



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

Testimony by Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Before the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Subcommittee on Bonding
March 14, 2019

Good afternoon, Senator Moore, Representative Miller and distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee's Subcommittee on Bonding. I am Commissioner Miriam Delphin-Rittmon of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). I am joined by Stephen A. DiPietro, the Department's Chief Financial Officer, and Steven Hecimovich, the Department's Director of Engineering Services. We are here to review with you prior authorizations set to become effective in SFY 20 and 21. The Governor's proposed budget for SFY 20 and 21 does not recommend new authorizations for the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

DMHAS is a large healthcare service agency. We strive to deliver cost-effective, quality substance use disorder and mental health treatment and recovery services despite the challenges of a difficult budgetary environment. Bonding resources are used to upgrade and maintain our hospitals and treatment facilities many of which are aging. Our facilities include the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven, built in 1966; the Capitol Region Mental Health Center in Hartford's North end, in 1954; the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center was built in 1972, Whiting Forensic Hospital in 1970; and the main patient care buildings at Connecticut Valley Hospital date from 1940 to 1959.

While the department is not receiving new authorizations in the biennium, several projects are in line to move forward funded with prior authorizations. The department hopes to replace a deteriorated 2nd level the parking garage at Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center. . This department is currently in the process of receiving bids for this project, and assuming

estimates will be able to be supported through the existing balance of the Fire and Safety Improvements Fund, construction would begin in the summer of this year. Additionally, the department has prior authorizations of \$6.5 million in Sprinkler Funds that will be used over the biennium for sprinkler systems at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven and the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center. Additionally, the department has available approximately \$2 million dollars of prior bond authorizations for Grants to Private Non Profit providers for community based residential and out-patient facilities for purchases, repairs, alterations, and improvements.

We appreciate the opportunity to address the Subcommittee today on these matters, and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

