RSA 126-A:13
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
June 21, 2019
LOB 205

Present: Representatives Weber, Campion, MacKay
Absent: Representatives McMahon, Nordgren; Senators Fuller-Clark, Bradley, Rosenwald

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Rep. Weber called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. The minutes of the May meeting will be reviewed in September.

2. DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report – Deb Scheetz, Director, Long Term Care Support Services

Director Sheetz briefed the committee on the DD waitlist and issues around funding. There are currently zero people on the DD waitlist. 998 individuals were served, 517 more than anticipated. Lapse forward funds will be key in the coming biennium. Rep. Campion asked how large the lapse forward funds are anticipated to be, and Director Sheetz replied that they are anticipated to be between 5 and 6.5 million dollars.

3583 people have been served through the Choices for Independence waiver, fewer than projected. Rep. Weber asked for an estimate of the cost per person for services. Roughly $15,000 per year. The Department is working with Navigant consulting and NASUAD (the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities) to explore improvements to the system, as well as examining ideas from other states.

3. Maternal Mortality Report - Patricia M. Tilley, MS Ed, Deputy Director, New Hampshire Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services.

Deputy Director Tilley briefed the committee on the Maternal Mortality Report. Areas of focus for improvement include screening and counseling around reproductive healthcare, pre-natal and post-partum consultation and support, and guidelines for hospitals on cardiac issues. The committee and Deputy Director Tilley discussed a number of issues regarding mothers with a substance use disorder. Rep. MacKay asked if there had been any investigation of deaths as potential suicides caused by a combination of SUD and post-partum depression. It is unknown, as it is difficult to ascribe intent.

Rep. Campion asked if the impact of rural hospital obstetrics units was being considered. Yes, the Department is watching it very closely, but the numbers for maternal mortality are very low, and it takes some time to accumulate a statistically significant sample. Overall, they haven't detected any geographic pattern. Rep. Campion asked if NH's numbers are lower relative to other states. There is a problem in that states have historically counted these deaths differently. The CDC is trying to get a uniform system in place. Our overdose deaths are comparatively high however.

Rep. Campion asked if there was anything that needed to be done legislatively. SB 174 relative to home visiting would be very helpful.

4. DHHS Commissioner's Update and Dashboard Report including highlights of implementation of MCM and other core initiatives – Commissioner Jeffrey A. Meyers.

John Williams explained that the Commissioner had a scheduling conflict with the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Substance Abuse and wasn't able to attend.

5. Rep. Weber adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM. The next meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on September 27, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Polly Campion,
Grafton District 12