



# PANDEMIC RECOVERY OFFICE

## **Butler Hospital Short Term Stay Unit Final Report**

### **Submitted by State of Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office**

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## **Butler Hospital Short Term Stay Unit**

Project Identification Number: 10050

Pandemic Recovery Office Approval Date: January 3, 2023

Project Completion Date: December 31, 2024

Funded Amount: \$8,000,000

Expended Amount: \$8,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Public Health: Mental Health Services

Problem Statement: Across Rhode Island patients are seeking medical help for mental and behavioral health issues at hospital emergency departments (EDs) in numbers that the system cannot manage. The unprecedented demand for these services, driven in part by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in delayed treatment for those with mental health and substance abuse issues, as well as overcrowding in EDs.

Between August 1, 2022, and October 21, 2022, the average daily number of behavioral health patients awaiting placement was 73. The time that patients were boarded in an ED could range from several hours to several days, resulting in patients leaving hospitals without treatment.

The pandemic added a new at-risk population for mental health problems – adolescents and young adults. Each cohort faced a myriad of challenges, with the social and academic changes during the pandemic. Children ages 13-18 have had a staggering increase in the demand for treatment. According to Rhode Island Kids Count, in federal Fiscal Year 2021 (FFY), “there were 837 children and youth awaiting psychiatric inpatient admission (psychiatric boarding), almost double (a 92% increase) the number in FFY 2019 when there were 437 boarders.”<sup>1</sup>

Project Overview: The project supported the construction of a 25-bed short-term stay unit at Butler Hospital in Providence to provide behavioral healthcare services, crisis interventions, and other related services. The unit, which opened in July 2024, cares for patients with mental health needs and alleviates the overcrowding at EDs. It was designed to accommodate distinct patient populations through flexible pod systems to ensure that access to care is not impacted by space limitations. Butler Hospital has the capability of increasing or decreasing the number of adolescent beds, isolation rooms, and beds for varied adult populations.

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<sup>1</sup> [RIKCFactbook2022 \(rikidscount.org\)](https://rikidscount.org)

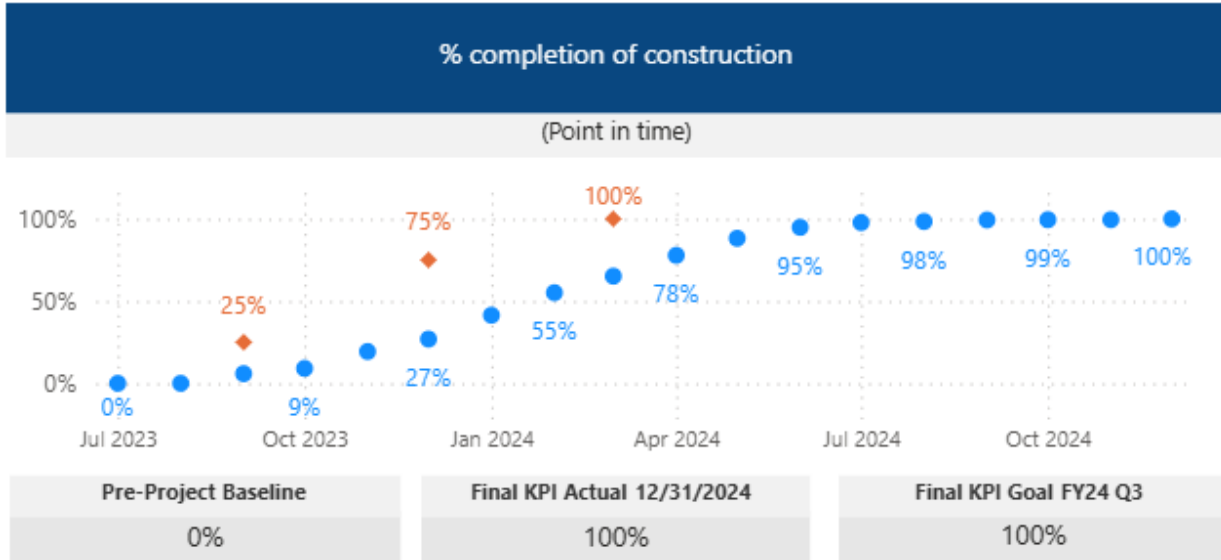
Financial Overview: All program payments can be found on the [Pandemic Recovery Office’s website](#) by filtering the “Project” box for “Butler Hospital Short Term Stay Unit.” The table below shows planned expenditures by fiscal quarter and actual expenditures by fiscal quarter:

<b>Fiscal Year Quarter</b>	<b>Planned Expenditures</b>	<b>Actual Expenditures</b>
FY 2023 Q3	-	\$180
FY 2023 Q4	\$76,528	\$76,505
FY 2024 Q1	\$1,465,630	\$389,992
FY 2024 Q2	\$3,081,008	\$1,674,904
FY 2024 Q3	\$2,542,186	\$3,277,838
FY 2024 Q4	\$834,647	\$2,069,341
FY 2025 Q1	-	\$506,999
FY 2025 Q2	-	\$4,241
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>	<b>\$8,000,000</b>
<p><i>Notes:</i> A single audit fee applies to all State Fiscal Recovery Fund projects and accounts for \$2,400 of the planned and actual expenditures shown in the above table.</p>		

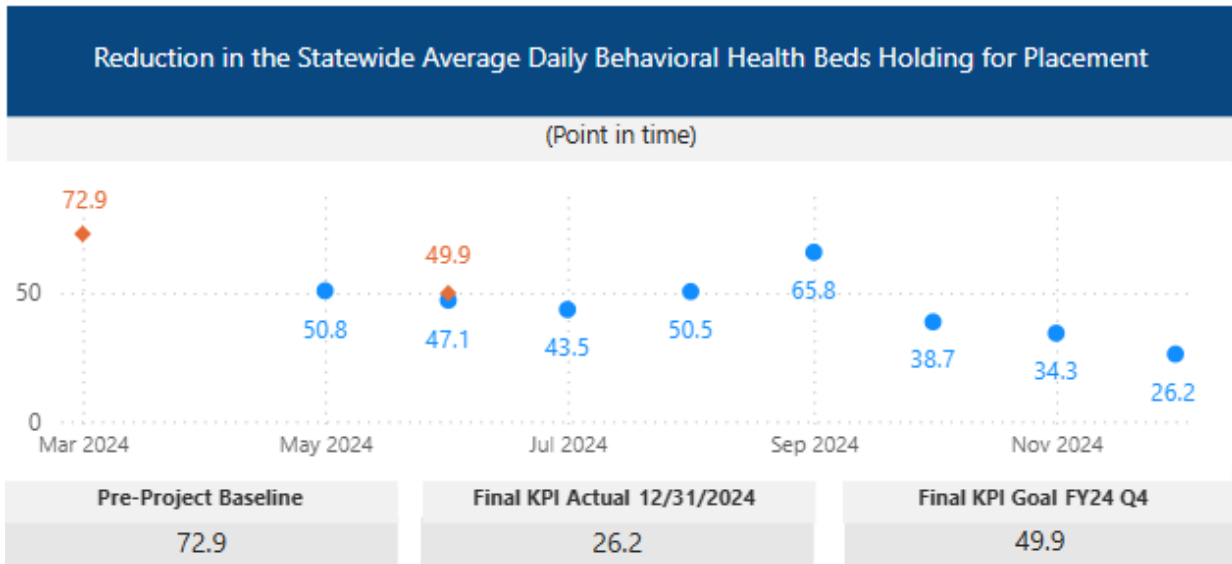
Key Performance Indicators: The following are the key performance indicators based on quarterly goals and monthly data collections.

**Legend:** ● Actual KPI Value Reported      ◆ Quarterly Goals

**1. Percentage completion of construction**



**2. Reduction in the Statewide Average Daily Behavioral Health Beds Holding for Placement**



Auxiliary Information: Members of Governor Dan McKee’s administration and legislative leaders participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the unit on July 1, 2024.<sup>2</sup> Below is a photo of the new short-term stay unit. DPR Construction was the construction manager, and Cannon Boston, Inc. was the architect.



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<sup>2</sup> [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Butler Hospital Short Stay Unit](#)