



DMHAS Legislative Update
Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council
June 10, 2026

Agenda

**FY 2027 Budget
Adjustments**

**FY 2026 Session –
DMHAS Related Bills**

**Questions/
Discussion**

FY 2027 Budget Adjustments – DMHAS

FY 2027 Budget:

- Provides \$690,000 in funding to support wage increases for low-wage workers under the Mental Health Waiver.
- Provides funding of \$775,000 in FY 2027 for Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (\$155,000 each) to expand suicide prevention and postvention services via the Regional Suicide Advisory Boards.
- Transfers \$10.75 million from DSS to DMHAS to reflect reinvestment requirements for the Substance Use Disorder demonstration waiver.

FY 2027 Budget:

- Supports increased Competency Restoration costs of \$1.9 million. These funds will cover the continued cost of services and supports for individuals with mental illness who are facing low level criminal charges and enable DMHAS to respond to the increase in outpatient competency referrals in the least restrictive setting.
- Provides \$3.5 million in FY 2027 to facilitate discharge from state hospitals by supporting community resources for individuals clinically ready to transition to the community.

FY 2027 Budget:

- Provides \$1.0 million to allow for 100 participants in the CT Housing Engagement & Support Services (CHESS) to transition to supportive housing at DMHAS as the CHESS program sunsets.
- Includes funding of \$200,000 for Ender's Island Recovery Residence program in Mystic.

Budget-Related

- Increase to Federal Cuts Response Fund
 - Section 490 of the budget bill (SB 1) increased the Federal Cuts Response Fund by \$50M
- Legislative Directed Funds (earmarks)– HB 5039
 - whenever the General Assembly approves earmarks, the identity of the recipient organization, a description of the purpose of the funding, and a determination on whether the funding can be directed to a sub awardee must be specified in the legislation or budget book
 - requires OPM to establish uniform policies on the administration of these funds for state agencies to ensure appropriate use and administration and publish reports on the website

2026 Legislative Session Overview

DMHAS Agency Bill – Major Provisions

Naloxone Access in Schools

- Updates education statutes to conform with changes in FDA designation making naloxone over-the-counter (OTC)

Naloxone Access in Communities

- Clearly allows distribution of OTC opioid antagonists by state agencies and other organizations
- Exempts free distribution from the nonlegend drug permit requirement

Highlights – Bills that Passed Both Chambers

Public Health Various Revisions

- Clear authority for hospitals to establish ED Bridge Program
- DMHAS consultation on extreme weather protocol related guidance

Psychedelic Assisted Treatment (PAT) Pilot

- Expands eligibility and ensures continuation of program even if federal rules change

Encampment Removal Noticing

- 14-day notice policy and DOT/DMHAS study on best practices

DOC Health Care Pilot

- Requires DOC, DMHAS, DSS, and OPM to create a pilot program to assist with discharge planning for certain patients at York Correctional Institution

Task Forces, Workgroups, & Studies/Reports

New Groups

- Safety Net Mitigation Working Group
- Nonprofit Advisory Board
- Treatment of Eating Disorders Working Group
- Child Welfare Policy and Oversight Committee

New Studies/Reports

- Extreme Weather Protocols
- Discharge Planning and Care Coordination Pilot
 - York Correctional
- DOT Encampment Removals Study
- Reporting of Advertising Purchased by State

Questions/Discussion