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October 5, 2026

Kiame Mahaniah, MD, MBA, Secretary of Health and Human Services
Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery
Joint Committee on Health Care Financing

On behalf of the Expedited Psychiatric Inpatient Admission (EPIA) Advisory Council, pursuant to Section 26 of Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022, I am pleased to submit the Department's 2024 Annual EPIA Advisory Council Report.

The Council was charged with investigating and recommending policies and solutions regarding the emergency department boarding of patients seeking mental health and substance use disorder services.

The attached report summarizes the data collected on the number of patients boarding in emergency departments identified by age, gender identity, race, ethnicity, insurance status, diagnosis and reason for the delay in admission; and includes recommendations for reducing boarding in emergency departments and any suggested legislative or regulatory action to implement those recommendations, which shall include, but not be limited to, requirements for the delivery system to operate on a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week basis for admissions and discharges and penalties for noncompliance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Emily Bailey

Emily Bailey, LICSW
Commissioner