Behavioral Health Workforce Reinvestment Proposal

SUMMARY

Behavioral Health Student Development

1. **Master’s Level Social Work Education Expansion**
   Increase the capacity at Utah State University, University of Utah, and Utah Valley University to enroll and educate an additional 180 MSW-level students on an on-going basis.
   $1,340,500 – Ongoing

2. **Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner**
   a. Expand capacity of the University of Utah’s College of Nursing Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program by 4 students per year.
   b. Expand capacity of UofU PMHNP to provide telehealth consultation to rural Utah for medication management.
   c. Expand counseling and medication management services to under-served populations at South Main Street Clinic.
   d. Use both the telehealth clinic and South Main Street Clinic as practicum/training sites for PMHNP students for competency in medication management and telehealth delivery of medication management to rural Utah.

   $109,000 – One time
   $510,281 – Ongoing

Behavioral Health Student Tuition/Loan Repayment

All of Utah’s graduating master’s level degree, or higher, students who commit to work in Utah for three years, post-graduation, at a public facility or program (or a contracted public program providers) would receive a $10,000 tuition. All of Utah is considered an under-served area for behavioral/mental health. Degree/programs would include: APRN, MSW, MFT, and CMHC – all requiring licensure by the state of Utah to practice. Utah’s institutions of higher education produce or will produce about 311 graduate-level students in behavioral health fields per year. This proposal is designed to keep these students in Utah post-graduation to work with Utah’s public agencies like: Department of Corrections, county mental health, county jails, Department of Human Services, Department of Health among others. Program would be administered through the existing Utah Department of Health’s Office of Primary are and Rural Health.

$3,110,000 – Ongoing
The program will produce an additional 180 MSW students and 4 additional psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner students over the coming 2-3 years. This will expand the telehealth consultation to rural Utah for medication management.

The loan repayment program will help Utah retain the students that are currently graduating and future graduates to remain within our underserved population and will incentivize a long-term workforce solution.

Utah has a critical shortage of mental health providers and the mental health industry has difficulty of retaining the graduates of the programs because other states are able to offer higher wages. This initiative will increase the number of students graduating from these programs and will incentivize those students to work within the public behavioral health system for three years after graduation.

USAAV+ Council members have worked with the participating universities which will implement the expansion of the programs and inform the students of the loan repayment program through the Department of Health Primary Care and Rural Health Office.

The program's success will be measured by the number of additional students and the expansion of the MSW and PMHNP students enrolled in those programs.
Rationale

There is a critical shortage of mental health providers in Utah. Nationally, the ratio of mental health providers is approximately 311 professional mental health providers per 100,000 population while Utah has 209 per 100,000 population.

This shortage is most apparent when looking at wait times. The average wait time for a new patient is 9 days; however, certain settings such as colleges and universities, public hospitals, and primary care facilities, have wait times exceeding 3 weeks. Wait times are likely to increase with the implementation of Medicaid expansion. This is particularly troubling given our already high suicide rate and recent upsurge in acute opioid-related conditions.

- There are an estimated 6,153 licensed mental health professionals providing services in the state (1,109 CMHCs; 3,512 LCSWs; 582 MFTs; and 950 Psychologists)
- Overall, urban areas have a provider to population ratio of 170 FTEs per 100,000 while rural areas have only 141 FTEs per 100,000
- 31.4% report having fair or poor access to a prescribing partner (physicians, psychiatrists, psychiatric APRNs, etc.)
- Utah has a total of 209 providers per 100,000 population; nationally, the number of providers is 311 per 100,000
- Every county in Utah is designated a Mental Health Provider Shortage Area
- Utah's mental health usage rates are higher than the national average
- Telehealth and health care integration will be vital in making sure all Utahns have access to mental health care
- Training program cohorts should be expanded, as well as incentives to attract students and retain professionals—particularly in high need and under-resourced areas of the Utah
- In order to catch up to the national numbers by 2030, Utah must employ over 11,000 mental health providers

## Itemized Budget:

### Request for Appropriations – Year One (Focus on MSW and All Institutions Tuition Subsidy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Institution of Higher Education</th>
<th>Additional Students</th>
<th>Personnel/Faculty and Non-Personnel Costs</th>
<th>Loan Repayment (State-Funded Student Loan Forgiveness)</th>
<th>Total Costs</th>
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<td><strong>Clinical Mental Health Counselors</strong></td>
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<td>CMHC</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* $640,000 would be available for Westminster College (24) and Brigham Young University (40) as private institutions.

### BHWW Prioritization of Requests:

1. **Additional Faculty** to enable institutions of higher education to increase enrollment of additional students in the behavioral health professions. Year One request is to fund faculty and non-personnel costs for MSW and PMHNP programs at the University of Utah, and the MSW programs at Utah State University and Utah Valley University.

2. **Tuition Subsidies** in the amount of $10,000 per graduating student (up front, with post-graduation three-year service commitment to work in a non-profit, local substance abuse/mental health authority, or provider contracted with a local substance abuse/mental health authority in an underserved area of Utah and/or with an underserved population)