

December 28, 2017

Richard Stavneak  
Director  
Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
1716 West Adams  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Mr. Stavneak:

In accordance with Laws 2017, Chapter 309, Section 22, please find the enclosed report on inpatient psychiatric treatment. Do not hesitate to contact me at (602) 417-4111, if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Betlach  
Director

cc: Matthew Gress, Director, Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting  
Bret Cloninger, Assistant Director, Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting  
Christina Corieri, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor



**Report to the Director of the Joint Legislative Budget Committee  
Regarding Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment Availability**

**January 2018**

**Director, Tom Betlach**

## BACKGROUND

Laws 2016, Chapter 122, Section 32, requires the following:

- A. On or before January 2, 2018, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System administration shall report to the director of the joint legislative budget committee on the availability of inpatient psychiatric treatment both for adults and for children and adolescents who receive services from the regional behavioral health authorities. The report shall include all of the following information:
  1. The total number of inpatient psychiatric treatment beds available and the occupancy rate for those beds.
  2. Expenditures on inpatient psychiatric treatment.
  3. The total number of individuals in this state who are sent out of state for inpatient psychiatric care.
  4. The prevalence of psychiatric boarding or the holding of psychiatric patients in emergency rooms for at least twenty-four hours before transferring the patient to a psychiatric facility.
- B. The report shall provide the information specified in subsection A of this section separately for adults who are at least twenty-two years of age and for children and adolescents who are twenty-one years of age or younger.

The report provides information regarding the availability of inpatient psychiatric treatment for both adults and children/adolescents who receive services from the Regional Behavioral Health Authorities (RBHAs).

## INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT DATA

The legislation requires reporting on the following four areas:

1. *The total number of inpatient psychiatric treatment beds available and the occupancy rate for those beds.*

Based on 2016 (most recent available) data from the Uniform Accounting Reports (UAR), submitted to the Arizona Department of Health Services, there are 1,847 licensed psychiatric beds in Arizona. This is up from 1,590 in 2015; a 16.2 percent increase in available beds. Also per the UAR data, there was a total of 532,825 inpatient psychiatric patient days reported for the same timeframe, which averages to 1,460 beds utilized per day (79.0 percent occupancy).

2. *Expenditures on inpatient psychiatric treatment.*

Table 1 displays data for all psychiatric inpatient stays for AHCCCS members in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 separately for adults who are at least twenty-two years of age and for children and adolescents who are twenty-one years of age or younger.

**Table 1. Expenditures: Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment SFY2017**

	Members Less than 22 Years of Age	Members Aged 22 and Older
Total expenditures	\$87,206,586	\$211,278,375

3. *The total number of individuals in this state who are sent out of state for inpatient psychiatric care.*

Table 2 displays data for all out-of-state psychiatric inpatient stays for AHCCCS members in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 separately for adults who are at least twenty-two years of age and for children and adolescents who are twenty-one years of age or younger.

**Table 2. Number of members sent out of state for inpatient psychiatric care SFY2017**

	Members Less than 22 Years of Age	Members Aged 22 and Older
Unique members with one or more psychiatric inpatient stay(s) out of state	454	1,182

4. *The prevalence of psychiatric boarding or the holding of psychiatric patients in emergency rooms for at least twenty-four hours before transferring the patient to a psychiatric facility.*

Table 3 displays data for all AHCCCS members in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2017 who were in the emergency department (ED) for 24 hours or longer awaiting appropriate level of care related to behavioral health services separately for adults who are at least twenty-two years of age and for children and adolescents who are twenty-one years of age or younger.

**Table 3. Prevalence of Psychiatric Boarding for SFY2017**

Unique members who were in the ED for 24 hours or longer awaiting transition to appropriate level of care related to behavioral health	
Members Less than 22 Years of Age	Members Aged 22 and Older
298	607