



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 22, 2021

Good afternoon, Senator Moore, Representative Borer 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 DiPietro, the Department's Chief Financial Officer, and Steven Hecimovich, the Department's Director of Engineering Services in order to provide testimony on prior bond authorizations set to become effective in SFY 21 and the Governor's proposed budget for SFY 22 and SFY 23. The Governor's budget recommends new DMHAS authorizations in the amount of \$13,504,500 in SFY 22 and \$8,740,000 in SFY 23. The summary provided to the subcommittee details the planned use for the Department's unallocated balances as well as new projects to be funded by the proposed new authorizations.

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

The Department's unallocated Fire and safety funds of \$12,493,022 will be utilized for the replacement of the parking garage at Bridgeport Community Mental Health Center. This project will be going out to bid in May of this year with construction beginning in late summer or early fall. Additionally, the department has prior authorizations of \$11.9 million in Sprinkler Funds that will be used at the Connecticut Mental Health Center in New Haven

which will be going out to bid in April of this year with construction anticipated for this summer. The balance of our unallocated sprinkler funds will be used for the design and construction of the Greater Bridgeport Mental Health Center sprinkler project. Additionally, the department has available approximately \$3.2 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.