



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
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June 1, 2022

Michael J. Rodrigues, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State House; Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

Aaron Michlewitz, Chair
House Committee on Ways and Means
State House; Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Cindy F. Friedman, Chair
Committee on Healthcare Financing
State House; Room 313
Boston, MA 02133

John J. Lawn, Chair
Committee on Healthcare Financing
State House; Room 236
Boston, MA 02133

Julian Cyr, Chair
Committee on Mental Health,
Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

Adrian C. Madaro, Chair
Committee on Mental Health
Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 33
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs:

Section 2A of Chapter 102 of the Acts of 2021, within account 1599-2026, requires that not less than \$5,000,000 shall be expended to establish an online portal to facilitate the coordination of services for individuals being boarded in emergency departments who have mental and behavioral health needs and that not less than \$2,500,000 be expended on the development of an inter-operable warehouse to collect and aggregate accurate, real-time data between agencies under the executive office of health and human services;

provided further, that not less than \$5,000,000 shall be expended to establish an online portal to facilitate the coordination of services for children, adolescents and adults who are being boarded in emergency departments who have mental and behavioral health needs; provided further, that the portal shall enable access to real-time data on emergency department boarding, including length of wait, primary reason for wait, level of care required, type of insurance coverage and available data on patient age, race, ethnicity, preferred spoken language and gender; provided further, that the portal shall include a real-time behavioral health bed search feature that categorizes beds by care level, licensing authority, age restrictions and geographic location; provided further, that not less than \$2,500,000 shall be expended on the development of an inter-operable warehouse to collect and aggregate accurate, real-time data between agencies under the executive office of health and human services; provided further, that the warehouse shall be utilized to help individuals navigate the system of care and find providers for service needs; provided further, that not later than June 1, 2022, the

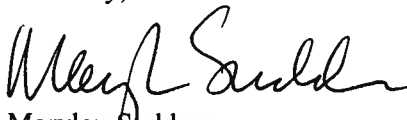
executive office of health and human services shall submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means, the joint committee on health care financing and the joint committee on mental health, substance use and recovery detailing progress on development of the portal and the warehouse;

On May 25th, 2022, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) issued a Request for Response (RFR) from qualified Bidders to implement, maintain, and support a Behavioral Health Treatment and Referral Platform, which will serve as the online portal to facilitate care coordination for individuals with behavioral and mental health needs boarding in emergency departments. This vendor will seek to improve operational efficiencies among providers, health insurance carriers, and the Commonwealth by automation of the referral screening process to move patients more quickly through the emergency department and into appropriate behavioral health treatment. Proposals are due on June 17th, 2022 with the contract expected to be awarded in early August.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is actively taking steps toward the development of an inter-operable warehouse. A Request for a Quote (RFQ) to solicit proposals from vendors regarding the development of a Datahub Roadmap is being finalized. The roadmap will detail the requirements for establishing a longitudinal, 360-degree view of an individual served by multiple EOHHS agencies and outline an implementation plan to make that information available to authorized parties in a timely manner to facilitate improved care planning and service delivery.

EOHHS looks forward to and appreciates our continued partnership with the legislature on these important initiatives. Should you need additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,



Marylou Sudders

Cc: Senate President Karen Spilka
Speaker of the House Ronald Mariano