

Request for Appropriation

Representative Thurston

Funding Request Name: **Psychiatric Technician Wages at the Utah State Hospital**

Description: Low wages for psychiatric technicians at the Utah State Hospital have contributed to hiring challenges and high turnover rates. The hospital employs over 300 technicians, who provide needed supportive services to vulnerable individuals receiving treatment at the hospital. The requested amount would provide a 5% wage increase.

Agency: Human Services - Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH)

Statewide Public Purpose: The Utah State Hospital serves individuals from across the State.

Funding Source: General Fund, ongoing

Amount: \$800,000

Project Contact Person: Dallas Earnshaw, Superintendent, Utah State Hospital, dearnshaw@utah.gov

Committee Recommendation: Social Services

Intent Language: *The Legislature intends that 100% of this funding be used to increase the wages of psychiatric technicians.*

Performance Measures:

- 1) Staff turnover rates, compared to baseline, similar public and private sector positions, and national averages
- 2) Number of vacancies
- 3) Time to fill vacant positions

Itemized Budget:

The requested funding would increase the wages of all psychiatric technicians and senior psychiatric technicians by 5%, based on their current wage.