



UTAH SYSTEM OF  
HIGHER EDUCATION

# MEMORANDUM

August 10, 2023

## Fiscal Year 24 Payments for Institutional After-Hours Mental Health Support Services

The Huntsman Mental Health Institute at the University of Utah, in partnership with the university's hospital system, residence halls, and counseling center, launched [Mental Health First Responders](#) (MH1) in 2020. MH1 provides students living in the institutions' residence halls with mental health support services delivered by licensed mental health workers after hours (4:00 pm to 2:00 am). This program's purpose is to support students experiencing an acute need for mental health services after regular business hours, when other campus services may be closed or unavailable. Their approach includes assessment, stabilization, diversion, interventions/coping skills, and groups/workshops. While a student's mental health needs do not have to reach crisis level in order to use MH1 services, this program is a crucial tool for responding to mental health emergencies and aiding in suicide prevention on campus.

During the 2022 general session, the legislature allocated \$1.5 million in ongoing appropriations to:

- Support MH1 operations at the University of Utah (\$500,000 annually) and;
- Fund pilot programs based on the MH1 model at Southern Utah University and Utah State University (\$500,000 annually each)

Southern Utah University, the University of Utah, and Utah State University remain in compliance with their respective Memorandums of Understanding with the Commissioner's Office. OCHE is responsible for seeking Board approval to disburse the following payments for the fiscal year 2024 to ensure the ongoing operation of after-hours mental health support services programs:

- Southern Utah University: \$500,000
- University of Utah: \$500,000
- Utah State University: \$500,000

### Commissioner's Recommendation

The Commissioner recommends that the Board approve the payments outlined above for FY24.