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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Katja S. Fox
Director

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September 7, 2017

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health, Bureau of Mental Health Services to accept and expend other funds from the New Hampshire Hospital Association in the amount of \$50,000 effective upon date of Governor and Executive Council approval, through June 30, 2018, and further authorize the funds to be allocated as follows. 100% Other Funds.

05-95-92-922010-19600000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVCS, HHS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIV, BUREAU OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PSYCHIATRIC CAPACITY EVAL.

Class/Object	Class Title	Current Authorized Budget	Increase/ (Decrease) Amount	Revised Modified Budget
SFY 2018				
	Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
005-401716	Other Funds	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
	General Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue		\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
105-500731	Contracts for Program Svcs	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Expense		\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000

EXPLANATION

The Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health, Bureau of Mental Health Services seeks approval to accept and expend other funds in the amount of \$50,000 from the New Hampshire Hospital Association.

During the 2017 legislative session, the New Hampshire General Court made investments to improve the State's mental health system. Within Chapter 156 of the Laws of 2017, the Commissioner

of the Department of Health and Human Services is required to issue several procurements to support and implement the following improvements:

- (1) Establish up to 20 additional designated receiving facility beds for up to two years to serve individuals with severe mental illness who meet the criteria for involuntary emergency admission (Section 186, I.);
- (2) Add 20 transitional and community residential beds in SFY 2018 and up to 40 in SFY 2019 (Section 186, II);
- (3) Add a mobile crisis team and apartments in a geographic location that has high rates of admissions to and discharges from New Hampshire Hospital (Section 188);
- (4) Develop and implement an integrated data management system to provide real-time information about the availability of involuntary and voluntary inpatient psychiatric beds in NH (Section 189); and
- (5) Conduct an independent evaluation of the capacity of the current health system in NH to respond to inpatient, acute care psychiatric needs of patients, including but not limited to those patients who require involuntary emergency admissions (Section 190).

Section 190 also requires the Commissioner to: seek non-state General Funds to pay for the evaluation; issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) by June 30, 2017 for the evaluation to be performed; and to have the evaluation completed by November 1, 2017. Accordingly, the RFP was issued and a vendor has been selected for contract award, which will be brought forward to Governor and Executive Council for consideration under a separate request.

This Requested Action, if approved, fulfills the requirement in Section 190 to seek non-state General Funds, as the New Hampshire Hospital Association has agreed to provide \$50,000 to support this purpose. If this request is not approved, there will be insufficient funds to carry out the mandated requirement.

Funds will be used for:
Class 102 Contract payments to providers.

Area served: Statewide.

Source of Funds: 100% Other Funds.

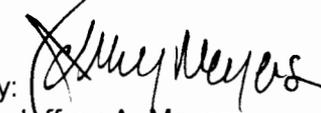
In the event that federal funds become no longer available, general funds will not be requested to support the program expenditures. This \$50,000 funds a portion of the anticipated contract award of \$94,700. The remaining amount will be funded from existing federal funds.

Respectfully submitted,



Katja S. Fox
Director

Approved by:



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner



September 5, 2017

Jeffrey Meyers
Commissioner
NH Department of Health and Human Services
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Commissioner Meyers:

Please accept this letter as the New Hampshire Hospital Association's intention to contribute \$50,000 toward the independent evaluation project as required by HB 517.

Given the current crisis of capacity to serve New Hampshire's citizens with acute psychiatric needs, we believe the independent evaluation of the capacity of the current health system in New Hampshire to respond to the inpatient, acute care psychiatric needs of patients is vitally important. As such, the New Hampshire Hospital Association and our members are pleased to continue our ongoing partnership with you to confront these challenges so that patients in an acute psychiatric crisis are able to get the care they so desperately need.

We stand ready to assist in any way we can with the evaluation and reviewing the outcomes presented by this project. I can be reached at 603-415-4250 or sahnen@nhha.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Ahnen".

Steve Ahnen
President & CEO