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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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JEFFREY A. MEYERS
COMMISSIONER

June 8, 2018

Representative Frank Kotowski, Chairman
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Second Interim and Quarterly Report on Development of a 10-Year Plan for Mental Health Services Pursuant to Chapter 112:2, Laws of 2017, (House Bill 400)

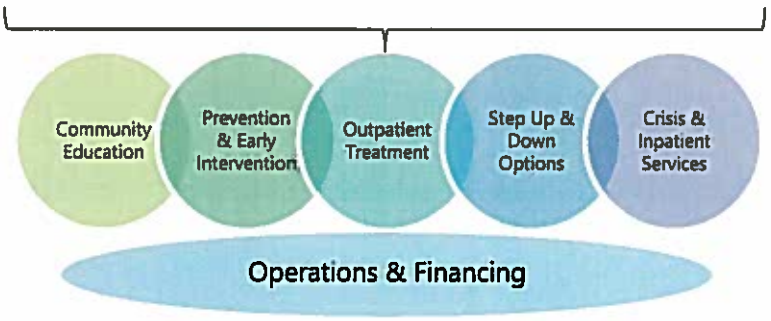
Dear Chairman Kotowski:

In accordance with Chapter 112:2, Laws of 2017, (HB 400), I am pleased to submit this combined second interim and quarterly report relative to the development of a comprehensive 10-year plan for New Hampshire's mental health system (hereinafter "10-year plan").

Upon Governor and Executive Council approval on September 27, 2017, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter "Department") contracted with Antioch University to provide technical assistance and support to facilitate the planning process. This has allowed for a robust 10-year mental health planning process that is informed by stakeholders, system assessments and research. The attached graphic depicts the planning process that is currently underway with a wide cross-section of stakeholders such as providers, families, individuals with lived experience, and elected officials.

Informed by the independent system evaluation published by Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) and additional research, fifteen sector-specific focus groups were held in February and March of this year. The primary goal of the focus groups was to formulate a shared understanding of our system challenges and root causes. Once the root causes and core challenges were identified and prioritized, cross-sector stakeholder workgroups were assembled to focus on solutions.

Five workgroups were organized around the continuum of care pathway: (1) community education; (2) prevention and early intervention; (3) outpatient treatment; (4) step up and down services; and (5) crisis and inpatient services. An additional, sixth workgroup, will focus on the operational and financial considerations of the plan.



Workgroup members are charged to think creatively, consider alternative models of care, and develop strategies to operationalize system change. Members are called upon to provide input on high leverage solutions, potential implementation barriers, and alternative opportunities. Workgroups are scheduled to meet four times between March and July to develop a prioritized list of strategies for their step in the continuum of care which will be used as input for the 10-year plan.

The Department has engaged a group of key advisors to help drive the initiative and leverage opportunities to implement the vision as the plan moves towards completion. The key advisors have set a series of values and principles that will guide the development of the 10-year plan:

1. Focus on systemic, in addition to practice level, change.
2. Set strategic direction for the next 10 years.
3. Provide funding priorities, mechanisms and operational plan for the next 2-4 years.
4. Connect and integrate with the overall DHHS Strategic Plan.
5. Assess plan priorities, progress and adjust as necessary each biennium through SFY 2027.

The Department is committed to developing a comprehensive, operational plan that will ensure for all New Hampshire citizens experiencing primary mental health issues and or co-occurring disorders full access to the continuum of high quality behavioral health services when and where they need them. Pending enrollment, SB 590 extends the deadline for the Department's submission of the 10-year plan to Legislative leadership and Governor's Office from July 1 to October 15, 2018. This 3-month extension allows for a more in-depth fiscal analysis and review of behavioral health payment models that will inform options for current and potential future financing strategies.

I will continue to provide quarterly reports to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee as we work toward a final report and, beyond, on the progress of the development and implementation of the 10-year plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

Attachment

New Hampshire
10-Year Mental Health Plan
Stakeholder Engagement Structure

State of New Hampshire
Department of Health and Human Services



03/02/2018