

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

April 27, 2023

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Kendra Snuffer, Chief of Staff

Behavioral Health Commission

- HB 849 (Schlossberg) was introduced and referred to the House Human Services Committee
- Reflects the recommendations of the Steering Committee
 - \$34 million towards workforce development;
 - \$25.5 million to improve the criminal justice system and public safety systems;
 - \$40 million to expand access and service delivery; and
 - \$500,000 to evaluate the overall impact of the appropriations.

988 and Crisis Services

- Pennsylvania now has 13 Lifeline Call Centers
- The in-state answer rate for March 2023 is 80%
- Implementation of a resource database available to 988 call takers

Quality Improvement and Community Integration Initiative

- National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors to consult on national best practices regarding community reentry from a forensic hospital
- Engagement with community partners, state facility employees, and individuals in treatment will be critical to this effort



- What is going on in your community?
- DHS is hosting the Dennis Marion Impact Award Ceremony in mid-May
- Heal PA is hosting a Trauma & Mental Health Awareness Capitol Day on May 25th
- Calendar of community events coming soon!



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

13