

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.

Focusing solely on overtime related to patrol coverage: Each troop has a determined minimum safe staffing level for patrol coverage. Many other State Police functions can impact the personnel available to fill a shift. Vacations, sick leave, specialty team response and training are part of the direct impacts on coverage that may result in the need to fill a patrol position with overtime to maintain minimum staffing. With our limited staffing, we have seen an increase in “inverse” or forced overtime to fill these patrol slots.

Our request for troopers in the training unit will help lessen the need to draw troopers from the field for instructing and participation as role players in scenario-based training. Currently, road troopers are taken from the field to instruct and that can result in overtime to fill their vacated patrol slot.

These dedicated positions will allow them to become true subject matter experts on topic areas that are critical to on-going improvements and reform. They will provide training to Maine Troopers as well as law enforcement officers from other agencies. Their existence will lessen the draw from the patrol field and lessen the related overtime and coverage impacts.