



Medical Assistance Advisory Committee

**Jennifer S. Smith, Deputy Secretary
Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services
March 26, 2026**

State Budget Update

Resources requested in Governor Shapiro's 2026-27 Budget Proposal to address behavioral health needs:

- \$10M for 988 crisis hotline operations and capacity building
- \$5M for maintaining mental health crisis walk-in centers
- \$3.2M for 40 new slots in the Community Hospital Integration Projects Program (CHIPPs)
- \$7.3M for community forensic projects

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)

- **Purpose:** Codify minimum licensing standards for children, youth and young adults receiving services in psychiatric residential treatment facilities.
- **Status:** DHS has updated the regulations based on feedback received during the public comment period and the final form regulations are routing through the approval process. Great consideration was given to requests for additional flexibility due to financial strain and implementation timelines.

5100 Confidentiality

- **Purpose:** Updating Title 55 Chapter 5100 to align with PA Act 32 of 2022 and HIPAA requirements
- **Status:** DHS is reviewing the few comments that were received, making edits as needed, and will be submitting final form regulations in coming months.

Regulatory Updates

Crisis

- **Purpose:** Codify minimum licensing and payment standards for behavioral health crisis intervention services
- **Status:**
 - Licensing – DHS received over 900 comments. We are beginning to incorporate edits and will be planning follow-up meetings over the coming months where appropriate.
 - Payment – DHS is routing internally for review and expects that to be complete within the next couple weeks.

988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

- 12,814 calls routed to PA call centers in February 2026; 11,487 answered in-state
- 90% answer rate and 8.8% abandoned rate, leaving only 1.2% going to the national back-up call center
- 5,361 texts/chats routed to PA call centers in February 2026; 704 answered in-state
- 13.1% answer rate and 11.1% abandoned rate, meaning 75.8% are answered by the national back-up center