



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

NED LAMONT
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON,
Ph.D.

Testimony of Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Commissioner
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
before the Appropriations Committee

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Dr. Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS). I am here to provide testimony in support of HB 6438 AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

The Department has an anticipated overall deficiency of \$6.4 million in the Professional Services and Workers' Compensation Claims accounts. HB 6438 identifies shortfalls in the Professional Services account in the amount of \$5.9 million and the Discharge and Diversion Services account in the amount of \$3.0 million dollars. On April 1, 2021, the Finance Advisory Committee (FAC) authorized a \$10.8 million transfer from the Personal Services and Home and Community-Based Services accounts to address the entire \$3.0 million shortfall in the Discharge and Diversion Services account and the \$5.6 million shortfall in Other Expenses account and \$2.2 million of the shortfall in the Professional Services account.

Despite the actions of the FAC, the Department continues to require a deficiency appropriation to cover shortfalls in two accounts - the remaining \$3.7 million in the Professional Services account and \$2.7 million in the Workers' Compensation Claims account. The Professional Services account deficiency is largely due to the Department's need to hire contracted doctors and nurses to provide coverage in inpatient facilities and the Workers' Compensation Claims deficiency is the result of the carryforward of \$1.2 million in costs from FY 2020 into this year and claims trends higher than budgeted amounts. The Department is still monitoring Workers Compensation trends and may need to refine our final request before the bill is negotiated. DMHAS is happy to work with the Office of Policy and Management and the Committee to adjust the bill language to reflect updated deficiency estimates as described in this testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.