



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Katja S. Fox
Director

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August 29, 2025

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Behavioral Health, to **Retroactively** pay the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (VC#177758-B002), Alexandria, Virginia in the amount of \$8,979 for annual membership dues, effective retroactive to July 1, 2025 upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2026. 32.44% Federal Funds. 67.56% General Funds.

05-95-92-922010-41170000 HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, DEPT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SVS, HHS: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIV, BUREAU OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, CMH PROGRAM SUPPORT

State Fiscal Year	Class / Account	Job Number	Class Title	Total Amount
2026	026-500251	92200000	Organizational Dues	\$8,979
Total				\$8,979

EXPLANATION

This request is **Retroactive** because the invoice for membership was received after the expiration of the previous fiscal year membership. Approval of this request will enable the State to continue the annual membership dues to the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors is a not-for-profit organization that assists state mental health agencies in addressing matters that impact state mental health agencies to Congress, federal agencies and other national organizations by tracking legislation, leading collaborative efforts, initiating proposals to streamline and simplify federal mental health programs and regulations.

Listed below are answers to standard questions required for Governor and Executive Council organization dues and membership approval submissions.

1. How long has this organization been in existence and how long has this agency been a member of this organization?

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors was formed in 1959. New Hampshire has been a member for at least the last 29 years.

2. Is there any other organization that provides the same or similar benefits which your agency belongs to?

No

3. How many other states belong to this organization and is your agency the sole New Hampshire state agency that is a member?

All 50 states, 4 territories, and the District of Columbia belong to the organization. No other New Hampshire state agencies are members of this association.

4. How is the dues structure established? (Standard fee for all states, based on population, based on other criteria, etc.)

Dues are based on state population, although small states like New Hampshire are capped at \$8,979 annually. There has been no increase in the annual membership dues from last year.

5. What benefit does the state receive from participating in this membership?

In the past year, the organization helped to increase major funding for the Mental Health Block Grant. Nationally, efforts resulted in an increase in funding while maintaining the set-aside for early intervention for Psychosis and Crisis services. In New Hampshire, this grant totals more than \$2.5 million.

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors developed briefs and reports on integration, care coordination, workforce, health information technology, housing, best practices in crisis services, and 9-8-8, which were disseminated and discussed with leaders from key federal agencies, including the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The sharing of these documents helped inform these agencies and other key officials of the issues states face and in building partnerships with organizations, including those related to housing, disabilities, and health.

6. Are training or educational/ research materials included in the membership? If so, is the cost included? Explain in detail.

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors provides a wide array of high-quality training and technical assistance to states to ensure their access to best practices and provides the most current knowledge in mental health and related fields. The cost of technical assistance and training is included in the membership.

The Association directly operates the following federally funded training and technical assistance centers: the National Technical Assistance Center for State Mental Health Planning, the Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint through Trauma Informed Care initiative and the Social Marketing/Communications Technical Assistance for the Children's System of Care Program.

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors also serves as a key partner on a variety of other training and technical assistance efforts, including: the Bringing Recovery Supports to Scale Technical Assistance project, the Behavioral Health for Older Americans Technical Assistance Center, the National Technical Assistance Center for Primary Care and Behavioral Health and the Financing Reform and Innovation initiative.

7. Is the membership required in order to receive any federal grants or required in order to receive or participate in licensing or certification exams? Explain.

No

8. Is there any travel included with this membership fee? Explain in detail any travel to include the number of employees involved, the number of trips, destination if known and purposes of membership supported trips.

No

9. Which state agency employees are directly involved with this organization? (Indicate if they are members, voting members, committee members, and/or officers of the organization.)

Director

Carolyn Lewis — Bureau Chief of Mental Health Services — NH representative to the Mental Health Commissioners/Program Directors group of NASMHPD;

Children Youth & Families Division

Daryll Tenney, Bureau Chief — Bureau for Children's Behavioral Health — NH representative to the Children, Youth, and Families Division of NASMHPD;

Communication Officer

Jacob Leon, Director of Communications — Department of Health and Human Services — NH representative to the Communications Division of NASMHPD;

Compact Coordinators

Cynthia Babonis, Chief Community Integration Officer— New Hampshire Hospital — NH representative to the Compact Coordinators group of NASMHPD;

Finance Policy Division

Meg Gaskell, Medicaid Lead Division for Behavioral Health - NH representative to the Financing and Medicaid Division of NASMHPD;

Forensic Division

Paula Mattis, Director of Medical and Forensic Services, Department of Corrections

Hospital Superintendents

Ellen Lapointe, Chief Executive Officer - New Hampshire Hospital - NH representative to the Hospital Administrators/Superintendents Division of NASMHPD.

Legal

Lise Solbeck, Esq., Attorney — Office of Client and Legal Services - NH representative to the Legal Division of NASMHPD;

Steven Bunker, Esq. Legal Coordinator — NH Hospital - NH participant on the Legal group of NASMHPD;

Medical Directors Council

Mary Brunette, M.D., Medical Director - Bureau of Mental Health Services, NH Department of Health and Human Services, Associate Professor of Psychiatry - Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth - NH representative to the Medical Directors Council of NASMHPD;

Jeffrey C. Fetter, M.D., Chief Medical Officer – NH Hospital - NH participant on the Medical Directors Council of NASMHPD;

Recovery Support Services Council

Ayla Kendall, Peer Integration Specialist — Bureau of Mental Health Services - NH representative to the Recovery Support Services Division of NASMHPD;

Colleen Popores, Peer Program Planner — Bureau of Mental Health Services - NH participant on the Recovery Support Services Division of NASMHPD;

State and Territory Disaster Mental Health Coordinators

Stephanie Locke, Disaster Behavioral Health Coordinator Designee – Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team;

State Mental Health Planners – Adult & Child

Jessica Howard, Block Grant State Planner Designee— Bureau of Mental Health Services.

10. Explain in detail any negative impact to the State if the Agency did not belong to this organization.

New Hampshire would be the only state that is not a member of this organization. Consequently, New Hampshire would not have a voice at the table to provide input on matters important to the State of New Hampshire. It would limit the State's ability to impact national legislation in the mental health field, join in collaborative efforts with other states, and bring about efforts to streamline and simplify federal mental health programs and regulations. In addition, it would limit the Department's ability to tap a valuable resource for knowledge in mental health and related fields, as well as technical assistance.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lori A. Weaver for:
Commissioner



National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors

675 North Washington Street, Suite 470, Alexandria, VA 22314, (703) 739-9333

July 1, 2025

Carolyn Lewis
Bureau Chief of Mental Health Services
NH Department of Health and Human Services
105 Pleasant Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Ms. Lewis:

Attached please find an invoice for the annual dues assessment for your agency's membership in the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) for Fiscal Year 2026 (year ending June 30, 2026). As you know, NASMHPD is the primary national association that advocates for the collective interests of state mental health authorities in the United States, territories, and Pacific Jurisdictions. Below is a brief overview of some of the major functions and accomplishments the Association has been working towards on behalf of your state.

Collaboration and Partnerships with Key Organizations. NASMHPD values partnerships and collaboration with organizations to address the interests of state mental health agencies. NASMHPD has strong collaborations with key organizations representing the public sector, including the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD), the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disability Services (NASDDDS), ADvancing States, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of County Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities Directors (NACBHDD) and the Council of State Governments (CSG).

NASMHPD also works with various stakeholders in behavioral health including the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and Mental Health America, as well as national associations representing psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers, on common issues and concerns affecting the entire behavioral health community. NASMHPD is an active member of the Coalition for Whole Health, and the College for Behavioral Health Leadership, and participates in monthly Associations meetings with CMS to keep apprised of new behavioral health initiatives as well as developments in Home and Community-Based Services.

988 and Crisis Services. NASMHPD has been working with SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) and other partners on supporting States, Territories, Pacific Jurisdictions, and Tribes on 988 implementation and building out their crisis continuum. NASMHPD has been a key partner in identifying national trends in crisis services, best practices, and highlighting the excellent work States have done to build their crisis continuum since the implementation of 988. NASMHPD continues to advocate with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for the forthcoming Section 5124 guidance on financing crisis services due to be released in July 2025.

Mental Health Block Grant. NASMHPD has continued to bring awareness to Congress and various federal agencies— including SAMHSA and CMS — on critical issues facing the public mental health system. As a result of NASMHPD's and its partners' advocacy efforts in Washington, the federal Mental Health Block Grant (MHBG) was increased in FY2023 to \$1.01 billion and has been level-funded since

then. Additionally, the First Episode Psychosis (FEP) set-aside has been maintained at 10%, and the crisis service set-aside at 5%. NASMHPD has successfully advocated for FY2025 appropriations to not cut funding for mental health and maintain at least level funding that was achieved in the 2025 Continuing Resolution. For FY2026, NASMHPD continues to advocate for no behavioral health spending cuts and that the Mental Health Block Grant remain level at \$1.01 billion NASMHPD continues to partner with SAMHSA in providing technical assistance on the use of MHBG funds to build out the 988 crisis continuum, along with advocacy to maintain funding levels for all behavioral health services and programming.

NASMHPD provides timely information through email correspondence, monthly Meet-Me calls, the bi-weekly *NASMHPD Update* newsletter, monthly Division conference call *Washington Updates*, and alerting members to webinars and calls on budget concerns, 988 and implementing crisis services, workforce, managed care, financing, integration, supported employment, housing, peer services, care coordination, and healthcare delivery systems.

NASMHPD's *Beyond Beds Initiative*. Through its *Beyond Beds Initiative*, NASMHPD has been focusing on the development of a robust continuum of care with an emphasis on establishing crisis services to divert individuals with mental illness from jails and emergency rooms. The establishment of crisis services can help individuals receive the appropriate level of care they need, taking the pressure off higher end services. NASMHPD also emphasizes best practices that help stabilize an individual after crisis and help keep individuals out of crisis.

As part of this initiative, NASMHPD has been a key partner for the [CrisisNow.com](https://www.crisisnow.com) website, and the [988 Crisis Jam](#), which is a weekly virtual learning community that highlights best practices in crisis services based on the *CrisisNow* model.

Under SAMHSA's Technical Assistance Coalition, NASMHPD also develops a series of 10 papers each year focused on best practices across the continuum of care for improving mental health outcomes.

Training & Technical Assistance (T/TA).

One-to-One Calls with States. NASMHPD has quarterly calls with each State Mental Health Commissioner/Director. These calls focus on emerging issues and successes in the state; the latest national trends; and connecting states to share expertise. States report that these calls have been helpful to provide immediate technical assistance, availability of the latest resources, and state-to-state sharing.

National Educational Webinars. NASMHPD has coordinated a number of national educational webinars for the State Mental Health Commissioners, their staff, and other stakeholders. These webinars have addressed a range of issues essential to effective implementation of evidence-based practices, service delivery across the spectrum, and cross-systems collaboration. Upcoming webinars can be found on our website at <https://nasmhpd.org/upcoming/>

National TA Partnerships. NASMHPD serves as a key partner on a variety of other T/TA efforts related to building out 988 and crisis services; advancing recovery knowledge; housing; Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs); and bridging systems that address co-occurring disorders including co-occurring mental health and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD).

Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI). Many NASMHPD TA activities occur in conjunction with our SAMHSA contract to support state mental health authorities in planning and expanding community mental health services. Part of this contract includes the Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI), which

offers states and territories a small amount of flexible funding to creatively and innovatively enhance their behavioral health services in the capacity they see most fitting. In the last seventeen years, SAMHSA has collaborated with NASMHPD to distribute over \$65,000,000 to states and territories through this project.

For Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025, SAMHSA awarded 48 TTI awards of \$250,000 to states and territories on the following six (6) topics directly related to implementing and expanding sustainable crisis services:

1. Community-based service approaches for justice involved individuals with SMI
2. Community crisis system mapping and implementation: building intra and inter-systems bridges for coordinated crisis care
3. Crisis Care and Suicide prevention for youth
4. Crisis workforce wellness, and resilience and prevention of burnout
5. Training and professional development the non-clinical crisis workforce
6. Treatment and supports for children with high acuity and/or complex needs at risk of out of home placements

NASMHPD collaborates with SAMHSA under this contract to engage directly with state mental health authorities to offer resources, insight from subject matter experts, and other technical assistance that best aligns with the needs of the state or territory.

Collectively, these initiatives serve to support states and communities in their on-going efforts to plan and implement programs, policies, and practices that are designed to foster recovery and enhance resilience for individuals across the life span. Your continued financial support and involvement in NASMHPD has never been more important to continue these important efforts. Please feel free to contact me at brian.hepburn@nasmhpd.org if you have any questions related to your state's dues assessment. We look forward to continuing to work on your behalf in the year to come.

Sincerely,



Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director
NASMHPD

NASMHPD
675 North Washington Street, Ste 470
Alexandria, VA 22314

Federal ID: 52-0784740

INVOICE

DATE	INVOICE #
7/1/2025	NH2026

BILL TO

State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Medicaid Business & Policy
129 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES

For professional services and information by the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors for the year ending June 30, 2026.

State Dues: \$8,979.00

Mail check to:

NASMHPD
675 North Washington Street, Ste 470
Alexandria, VA 22314
ATTN: Accounting Dept.

NASMHPD Contact: Jay Meek (703) 682-5186 EMAIL: jay.meek@nasmhpd.org

TOTAL DUE: \$8,979.00
