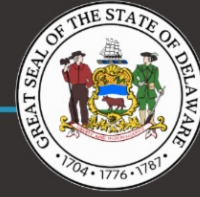




Office of
**Lieutenant Governor
Bethany Hall-Long**



Working for a stronger,
healthier Delaware for all of us.

June 14, 2023 | ltgov.delaware.gov



Former U.S. Representative Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) joins Lt. Governor Hall-Long for a one-on-one discussion about improving behavioral health supports as part of Delaware's First Mental and Behavioral Health Summit

Lt. Governor Hall-Long Hosts Delaware's First Mental and Behavioral Health Summit

Earlier this week, Lt. Governor Hall-Long convened national and local experts, elected leaders, and community advocates in a first-of-its-kind summit discussing the state of Delaware residents' behavioral and mental health. The inaugural day-long summit, 2023 Mental and Behavioral Health Summit: Pathways and Partnerships for a Stronger Delaware, comes amidst an ongoing national and state opioid crisis and a significant rise in the need for mental health treatment and services, a need made far worse by the pandemic and the vital gaps in access to care it caused.

“The emotional well-being of our families has never been more important. From Delawareans living with mental illness or substance use disorder to those whose families have been touched by trauma or suicide, ensuring people have the support they need demands a cradle to grave approach,” said Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long, Chair of the Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium.

During the one-on-one discussion with Lt. Governor Hall-Long, Patrick Kennedy, former Congressman and Founder of the Kennedy Forum talked about how Delaware is poised to drive change. “The benefit of a small state like Delaware is you can all talk to each other directly and work together. The model we need nationally is an integrated system, so we can weave systems together to get people the help they need.”

[Read More
Here](#)

Delaware's Elected Leaders Share Ideas and Progress During Summit



U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D-Del) joins Lt. Governor Hall-Long on stage to open Monday's Mental and Behavioral Health Summit

Several of Delaware's elected leaders joined Lt. Governor Hall-Long for portions of Monday's summit. U.S. Senator Tom Carper helped open the event with remarks focused on the importance of improving mental health resources and the work being done in Congress to expand access to care for those in need. “Monday’s event is an important step forward in addressing the mental and behavioral health needs of Delawareans,” said U.S. Senator Tom Carper

(D-Del.). “I am proud of the bipartisan legislation I co-authored last year that helps bring mental health resources into our schools, which builds upon the work we are doing right here in the state. This is an all-hands-on-deck effort to ensure the mental health care needs of all Delawareans are met with accessibility and compassion.”



State Sens. Nicole Poore and Laura Sturgeon join State Reps. Kendra Johnson and Mimi Minor-Brown for a panel discussion at Monday's summit.

Later in the day, several Delaware state legislators joined a panel discussion focused on the legislature's response to the mental and behavioral health crisis. The discussion centered around recent legislation to improve behavioral health resources for school students and for Delawareans with intellectual disabilities.

Earlier this year, legislators introduced a package of bills aimed at improving mental health services and behavioral health supports for Delaware students. During the panel, legislators shared that they will continue to find solutions to address Delaware's mental health and addiction crisis for anyone in need.

SAMHSA Leadership Shares Vision and Hope with Summit Attendees



SAMHSA Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Tom Coderre speaks about the national approach to the mental health crisis

Addressing the nation's mental health crisis requires an all hands on deck approach. Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Tom Coderre shared SAMHSA's vision for addressing the mental and behavioral health challenges that face Delaware and states across the nation. "While we've made progress, there are still tens of millions more who need help," said Tom Coderre. "SAMHSA is working hard to prevent substance use, overdose, suicide, and integrate behavioral health and healthcare."

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary Coderre also shared his own personal story of recovery and hope. Coderre is the first person in recovery to help lead SAMHSA. "I am blessed to lead the agency that saved my life. SAMHSA gave block grants to the programs that funded my recovery."

Joining Forces on the Front Lines



Dr. Sandra Gibney speaks about treating the mental and behavioral health crisis from the front lines.

Treating the mental and behavioral health crisis in Delaware starts with the work of our providers on the front lines. For years, medical and mental health professionals have worked tirelessly to treat patients in active overdose or in a mental health crisis. Several of those healthcare professionals joined a panel Monday afternoon to discuss what they've seen.

"People were dying of overdoses in our emergency rooms at a rate I could not tolerate," said Dr. Sandra Gibney, a Delaware emergency physician. "This is a challenge that traces to mental health and homelessness. It's a calling."

Dr. Gibney, who also serves on Delaware's Behavioral Health Consortium, talked about the importance of the consortium's work in making progress for Delawareans in need. "Through the Behavioral Health Consortium and the Lieutenant Governor, we keep chipping away at the problem. We're making inroads, and we need to keep an eye on what it's like to navigate the system."

You can read more about Delaware's progress in the [News Journal](#) here.

How You Can Get Involved

Want to get involved? This June, the Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium is hosting listening tours across the state to hear directly from folks on mental health and substance use issues. Your experiences matter. On June 27, Kent County's Mental Health and Substance Use Forum for People Experiencing Homelessness:

Mental Health and Substance Use Forum for People Experiencing Homelessness

hosted by the Delaware Behavioral Health Consortium

KENT COUNTY

When: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

*Can't make it in person? Scan the
QR Code to join by Zoom*

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Where: John W. Collette

Educational Resource Center 35
Commerce Way, Suite 1, Dover,
DE 19904



Meeting ID: 827 1947 7664
Passcode: 346473



Opioid Abatement & Remediation Grant Program Funding

Are you able to provide evidence-based solutions to help repair the harm done to Delaware communities by opioid misuse? Consider applying for opioid abatement and remediation grant program funds through the Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission (POSDC). The Deadline for applications June 18, 2023.

[Apply Here](#)



Have questions or concerns?

[Contact the Lt. Governor's Office](#)

Office of the Lt. Governor | Tatnall Building, 150 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd South, 3rd Floor,
Dover, DE 19901

[Unsubscribe nicole.algarin@delaware.gov](mailto:nicole.algarin@delaware.gov)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by bryan.gordon@delaware.gov