

DECEMBER 1, 2022

---

# ROADMAP TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH IN WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Overview of State Behavioral Health Initiatives

Audrey Shelto  
President & CEO  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVES AND FUNDING STREAMS



Request for Proposal (RFP)

# STATE ROADMAP FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH REFORM

## Proposed Reforms through the Behavioral Health Roadmap



Structural Support for Access	Centralized Front Door to Treatment	An easy way for anyone seeking behavioral health treatment to find and access the treatment they need, through a central phone line
	Access to Provider Networks & Services through Insurance	Strengthened behavioral health provider networks and expanded behavioral health service coverage in both MassHealth and private insurance
	Administrative Simplification	Dramatically simplified and standardized administrative processes to reduce provider burden and make provider participation in MassHealth/ insurance easier
	Workforce Competency	Targeted support to increase competency and diversification of clinical + non clinical workforce; increase provider participation in insurance, including MassHealth
Treatment Services	Integrated Primary Care	New payment models and incentives for PCPs that integrate behavioral health treatment to promote early intervention, increase access, and reduce siloes
	Outpatient Treatment	Community Behavioral Health Centers with access to real-time urgent care and evidence-based, integrated mental health and addiction treatment for all ages
	Urgent/ Crisis Treatment	24/7 community crisis response to avoid ED visits and hospitalization through 24/7 on-site and mobile crisis intervention; 24/7 Crisis Stabilization for youth and adults
	Acute/24-hour Treatment	More inpatient psychiatric beds; strengthens 24-hour substance use disorder treatment to address co-occurring needs and better meet patient needs

# MENTAL HEALTH ABC ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

**SENATE . . . . . No. 3097**

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court  
(2021-2022)

An Act addressing barriers to care for mental health.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Subsection (d) of section 219 of chapter 6 of the General Laws, as  
2 appearing in the 2020 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out clauses (5) and (6) and  
3 inserting in place thereof the following 8 clauses:-

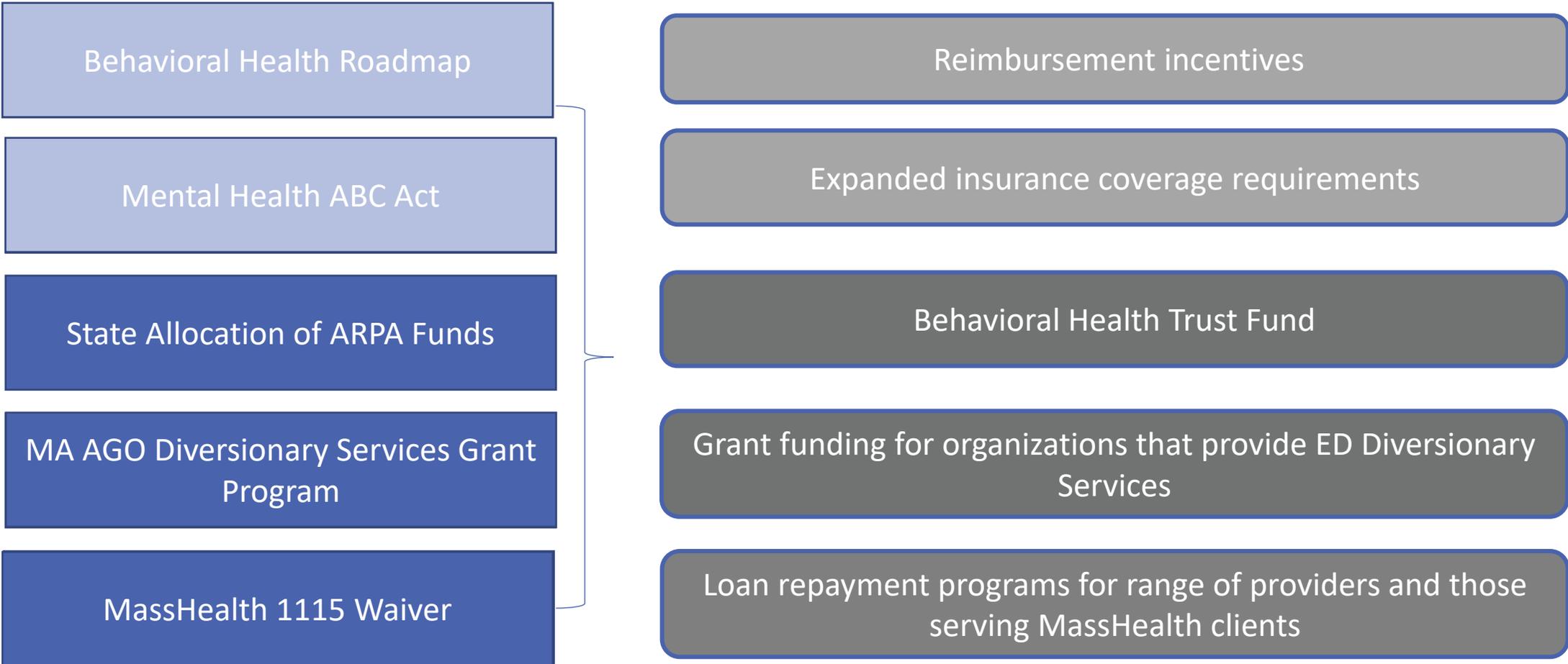
4 (5) facilitate the development of interagency initiatives that: (i) are informed by the  
5 science of promotion and prevention; (ii) advance health equity and trauma-responsive care; and  
6 (iii) address the social determinants of health;

7 (6) develop and implement a comprehensive plan to strengthen community and state-  
8 level promotion programming and infrastructure through training, technical assistance, resource  
9 development and dissemination and other initiatives;

10 (7) advance the identification and dissemination of evidence-based practices designed to  
11 further promote behavioral health and the provision of supportive behavioral health services and  
12 programming to address substance use conditions and to prevent violence through trauma-  
13 responsive intervention and rehabilitation;



# FUNDING STREAMS



# THANK YOU

---

[BLUECROSSMAFOUNDATION.ORG](https://bluecrossmafoundation.org)

# INTRODUCTION OF PANEL

- Jessica Collins, Executive Director, Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts
- Tania M. Barber, President & CEO, Caring Health Center
- Steven Winn, President & CEO, Behavioral Health Network