



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

EXECUTIVE ORDER 004 – 2023

**AN ORDER TO CONSOLIDATE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES
UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 0012-2016**

Section 1: Authority

This executive order is hereby issued in accordance with the powers and authority granted to the Governor by Article IV, Sections 6 and 7 of the Revised Constitution of American Samoa, and the American Samoa Code Annotated, Sections 4.0111 (b) and 4.0301(b).

Section 2: Preamble

WHEREAS, the complexities and challenges of life today can affect a person's mental well-being and behavioral responses, which directly impact a person's behavioral health. The behavioral health workforce must provide modern and innovative behavioral health services and resources that address these new challenges and improve health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the American Samoa Government's (ASG) existing behavioral health services are currently divided between the Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) and the Department of Health (DOH). Consolidating these services under one roof will result in optimal deployment of professionals and paraprofessionals, improved efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery, and eliminate duplication of services as well as lapses in service coordination and interagency communication; and

WHEREAS, the Directors of DOH and of DHSS in a joint Memorandum on August 15, 2022 recommended the transfer of DHSS's Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) to the DOH; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Directors of DOH and DHSS, effective January 1, 2023, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga, designated DOH as the Single State Authority for substance abuse and mental health prevention and treatment services for the Territory of American Samoa.

NOW THEREFORE, I, TALAUEGA E. V. ALE, Acting Governor of American Samoa, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Revised Constitution of American Samoa and the American Samoa Code Annotated, hereby execute this order.

Section 3: Order

Effective January 1, 2023, the Behavioral Health Services Division of the DHSS including all personnel, assets and other resources including federal funding assigned to the division are transferred to the DOH. The Directors of both Departments shall cooperate with each other as well as the Treasurer and the Directors of Human Resources, Program Planning and Budget, and Office of Property Management to ensure a smooth transition and transfer of responsibilities between the departments.

Section 4: Amendment to Executive Order 001-2016

Executive Orders 001-2016 is hereby amended as follows, because DHSS is transferring their entire behavioral health division to DOH:

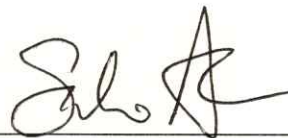
Section 2 is amended to remove reference to the “Department of Health [sic] and Social Services (DHSS).”

Section 3. c. is amended to read, “Administrative and professional staff support shall be provided to the Council by DOH and ASMC” [American Samoa Medical Center].

Section 5: Effective Date

This order shall take effect immediately.

Date: 1/23/23



TALAUEGA E. V. ALE
Acting Governor of American Samoa