

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative William Lippert, Chair, House Committee on Health Care
FROM: Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health
DATE: January 31, 2022
SUBJECT: Follow up from FY23 Budget Testimony

This memo is in response to questions raised during testimony on January 27, 2022. It is our intent that the following information will assist in the committee's understanding of these important questions:

- 1. What portion of adult (and children's) inpatient mental health care is in DVHA and in DMH budgets now, and what types of care or programs are paid for in each budget?**

We are working with DVHA to package the latest budget information on these items and have been scheduled to return to complete budget testimony on February 4th.

- 2. How is the Success Beyond Six (SB6) budget spent on mental health versus any other elements of the program? Can we see a breakdown of the \$72 million?**

The most recent comprehensive report detailing the outcomes and spending of the SB6 program is a 2020 [Review of Success Beyond Six; School Mental Health Services](#).

The Success Beyond Six services provided by the Designated Agencies under contract with the Local Education Agencies (LEA) are billed through Medicaid for Medicaid-enrolled students. The \$72 million is the Medicaid spending authority granted to DMH for this SB6 Medicaid billing. Each fiscal year, DMH develops contracts with each DA for SB6 Medicaid based on the local contracts between the LEA/DA for SB6 staff/services.

The Designated Agencies bill Medicaid through DMH. The schools then pay the Designated Agencies the General fund (State) portion. The DA uses local education funds as the state match to draw down federal Medicaid for eligible services to eligible children.

FY22 SB6 contracts support a total of 704 contracted FTEs statewide (56 Board Certified Behavioral Analysts (BCBAs), 457 Behavioral Interventionists (BIs), 191 school-based clinicians). DMH does not have specific data on how many FTEs are/were vacant; that detail is not provided by the DAs to

DMH. The SB6 Medicaid is paid out on claims when services are delivered in adherence to the Medicaid requirements.

3. Please expand on the new HRSA Pediatric Grant. Does it continue the work with Community Health Center of Burlington (CHCB)?

The State of Vermont was awarded \$2.2 million federally-funded grant for a 5-year project from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) entitled “Pediatric Mental Health Care Access – New Area Expansion.” The program does partner with CHCB and others, to promote mental health integration into pediatric primary care by supporting pediatric mental health care telehealth access programs. Awardees will provide tele-consultation, training/education, technical assistance, and care coordination for pediatric primary care providers to diagnose, treat, and refer children with mental health conditions. All project goals are detailed at HRSA’s PMHCA [site](#), and additional coordination and methodologies at [VT’s project](#) site.

4. What is the status of the residential step down facility we asked the department to explore? [Residential Beds for Individuals Discharged from Inpatient Psychiatric Care \(2021, Act 50, Sec. 27\)](#) is the report that was submitted and summarizes the completed activities as required to date.

5. Which Providers received the 3% increase in FY22 in addition to the DAs and SSAs?

Addison County Parent Child Center
Collaborative Solutions (Second Spring North and South)
Center for Health and Learning - suicide prevention
Vermont Family Network Puppets in Education
UVM, Vermont Center for Children, Youth and Families, Psychiatric Fellowship
Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health (VFFCMH) YIT Direct Service Portion
Vermont Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health (VFFCMH), Family Support and LIT
VAMHAR - Camp Daybreak
Vermont Center for Independent Living (VCIL)
Pathways to Housing VT - Soteria
Pathways - Support Line & Wellness Co op
Pathways - Workforce Development
Alyssum
NAMI of Vt
Another Way
VT Psych Survivors
Northern Vermont University (VCPI)
Addison County Comm Action Group
Homeless Prevention Center
Good Samaritan Haven
Northeast Kingdom Community Action
Community Health Center
Groundworks - Brattleboro Drop In

6. What is the status of the new secure residential and the projected staffing there?

The department delivered testimony to the House Committee on Institutions this week with BGS that included a financial update and construction and design progress reports. The recorded presentation is located [here](#). And the presentation slides including photos of current construction are [here](#).

The following table includes proposed staffing which was presented to Green Mountain Care Board during the August, 2021 CON Public Hearing.

	Proposed Year 1 2023	Proposed Year 2 2024	Proposed Year 3 2025
Inpatient Utilization			
Staffed Beds	16	16	16
Resident Days	5,256	5,256	5,256
Non-Clinical FTEs			
Principal Assistant	1.0	1.0	1.0
Administrative Services Coordinator III	1.0	1.0	1.0
(DMH) Quality Control Specialist III	1.0	1.0	1.0
Staffing Office Manager (Staffing)	1.0	1.0	1.0
Mental Health Scheduling Coordinator (Staffing)	5.0	5.0	5.0
Food Service Worker	2.0	2.0	2.0
Cook C	2.0	2.0	2.0
Supervising Chef	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Non-Clinical FTEs Totals	14.0	14.0	14.0
Clinical FTEs			
Nurse Supervisor	1.0	1.0	1.0
Registered Nurse II; Clinical Specialty Nurse (Med)	4.0	4.0	4.0
Registered Nurse III; Charge, Clinical Specialty Nurse	5.0	5.0	5.0
Activity Therapist	2.0	2.0	2.0
Social Worker	2.0	2.0	2.0
DMH Psychologist	2.0	2.0	2.0
Mental Health Recovery Specialist (Peer)	2.0	2.0	2.0
Mental Health Specialist	24.0	24.0	24.0
Associate Mental Health Spec	5.0	5.0	5.0
Senior Mental Health Spec	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Clinical FTEs	49.0	49.0	49.0
Total FTEs	63.0	63.0	63.0