

HHS INTERIM COMMITTEE SUNSET REVIEW of Study for Long Term Need for Adult Beds at the Utah State Hospital

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Is the statute necessary? Should it be allowed to sunset?

No, it isn't necessary but it is very helpful and **should be continued**. The Utah State Hospital (USH) is an important provider within Utah's Public Mental Health System providing intermediate Inpatient Psychiatric Care for Adults and Pediatric age individuals. USH also provides critical services to individuals court ordered into treatment as part of the State's Forensic System. Evaluating the future demand / need for beds in an important part of a wider review of the provision of mental health services across Utah. Analyzing the need for inpatient services affords the State a means to strategize current and future resource investment and allocation.

Is the program accomplishing its objective? Should it be extended?

Yes, it is meeting its objective. Under the direction of the Department of Human Services and the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, USH has been very successful to evaluate:

1. Performance and improvement efforts made since the Forensic Settlement Agreement in 2017;
2. Analyze implications of future demand scenarios for bed capacity in order to maintain compliance with individuals legal rights who are court-ordered into treatment and service level expectations to meet these demands;
3. Assess need for Civil vs Forensic resources based on growth in numbers of citizens with mental health issues and the impact on Forensic and Civil beds; and

4. Identify strategies and recommendations to ensure the continuation of high quality care, safe and timely access to care in the future for individuals in the State of Utah needing these services.

USH, in collaboration with consultants, has implemented a system of monitoring patient movement and treatment within the system that allows for real time monitoring of the efficient use of beds at the Hospital. Input from the Local Mental Health Authorities allows for better identification of Bed Utilization needs, Treatment and Discharge planning, as well as identifying barriers to move patients through the system. This system is proving to give valid and useful data that is helpful for direct treatment and administrative decisions, including future planning and resource allocation needs. The program which is called 'Pride and Joy' will be utilized on an ongoing basis to continue monitoring the efficient use and need for State Hospital Beds.

Yes, we **recommend the statute be extended for at least 5 years** to ensure data is shared and understood with everyone who needs to be involved.

Are there ways to improve the statute?

No, we do not recommend any changes to the statute.

As the Department has worked to administer this statute we have identified areas where the program could be improved. We continue to be proactive in our efforts to find efficiencies and work with stakeholders to identify processes and other improvement opportunities.