

USDC - talking points re: governor's budget/goals

- [Communication](#) sent to all DSPD stakeholders re: governor's budget recommendations

Governor's budget recommendations - FY 2024

Expansion of behavioral health services. Governor Cox's budget recommendations included one-time funding of \$473,400 to provide funding for one contracted full-time psychiatrist and one contracted full-time psychologist to provide specialized treatments for individuals with comorbid diagnoses (e.g. intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorder compounded with one or more mental illness). These doctorate level professionals will pair with the existing team of Board Certified Behavioral Analysts, social workers, mental health therapists, medical, occupational therapy, psychologists and psychiatrists to identify and treat the behavioral health needs of the individuals at USDC and in the community. We appreciate that the legislature and the governor have helped put mental health awareness for people with disabilities in the public eye.

Expansion of services to support more community based treatments for individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns. The governor's budget recommendations included \$3 million to create a pilot program to increase the number of contracts for in-home supported living services and allow providers to apply for funds to decrease barriers in providing these services. These funds would help individuals and families who want to remain in their homes, rather than receive care at a congregate setting. Through collaboration, cooperation and integrated treatment, USDC and DSPD are looking to form strong relationships with community-based providers and the individuals they serve. USDC is counted on to provide emergency care services to the individuals who struggle to find the most appropriate services in their community. This will help USDC have the resources to better reintegrate people back into the community once their situation has stabilized.

Funding from prior legislative session:

Staff retention and training will be a focus for USDC over the next couple of years. USDC is grateful for the support we received from the legislature in the 2022 legislative session in

the form of increases to staff compensation and services provided to the community. The wage increase for the staff at USDC has already paid dividends in the form of:

- Fewer open positions
- Open positions filled more quickly
- Increased job satisfaction
- Increased retention

All of these result in better care for the complex needs of the people we serve at USDC.

Comprehensive therapy building: USDC is looking forward to the new, multi-disciplinary therapy building that the Utah Legislature approved funding for last year. This building will:

- Replace three aged buildings with one effective and efficient treatment space for individuals with severe intellectual and developmental disabilities. Includes physical, occupational, and speech therapy as well as recreation, day programming, and an autism treatment center.
- Enhance our services to both individuals served at USDC and people in the community.
- Centralize services and programs. Improving circulation efficiency means more time for treatment, less burden on staffing, and most importantly, comfort and convenience for residents.

Other

Trauma-informed care: Over the next year and beyond, USDC will invest in the training of staff and community members in trauma-informed care and practices for people with disabilities. This will help staff and the general public identify ways they can work to provide a caring and therapeutic environment for people who have suffered trauma and have disabilities. Training will also focus on leadership development within USDC so front line supervisors are equipped to provide immediate and trauma-informed support to staff and individuals served at USDC.