

Legislation & Policy Committee Meeting, September 15, 2021, 9:30am

Legislative Update

FY22 Budget Update

Alan reported that the Legislature has not had any activity of movement since the last meeting of this group since June. He stated that the budget has not been finalized yet, save for the K12 budget part. Alan is hearing that voting on the final budget version may begin as early as next week. Increase for DCW will likely be included, but it is unknown still if it will be at \$2/hr or \$2.25/hr. CCBHC, Local Match Drawdown are also likely to have funding included. Alan spoke about federal dollars received through ARPA and COVID relief and how those dollars may be allocated. Alan stated that several supplementals are expected by November of this year, and Behavioral Health will likely be the focus of one of those supplementals. Group wondered if any of the supplementals may be tie-barred to other legislation. Alan stated he did not think that would be the case. These will go toward one-time types of expenditures.

SB 597 & 598 – Financial Integration Bills

Alan stated that these bills were introduced in mid-July. The first committee hearing on these was held yesterday. Jim Haveman provided testimony, as well as 3 others for Senator Shirkey – one consumer, one health care professional, and a mother of a consumer. Alan testified as well in opposition of these bills. The Health Plans testified following Alan's testimony. Alan gave details of the points highlighted in his testimony which included Administrative costs, CCBHC successes, and the elimination of public oversight. It is unknown when the next hearing will be, but it could be as early as next week. Alan will send a link for the hearing from yesterday to this group. Alan reported that a joint letter between the Association and other law enforcement agencies will likely be coming out next week. He will be doing cost, integration, and track record Action Alerts in the next several weeks. Alan will be speaking at the MAC conference later this month and will make them aware that the legislature seems dismissive of the need for continued public oversight and governance. Alan stated that Senator Shirkey has the votes at this time to move this out of the Senate, but if it would pass the House is uncertain. He urged everyone to continue to advocate against these bills. Group discussed actions being taken locally through their Unions. Maribeth spoke about her thoughts regarding yesterday's testimony. She stated that information on this issue has not reached enough folks in the public and it continues to be in "private" discussions. She stated that much of the testimony pointed to successes of the CMH system, which was helpful. Group discussed the need to have consumers testify on these Integration Bills.

Alan stated that House Democrats are launching a listening tour to get input from around the state to gain insight on the topic of healthcare integration. They will likely have 7 or 8 stops around the state. This initiative is being led by Representative Brabec. Alan will keep this group updated if he learns of any dates or locations on this. Group asked if Alan could recommend all areas be included when a list was released.

Policy Updates – Alan Bolter

KB Lawsuit – Children's Mental Health

Alan stated that David Knezek is now heading up this initiative. The Department will be focusing on access, assessment, coordination, and workforce. Total investment on this will be about \$100 Million. The Department does not look to be interested in debunking the current system; rather they seem to be willing to work within the current system to enhance it with NO carve-out planned. This lawsuit is still in litigation, but more information will be known soon. Group wondered who the recipients of these services were specifically. Alan stated that he only knew that children served in the foster care system were all that he knew of. Jim Johnson stated it will likely be broader than that to include Children with access to care.

GAIN for adolescent's status

Alan stated that SUD providers have raised concern over the implementation of a different tool to be used for adolescents. ASAM will be used for adults. The tool itself is time consuming and staff need to be trained on this different tool. These are a couple of issues raised by the Association to the Department. Al Jansen has stated that the issue is pretty much out of their hands since ASAM will not have a tool developed for adolescents for another year or so. Mr. Jansen has stated that he will reach out to CMS to see if there is any relief for providers due to this issue, but no solution has been realized yet. He informed the group that the Association will continue to work with providers and the Department on this topic. Jim Johnson stated that the Department has indicated to him that the ASAM tool for adolescents looks to be more than a year out – possibly 2 to 3 years.

Other

Co-Chair Appointment

With the passing of Jim Shotwell, Mike Welsch was appointed to fill that vacancy as the Board Member Co-Chair. This leaves a vacancy for the position previously held by Mr. Welsch of Vice Co-Chair. Any Board Member interested in filling this position can email Monique Francis at mfrancis@cmham.org.

The next meeting of the Legislation & Policy Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 9:30am. This meeting will be held in-person AND via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 10:28am.