

March 7, 2025

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

Happy Friday! Here's what has taken place at the CT General Assembly this week:

Appropriations Health Subcommittee Work Session with DMHAS

This past Monday, Commissioner Navarretta met with the Appropriations Health Subcommittee to dive deeper into the Governor's biennium budget for DMHAS based on questions that were asked during the budget presentation.

To watch DMHAS' work session click [here](#).

What Are Subcommittees?



The Appropriations Committee designate members of the committee to serve on various subcommittees. The Health Subcommittee Co-Chairs are Sen. Martha Marx and Rep. Pat Dillon. Once the work sessions are completed, the subcommittees will present their findings and recommendations to the Appropriations Committee Co-Chairs. The Co-Chairs will then work on coming up with the legislature's version of the budget.

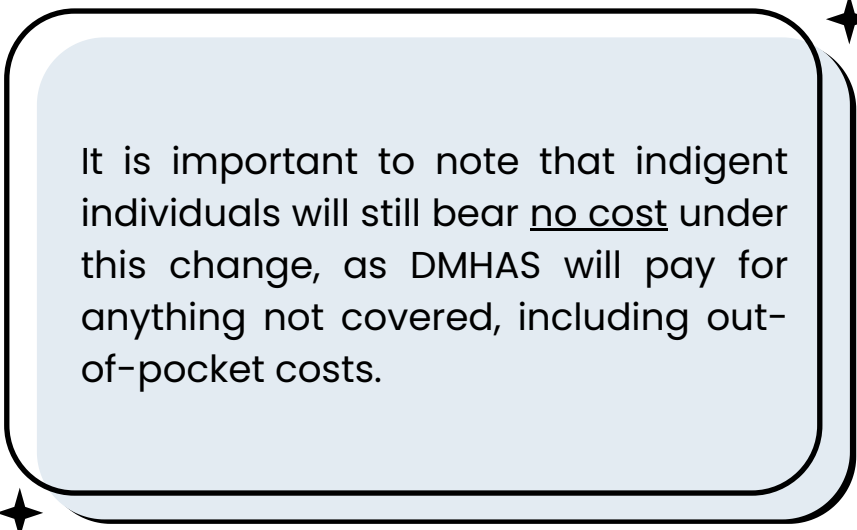
To find out more about subcommittee assignments for 2025-2026, then click [here](#).

After the release of the Appropriations Committee budget, the Governor's Office, OPM, and legislative leaders negotiate to reach a final product for a vote from the General Assembly.

An Update on DMHAS' Agency Bill, HB 6834

The Public Health Committee held a committee meeting this week to vote several bills out of committee. *HB 6834, An Act Concerning the Department of Mental Health And Addiction Services' Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to Mental Health And Addiction Services Statutes*, was **voted unanimously out of committee** with substitute language!

Substitute language can be added to any bill before it is voted out of committee. After the public hearing on the bill, it was brought to our attention that the language in Sections 1 and 2 of the bill, relating to the Pre-Trial Intervention Program (PTIP), would benefit from further clarity. By adding the term "*covered benefits*", it will ensure that the treatment paid for by the health carriers is subject to the applicable terms and conditions of the plans, and medically necessary.

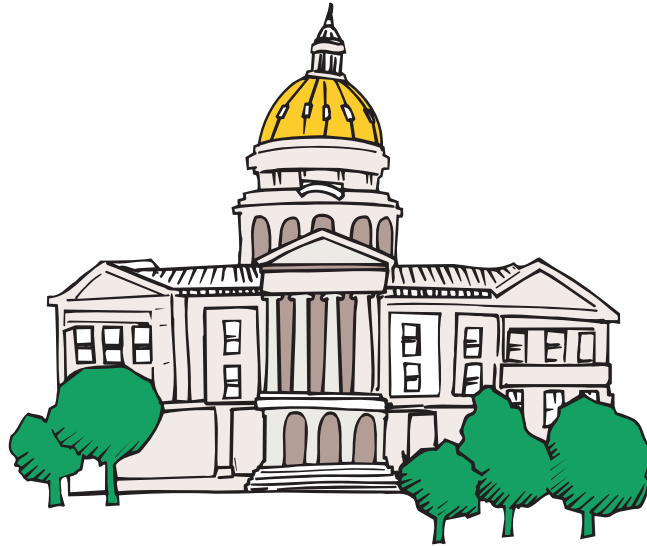


It is important to note that indigent individuals will still bear no cost under this change, as DMHAS will pay for anything not covered, including out-of-pocket costs.

The substitute language has not been uploaded online just yet, but will be updated on [this website](#) soon. Now that the bill has been voted out of committee, HB 6834 must be voted in both the House and Senate before it is signed into law.

***A big THANK YOU to everyone who has helped with our agency bill
We couldn't have done it without you!***

House and Senate Session



The House and Senate were back in session this week to vote on two bills to provide [funding for special education](#) and [grants to certain nonprofits](#). This took place after the Governor line item vetoed provisions in similar bills that legislators voted on last week stating that the bills would violate the spending cap.

To avoid an override, Governor Lamont worked with legislative leaders and came with a compromise to create two off-budget accounts. The appropriations will be coming from interest that state earned while maintaining federal pandemic dollars rather than it being a straightforward apportionment that was initially intended to be. This would ensure the spending cap is not affected as the accounts will be placed outside of it.



Did You Know?

If a political party gains a two-thirds majority in the House or Senate, they then have the ability to utilize a *veto override* if the Governor decides to veto a bill. Democrats in the House were able to reach a two-thirds majority this past election, which allows them to use the override veto without requiring a single vote from their Republican colleagues.

What's Happening Next?

- Committees continue to hold public hearings and committee meetings. To see what's taking place next week, visit the [CGA website](#).
- To see what other Appropriations Subcommittee Work Sessions are taking place next week, check [here](#).

Have a Great Week!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly

