



POSSIBLE TALKING POINTS SCDMH FY 2023 STATE BUDGET REQUEST

The Department needs substantial additional funding for employee compensation to be able to retain and recruit an adequate workforce. The amounts requested are aimed at raising employees pay as close to current market rates as can be determined.

- The current staffing shortages within the Department are the worst in memory.
- As the number of registered nurses and direct care staff (BHAs and CNAs) has declined through the pandemic, the agency has had to reduce available inpatient beds for patients of its hospitals and residents of its nursing homes.
- Healthcare providers in both South Carolina and other states feel the same strain from the shrinking workforce, and are also closing units and reducing beds.
- Staffing vacancies are increasingly undermining the Department's ability to provide timely mental health services in its community mental health centers.
- The Department has experienced much higher than average staff resignations as other providers, both in State and out-of-State, aggressively seek to fill their vacant positions.
- For clinical staff, the job market has become national.
- Staffing issues have intensified as other industries began increasing wages to compete for the same shrunken pool of workers.
- Most of the agency's direct care employees have a high school education, and there are increasing instances where those staff are leaving DMH not for jobs with other healthcare providers, but for higher paying jobs in manufacturing, transportation or retail.
- Even with the recent pay increases implemented by DMH for its employees, because of the current extreme imbalance between the supply and demand, private employers are offering wages substantially higher than the Department of Mental Health.
- In short, staffing vacancies are adversely affecting the ability of DMH to provide all of the mental health services needed by the State's citizens.

• Inpatient Service Request:	\$ 8,942,635
• Community Mental Health Centers Request:	\$11,004,232
• Administrative Support Services Request:	<u>\$ 1,454,225</u>
• Total Workforce Request:	\$21,401,092

(more)

OTHER AGENCY NEEDS/REQUESTS

Suicide Prevention/Crisis Response	\$ 5,500,000
State Veterans Nursing Homes	\$ 4,259,334
Sexually Violent Predator Treatment Program	\$ 1,353,530
Replace One-Time Operational Funding with Recurring Funding	\$10,972,806
Indigent Admissions Bed Funding	\$ 9,000,000
Alternative Transportation Funding	\$ 4,000,000
Detention Center Mental Health Response	\$ 843,000
Detention Center Medication Fund	\$ 1,000,000
Agency Insurance Premium Increase	\$ 1,000,000
HomeShare Provider Increase	\$ 200,000
Civil Commitment Appointed Counsel	\$ 200,000
CRCF Contract Increase	\$ 300,000
Additional Crisis Stabilization Units	\$ 9,650,000
Emergency Department Telepsychiatry	\$ 250,000
Embedding Clinicians in Law Enforcement	\$ 2,015,000
School Mental Health	\$ 750,000
Total Recurring Request	\$72,694,762

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