

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Katja S. Fox
Director

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

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-9544 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 9544
Fax: 603-271-4332 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

July 30, 2026

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 (NASMHPD) (VC#177758-B002), Alexandria, Virginia in the amount of \$8,979 for annual membership dues, effective retroactive to July 1, 2026 upon Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2027. 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
2027	026-500251	92200000	Organizational Dues	\$8,979
Total				\$8,979

EXPLANATION

This request is **Retroactive** because the invoice for the membership was received after the expiration of the previous fiscal year membership. The invoice was received July 1, 2026. Approval of this request will enable the State to continue the annual membership dues to the NASMHPD for the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The NASMHPD is a not-for-profit organization that works at the national level with federal agencies and other organizations to track legislation, lead collaborative efforts, make proposals to streamline and simplify federal mental health programs and regulations, and educate members of Congress about issues facing state mental health agencies. The organization also provides technical assistance and convenings among and between states on emerging models of care and payment methodologies.

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 (NASMHPD) 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 is no increase in the annual membership dues from last year.

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

Participation in NASMHPD provides access to proven, cost-effective strategies that help states improve behavioral health outcomes while making responsible use of public funds. Through collaboration with other state leaders, our agency can identify best practices that reduce unnecessary hospitalizations, strengthen crisis response, support law enforcement partnerships, and improve accountability in publicly funded services. Membership also ensures our state has a voice in shaping national policy discussions and can leverage shared expertise and resources rather than developing solutions independently, maximizing value while advancing public safety, efficient government, and better outcomes for citizens.

Over the past year, NASMHPD has continued to provide states with practical, evidence-based resources to strengthen public behavioral health systems. The organization released updated guidance on behavioral health workforce recruitment and retention and developed policy and operational resources addressing critical issues such as crisis services, serious mental illness, housing, and care coordination. NASMHPD also convenes state mental health commissioners to share best practices and innovative solutions on common challenges, enabling states to leverage proven approaches, improve operational efficiency, and maximize the value of public investments in behavioral health services.

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

NASMHPD provides members with a wide range of high-quality training, technical assistance, policy guidance, and educational resources to help states implement evidence-based and cost-effective behavioral health practices. The cost of these services is included in the annual membership.

NASMHPD operates and partners in multiple federally funded technical assistance initiatives that provide states with expertise in behavioral health planning, workforce development, crisis services, trauma-informed care, care coordination, and financing strategies. Through these initiatives, New Hampshire has access to national subject matter experts, peer learning opportunities, and practical tools that support implementation of federal and state priorities without requiring additional state expenditures.

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

Julianne Carbin, Deputy Director Behavioral Health, 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

Hospital Superintendents

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

Legal

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

Vacant, Attorney, Office of Client and Legal Services, NH representative to the Legal Division of NASMHPD;

Medical Directors Council

Mary Brunette, M.D., Medical Director, Bureau of Mental Health Services, NH Department of Health and Human Services, , 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;

Ayla Fraser, Peer Program Specialist, 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;

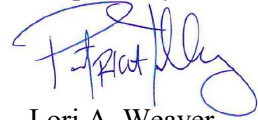
State Mental Health Planners – Adult & Child

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.

Without membership in NASMHPD, New Hampshire would be the only state that is not represented in the national organization of state mental health authorities. As a result, the Department would lose an important opportunity to ensure New Hampshire's perspectives and operational experience are considered in discussions with Congress, federal agencies, and other national organizations on policies and regulations that affect state mental health systems. The Department would also lose access to a primary forum for sharing best practices and addressing emerging policy, regulatory, and operational issues, requiring additional staff time and resources to obtain comparable expertise independently.

Respectfully Submitted,



For:

Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner



July 1, 2026

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 2027 (year ending June 30, 2027). 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 a multitude of stakeholders in behavioral health on common issues and concerns affecting the entire behavioral health community. The organizations include the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Mental Health America, and national associations representing psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers. 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 continues to work 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.

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 maintained for the FY 2026 funding level of \$1.07 billion and the set-aside for early intervention First Episode Psychosis (FEP) programs was maintained at 10 percent, and with the FY 2026 Omnibus legislation, continued the 5 percent set-aside for Crisis Services. NASMHPD

successfully advocated for FY2026 appropriations to not cut funding for mental health and maintain at least level funding. For FY2027, NASMHPD continues to advocate for no behavioral health spending cuts and that the Mental Health Block Grant receive a COLA increase to the level of at \$1.0493 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, addressing homelessness, 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 the [Crisis Jam](#), which is a weekly virtual learning community that highlights best practices in crisis services.

Under SAMHSA's Technical Assistance Coalition, NASMHPD also develops a series of papers each year focused on best practices and innovations 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 in providing immediate technical assistance, availability of the latest resources, and state-to-state sharing.

National Educational Webinars. NASMHPD has coordinated national educational webinars for the State Mental Health Commissioners, their staff, and other stakeholders. These webinars are supported by SAMHSA and 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).

Collectively, these initiatives serve to support states and communities in their ongoing 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 have 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Hepburn, M.D.
Executive Director
NASMHPD

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

Federal ID: 52-0784740

INVOICE

DATE	INVOICE #
7/1/2026	NH2027

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, 2027.

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
