal year 2021 to provide the State share pursuant to 18 V.S.A. § 9374(h) for updates to the Vermont Healthcare Claims Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) to improve data collection related to health equity.  
 (b) The sum of \$134,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health in fiscal year 2021 for collection and analysis of demographic data, including race and ethnicity data, regarding Vermont residents who experience health disparities.

- 3) \$300,000 for Emergency outreach support to peer-support and LGBTQ organizations: to DMH for grants to peer-led and impacted member-led organizations for emergency outreach services to address COVID-19 related needs. \$150,000 to peer support organizations and \$150,000 to organizations supporting LGBTQ youth

3) Sec. 6. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; EMERGENCY OUTREACH SERVICES GRANTS the Department shall allocate \$150,000 to a mental health peer-support organization and \$150,000 to an organization supporting the needs of LGBTQ youths

Expanding the Health Care Workforce:

- 1) Nursing and Primary Care Physician Scholarships
- 2) Long Term Care/LPN Partnership Program: \$2,000,000 to the Department of Health to establish a partnership program between skilled nursing facilities and Vermont Technical College (VTC) that would bring VTC’s LPN program to the skilled nursing facilities to train current employees, such as nursing assistants, to become higher level providers. The funds would cover the trainees’ tuition and fees and provide a stipend to help meet their living costs, such as housing and child-care, while attending the program.

1) Moved to Budget  
 2) Sec. 17. PRACTICAL NURSE; WORKFORCE FUNDING (a) Due to the increasing challenge of the pandemic on the health professions, the sum of \$1,400,000.00 is appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 - Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the Vermont State Colleges to open 40 to 45 seats in the Practical Nurse Program in partnership with skilled nursing facilities across the State to upskill existing staff to achieve certification as a practical nurse.

**USE OF ONE-TIME FUNDS (H.314/ACT 9)**

Responding to Urgent Mental Health Needs \$5,000,000

- 1) Housing Supports \$4,000,000
- 2) Urgent Case Mgmt Svcs \$850,000
- 3) Mental Health Workforce Training and Wellness \$150,000

Sec. 7. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; HOUSING The sum of \$4,000,000.00 is appropriated to make existing housing and communitybased service facilities providing mental health services more accessible, safe, and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act or to expand capacity in community settings.

Sec. 8. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES The sum of \$850,000.00 is to the Department of Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 to provide funds to the designated community mental health agencies to enable them each to hire an additional case manager to provide case management services to Vermont residents who may not previously have been part of an agency's caseload but whose lives have been significantly disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic and who are now urgently in need of these agencies' supports.

Sec. 9. DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH; WORKFORCE TRAINING AND WELLNESS SUPPORTS The sum of \$150,000.00 is appropriated to the Department of Mental Health in fiscal year 2021 for training and wellness supports for frontline health care workers to help them meet Vermont residents' current mental health needs, such as training for emergency department personnel