

May 2, 2025

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# DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

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## Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

*Happy May! Please see below what has taken place at the CT General Assembly this week.*

### May is Mental Health Awareness Month



To commemorate the start of Mental Health Awareness Month, Comptroller Sean Scanlon hosted a [press conference](#) comprised of legislators, medical professionals, and advocates to discuss efforts being made in Connecticut to expand access to mental health services. Commissioner Navarretta provided a few remarks highlighting DMHAS initiatives, the collaboration between state agencies, and the importance of having open conversations related to mental health.

### House Republicans Release Their Version of the Budget

In response to the budget that was voted out of the Appropriations Committee last week, House Republicans released their version of the budget which focuses on reducing electric rates, providing funding to schools, hiring freezes, keeping the fiscal guardrails in place, and much more.

To read their budget, click [here](#).

## **This Week at the Capitol**

The House and Senate were in session this week and a number of bills were debated and voted on. We will keep you updated on what is taking place and will highlight a few bills you may find interesting.

In the House, [HB 7102](#), *An Act Concerning Maternal and Infant Health Care*, was passed unanimously and now goes to the Senate. The bill aims to:

- Have the Office of Health Strategy to develop a strategic plan to increase the number of birthing centers and hospitals in areas with high percentages of Medicaid recipients reside.
- Expand the objectives for the CT Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) to add programs that support fathers' roles in supporting maternal health. DMHAS is a current member of the CFI Council.

In the Senate, [SB 1506](#), *An Act Concerning Racial and Ethnic Impact Statements*, would allow a new procedure for legislators to request a racial and ethnic impact statement (REIS) on certain bills and amendments. The bill now goes to the House.

*Moreover, a few college sports teams were welcomed at the Capitol this week!*

The UConn Men's Hockey Team, Trinity College Women's Squash Team, and Trinity College Men's Basketball Team were recognized for their teamwork and athleticism. Both Trinity teams were also acknowledged for winning the national championship this year - ***Go Bantams!***

### **What's Happening Next Week?**

***The House and Senate will be in Session the Following Days:***

**Wednesday, May 7**  
**Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (Senate Only)**

## **Recovery Day at the Capitol**

Tuesday, May 6th will be Recovery Day at the Capitol hosted by the Chairs of the Appropriations and Public Health Committees. Commissioner Navarretta will be speaking at the kick-off press conference which will focus on the value of recovery as a cornerstone of community well-being. Following that, several organizations will host informational tables, giving people the chance to learn more about available recovery services.



### **Did You Know?**

Prior to the start of session, both the House Democratic Leaders and House Republican Leaders will hold separate Capitol News Briefings to give the media an insight of what bills will be debated for the day, along with an opportunity to answer any questions the press may have on current events.

[CT-N](#) will oftentimes livestream the briefings if you would like to tune in next week!

**See You Next Week!**  
***In partnership, Chandra & Kelly***