

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2023

The Honorable Carole Johnson
Health Resources and Services Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Administrator Johnson,

On behalf of our constituents and community partners, we would like to thank the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for your leadership on implementing and managing two important programs addressing the mental health and wellbeing of our nation’s mothers—the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline and the Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Behavioral Health Disorders (MDRDB).

The United States is facing a maternal mental health crisis. Suicide and overdose are the leading causes of death for new mothers, accounting for 20% of maternal deaths. Furthermore, mental health conditions are the most common complication of pregnancy and childbirth, impacting at least 1 in 5 women, or 800,000 families each year, and costing our society \$14 billion each year.

Given the importance of maternal mental health, we are writing to request a status update on these two programs and request the following data points (listed below).

Maternal Mental Health Hotline

Quantitative Data: (Please note, the term “contacts” refers to calls, texts, and any other mode of communication between help-seekers and hotline staff. For each item, include total number, number specific to phone calls, and number specific to texts)

- How many times has the hotline been contacted since it launched?
- What is the average number of contacts per hour?
- What is the average length of time invested with each contact?
- How many times is the hotline contacted per month? Please include the following data points:
 - What are the demographics data on help-seekers by age, race, sex, location, primary language spoken, etc.?
 - What type of help-seeker is contacting the hotline (e.g., pregnant/postpartum individual or support person)?
 - How many service members, military spouses, or veterans contacted the hotline?
 - How many medical or mental health providers contacted the hotline?

- How many help-seekers received a warm transfer to another federal hotline such as 988, and to which hotline?
- How many follow-up calls were made?

Qualitative Data:

- Do hotline staff have sufficient resources to refer callers if needed?
- Have there been any challenges with implementation of the hotline?
- How has HRSA used the increase in funding in FY22 (\$1 million)?
- How does HRSA plan to use the increase in funding in FY23 (\$3 million)?
- What has HRSA done to promote the hotline? How has HRSA engaged stakeholders to find out if these promotional efforts are working?
- What languages are outreach materials available in? Please provide a breakdown of the outreach materials by the ratio of materials available in each language.
- Does HRSA plan to distribute outreach materials in additional languages in the future?
- Does HRSA have sufficient staffing to accommodate different language requests and what are existing staffing challenges, if any?

Screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression and Related Behavioral Health Disorders

Only seven states have received funding and were able to create programs that provide real-time psychiatric consultation, care coordination, and training for front-line providers to better screen, assess, refer, and treat pregnant and postpartum women for depression and other behavioral health conditions. This leaves a lot of states in need of resources to implement their own programs.

Qualitative Data:

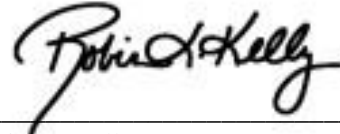
- How and when does HRSA plan to expand this funding opportunity to other states?
- What states have already indicated their interest in implementing programs?
- What are some of the innovations funded-states have put in place to make their program successful that could be replicated elsewhere?
- Are screenings available in multiple languages? Are there translation services available?
- What internal and external referral sources have you offered to callers?
- Do you have mechanisms to ensure warm transfer/referred patients are able to manage referrals?

We request that you provide this data to our offices no later than **Monday, August 7th**. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



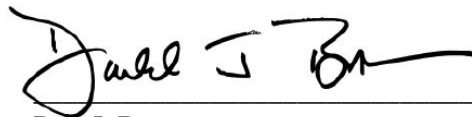
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



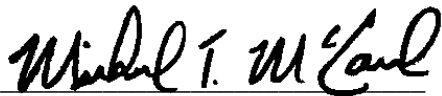
Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Don J. Bacon
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress