

Department of Public Safety
Response to CJPS budget work session questions from 3/7/22

Below are the Department of Public Safety (DPS) responses to questions 3-8 received from the CJPS Committee on 3/7/22.

3. To DPS – Please provide additional information on the behavioral health program coordinator positions, including salaries. [Please see the attached salary schedule \(BHPCPayRange\) as well as the description of the OPTIONS liaisons we received from DHHS.](#)
4. To DPS – Please provide information on the contractors for the Options liaison initiative. [Please see the attachment labeled OPTIONS Contracted Agencies Info that we received from DHHS.](#)
5. To DPS – A) Please provide information on whether expenditures for behavioral health coordinator positions will qualify for federal funding. B) Please provide information on whether there is a plan for raising reimbursement rates paid by DHHS for behavioral health work similar to the work that will be done by the behavioral health coordinators.

A. [These positions may be eligible for a federal admin match however generally speaking we would need a baseline of information before making that determination. As an example, if 50% of the clients these liaisons served were on Medicaid, we could request a reimbursement % for services rendered from the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services \(CMS\). This could have a positive impact on our personnel line for these positions in the future.](#)

B. [Under Governor Mills' administration, DHHS has increased 20 behavioral health-related reimbursement rates and they've created 14 new categories. Additional rate studies are scheduled to continue throughout 2022 with a January 2023 implementation date. We've attached several documents to include slides specific to this question and a department blog post. Also, see a link on LD 1867 "An Act to Codify Mainecare Rate System Reform" which was recently passed out of the DHHS committee with a unanimous vote.](#)

6. To DPS – Please provide information on strategies to divert non-law enforcement-crisis PSAP and emergency assistance calls from response by law enforcement so that calls that indicate a behavioral health need can be responded to by behavioral health specialists.

[Please see the attached 988-911 study conducted by the PUC's Emergency Services Communication Bureau.](#)

7. To DPS – Please explain whether DPS considered requesting funding for rural patrols in the Maine State Police instead of requesting funding for 3 instructional positions at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy.

[We did discuss a number of staffing options during our supplemental budget discussions and we're appreciative of the Governor's support for the initiatives listed in her proposed budget.](#)

8. To DPS – Please provide information on the payment of overtime for Maine State Police coverage and how overtime and position requests are interrelated.

This information will be forwarded separately.