

Medical Assistance Advisory Committee Meeting

January 26, 2023

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Jen Smith, Deputy Secretary

- **Welcoming Deputy Jennifer Smith**
- **988 Update**
 - **Reminder: to view PA's in-state answer rate:**
 - 1) Go to <https://988lifeline.org/our-network/>
 - 2) Click "Lifeline Network Crisis Centers"
 - 3) Click the "State-based Monthly Reports" tab
 - 4) Scroll to PA
- **BH Commission Update**
- **Crisis Services Regulation**

- System Transformation
 - A community-based recovery-oriented crisis network of services will provide support to individuals experiencing behavioral health crises in the least restrictive setting possible.
 - Ensuring behavioral health crisis services are accessible 24/7/365 days a year will decrease unwarranted law enforcement encounters, divert individuals from justice system engagement, decrease the high rate of emergency department boarding and provide immediate access to mental health services.

- Regulation Status
 - Crisis services are currently licensed by standards outlined in unpromulgated regulations, which were drafted in 1993.
 - Adhering to SAMHSA guidance, draft crisis regulations create standards for licensing and payment for phone crisis support, mobile crisis teams, medical mobile crisis teams, crisis walk-in centers, and crisis stabilization unit programs inclusive of peer-run crisis stabilization programs.
 - Each modality within the crisis system serves provides a different type of support.
 - Sustainability is a significant concern of providers; OMHSAS is working to set rates that will support the fire station approach to funding crisis services.

- Crisis Professions: Peers and LBSWs
 - The draft regulations include an inclusive list of who can work at crisis call centers, mobile teams, and stabilization programs. They also include a list of required training.
 - After receiving grant funding, OMHSAS is working with Temple University to create online training modules to meet the requirements in the draft regulations.
 - There are two professionals OMHSAS is focused on recruiting to the crisis system: Certified Peer and Recovery Support Specialists and Licensed Bachelor Social Workers.
 - OMHSAS is evaluating the requirements to become a Certified Peer Support Specialist to increase accessibility.