

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Department of Mental Health

DATE: February 4th, 2026

RE: Follow-up to 1.30 Testimony: FY27 Budget Request

Please find below additional information requested by the Committee during DMH's testimony on January 30th.

1. *How many positions does the percent decrease in vacancies represent?*

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) vacancies have reduced by 16 positions since January 2025. River Valley Therapeutic Residence (RVTR) vacancies have reduced by 6 positions since January 2025. The data below can be found in the DMH Vacancy and Turnover Rates Dashboard, which is updated biweekly and available at this link: [Power BI Dashboards and Reports | Department of Mental Health](#).

January 23, 2025

●	Overall	32.9%
●	Central Office	5.3%
●	RVTR	35.9%
●	VPCH	42.8%

Central Office Vacancy Count	4
RVTR Vacancy Count	23
VPCH Vacancy Count	83

January 22, 2026

●	Overall	30.2%
●	Central Office	18.1%
●	RVTR	26.6%
●	VPCH	37.0%

Central Office Vacancy Count	15
RVTR Vacancy Count	17
VPCH Vacancy Count	67

2. *What proportion of Private Non-Medical Institution (PNMI) expenses are spent out of state?*

Projected expenses for out-of-state PNMI expenditures are \$10,478,212 for FY26; approximately 75% of total projected FY26 PNMI spending.



3. Are Mobile Crisis responders required to use the BHL app on their personal phone? Does the app collect user data?

DMH defers to individual Designated Agency policies on personal device usage. For the app user, [BHL's Privacy Policies](#) regarding Geolocation Information state that the app may request access to location-based information. Users can control the type or amount of information collected by denying initial permission, or at any time by changing settings or permissions on the device used. However, opting out of sharing information may affect use of certain features or services. The app is fully HIPAA compliant and requires two-factor authentication to ensure security of clients' personal information.

