

GOVERNOR EVERS' 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Strengthening Behavioral Health Crisis Services

Facing increases in crisis services and emergency detentions, Wisconsin's behavioral health system requires structural reform to better meet the needs of Wisconsinites experiencing mental health crises. Governor Evers' 21-23 budget makes strategic investments in front-end preventative services, regional crisis centers, and alternatives to emergency detention like rapid response mental health teams.

REGIONAL CRISIS CENTERS (\$12.6 MILLION)

The budget would provide funding for two new regional crisis centers. These two new centers will provide a continuum of care. This increases crisis diversion, stabilization, and more intensive, longer-term treatment option. Centers will also provide support and clinical expertise to local mobile crisis units.

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (\$12.4 MILLION)

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combines medications, such as methadone, with counseling, and behavioral therapies to address substance use disorders. The budget will increase the Medicaid reimbursement rate for MAT, provide grants to support existing treatment centers and mobile MAT, and fund a Tribal MAT provider.

REGIONAL CRISIS STABILIZATION FACILITIES (\$5 MILLION)

The budget would fund crisis stabilization facilities in five regions of the state. The facilities will serve adults who seek care voluntarily, and would provide 24/7 staff short-term stabilization and observation care. While these facilities will not provide inpatient care, they will reduce the need for future, more intensive services.

COUNTY CRISIS PHONE LINES AND PEER-RUN "WARM-LINES" (\$2.5 MILLION)

The budget would fund additional clinicians to support County Crisis Phone Lines during non-business hours, and support at least two new positions at each of the existing peer-run respite centers to better staff the "warm-lines" at those facilities.

COLLABORATION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT (\$3.3 MILLION)

Law enforcement are often the first to respond to a mental health crisis, with referrals to behavioral health care providers coming later. The budget funds Crisis Intervention Training to prepare officers to respond more effectively to situations involving mental health crises, and supports collaboration programs between local law enforcement and behavioral health providers, making a joint response possible to 911 calls.

MILWAUKEE COUNTY CRISIS MOBILE TEAM AND TRAUMA RESPONSE (\$2.6 MILLION)

Milwaukee County continues to shift the behavioral health system towards a more community-based crisis services model. The Crisis Mobile team is made up of clinicians and nurses who respond and assess crises, link people to services, and follow up to offer further support. The budget increases funding to better respond to crises without involving law enforcement.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BED TRACKER (\$150,000)

Psychiatric hospital beds are scarce, and bed capacity is a dynamic situation. The budget adds to current efforts to track bed availability in Wisconsin to reduce wait time, improve quality of care, and help counties, law enforcement, and care providers coordinate services.

OTHER PROVISIONS

The Department of Justice budget also includes provisions related to crisis and emergency detentions, including expanding the capacity of behavioral crisis lines as an alternative to 9-1-1 for nonemergency behavioral health issues, and training for law enforcement officers on crisis intervention and the emergency detention process.

For more information on all of Governor Evers' proposed investments in Wisconsin's health, visit www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget