

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

March 23, 2023

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jen Smith, Deputy Secretary

- **Behavioral Health Commission**
- **Policy Updates**
 - **Act 32**
 - **Crisis Call Center Bulletin**
- **Governor Shapiro's Proposed Budget - Mental Health Supports**

Act 32 of 2022 required OMHSAS to amend the Chapter 5100 regulations specific to confidentiality to add “covered entity’s business partner” as a party that can see protected information.

Next steps:

1. OMHSAS has drafted a bulletin to ensure entities that they may share confidential health information with a business partner.
2. OMHSAS has drafted revised Chapter 5100 regulations to align confidentiality requirements in the Mental Health Procedures Act with those in HIPAA. This change will support collaborative care models.

- The draft 1993 unpromulgated crisis regulations required counties to operate 24/7 crisis lines. OMHSAS uses those regulations as a statement of policy to license programs.
- The Crisis Call Center Bulletin OMHSAS-23-02, “Emergency Services: 24/7 Call Centers,” removed the requirement that counties operate their own crisis lines.
- Counties will be expected to load county-specific crisis resources into a web-based resource directory that 988 call takers at all 14 PA call centers will utilize.

Proposed Budget



Expanding Mental Health Supports

This budget prioritizes a robust mental health support system to assist with the complex and varying needs of all Pennsylvanians.

- **\$100 million** for the School-Based Mental Health Supports Block Grant for resources for school students and staff
- **\$20 million** in increased funding for county mental health services
- **\$4 million** to expand community-based diversion programs
- Dedicated, sustainable, funding for 988 telephone support and **\$5 million** for one-time system buildout
- Increased mental health supports for farmers and ranchers

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