



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF MEDICAID
ONE ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON, MA 02108



MAURA T. HEALEY
GOVERNOR

KATHLEEN E. WALSH
SECRETARY

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MIKE LEVINE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FOR MASSHEALTH

June 18, 2024

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

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

Chair John C. Velis
Joint Committee on Mental Health,
Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 513
Boston, MA 02133

Chair Adrian Madaro
Joint Committee on Mental
Health, Substance Use and Recovery
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Rodrigues, Michlewitz, Velis, and Madaro,

Section 2WWWW of Chapter 29 of the Massachusetts General Laws requires the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) to submit to the House and Senate Committees on Ways and Means and the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Use and Recovery a report on the revenue and expenditure activity within the Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Intervention Trust Fund.

The Behavioral Health Access and Crisis Intervention (BHACI) Trust Fund supports a statewide, payor-agnostic community behavioral health crisis system including, but not limited to, all necessary costs to support: (1) a behavioral health access line to connect individuals to behavioral health services, including clinical assessment and triage (the [Behavioral Health Help Line](#)); and (2) a statewide system to deliver behavioral health crisis intervention services 24 hours per day and 7 days per week in mobile and community-based settings, available to all residents without regard to insurance.

In FY2023, \$34.4M in assessment revenue was deposited into the BHACI Trust Fund. \$3.95M was expended from the BHACI Trust Fund to support development and six months' operation of the Behavioral Health Help Line (BHHL) beginning in January

2023. An additional \$17.1M was expended from general funds to support the costs of implementing and operating BHHL.

\$25.9M was budgeted from the BHACI Trust Fund to support the statewide, payor-agnostic crisis intervention system. However, certain characteristics of the implementation of the payor-agnostic crisis system resulted in delayed cash outflow in the first year of implementation. Provider reimbursement for crisis intervention services provided to uninsured, Medicare, and self-insured individuals is managed by MassHealth's behavioral health vendor, the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP). Additionally, MBHP managed reimbursement for commercially-insured individuals before the publication of the Division of Insurance bulletin mandating commercial coverage of crisis intervention services (in June 2023), and during the interim period as providers updated their contracts with commercial insurers. Due to contracting timelines, MBHP has not yet submitted any invoices to EOHHS for reimbursement of these costs, which began in January 2023. EOHHS anticipates making payments to MBHP in FY2024 that will include reimbursement for FY 2023 dates of service.

Thank you for your continuing commitment to the MassHealth program. If you have any questions about this report, please contact Sarah Nordberg at Sarah.Nordberg@mass.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Levine
cc: Kathleen E. Walsh