November 19, 2021

USHE Partnership with Huntsman Mental Health Institute

In 2019, the Huntsman family announced a $150 million gift over 15 years to the University of Utah to establish the Huntsman Mental Health Institute (HMHI), the largest single donation to the USHE flagship. With the establishment of the institute in January 2021 and the groundbreaking of the Mental Health Crisis Care Center in May 2021, HMHI stands to transform mental health services for the State of Utah and, more specifically, 18- to 24-year-olds who are the most impacted by mental health trauma.

Commissioner Woolstenhulme has started conversations with HMHI’s CEO, Mark Rapaport to identify specific areas that support both the Board’s focus on student mental health as well as HMHI’s statewide vision. Some potential areas currently being explored:

- Reduce stigma annual student video contest partnership with Utah Film Commission and Sundance Institute.
- Establish mobile mental health crisis teams statewide embedded and anchored at higher ed institutions.
- Partner with the Mental Health Innovation Network to explore innovative post-bachelor mental health credentials to fuel the persistent workforce shortage in mental health.
- Pilot social and organizational change incubators in the mental health field.

Commissioner’s Recommendation
This is a discussion item only; no action is required.