

MaineHealth

The Behavioral Health Crisis by the Numbers:

- At any given time, behavioral health patients occupy up to 1/3 of MaineHealth's hospital Emergency Department beds.
- 236 adults languished in MaineHealth Emergency Departments for longer than 48 hours in January and February. The average length of stay was almost 4 days.
- 170 children languished in MaineHealth Emergency Departments for longer than 48 hours between November and February. The average length of stay was over 5 days.
- 30% of patients at Spring Harbor Hospital cannot be discharged because the next appropriate level of care is not available.

The Gaps in the System Must be Addressed Today:

- **Emergency grant funding for residential providers** who serve adults and adolescents with behavioral health needs
- **Funding to support specialty residential services** for adults and adolescents with behavioral health needs
- **Immediate support of the State's Crisis System**, including both mental health and developmental disorders
- **LD 582 – ACT** (Rep. Colleen Madigan)
 - LD 582 will increase the rate for ACT Team services by 25%.
 - Evidence-based: MBH clients served by an ACT Team saw a 28% decrease in hospitalization days.
 - MaineHealth subsidizes its ACT Teams by almost \$1 million per year.
- **LD 496 – Outpatient Therapy** (Rep. Lori Gramlich)
 - LD 496 will increase the rate for outpatient therapy by 25%.
 - MaineHealth subsidizes Outpatient Therapy by more than \$2 million per year.

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Policies that address health care's longstanding workforce crisis:

- **LD 1807 – An Act to Expand Nursing Education Programs** (Sen. Mattie Daughtry)
 - \$2.5 million in ongoing funding to the Maine Community Colleges System to double its nursing education capacity.
 - Included in the Governor's proposed Supplemental Budget

Policies that support the safety of our care team members:

- **LD 629 – Resolve, To Establish the Task Force To Study the Process for Bringing Criminal Cases in Situations of Violence against Health Care Workers** (Rep. Walter Riseman) Fiscal Note: Study cost of \$2,250
 - Convenes stakeholders to explore the options for hospitals when there has been an assault on hospital grounds, but the victim does not want to press charges.

MaineHealth Strongly Supports the Following Initiatives Included in the Governor's Proposed Supplemental Budget:

- \$2.5 million in ongoing funding to the Maine Community Colleges System to double its nursing education capacity.
- \$25 million to hospitals in one-time COVID relief payments
- \$6 million for psychiatric inpatient hospital beds
- Nearly \$1 million for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
- Over \$800,000 per year to increase the reimbursement rate for medication management for grant-funded services