Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, February 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 305-307

Meeting called to order at 10 am.

Present: Rep. Pearson, Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Weber, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Merchant, Rep. Murphy, Rep. King, Sen. Gray

Absent: Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Avard

Minutes from 18 November 2022 approved with one change – added Rep Edwards to the list of absentees and noted as excused

Next meeting February 24, 2023 at 10 am (see proposed agenda below)

Elections were held – Rep. Mark Pearson was voted in as the committee Chairman (Nominated by Rep. Merchant, seconded by Rep. Weber), Rep. Wayne MacDonald was voted in as the Vice Chairman (Nominated by Rep. Pearson) and Rep. Bill King was voted in as the committee clerk (Nominated by Rep. Pearson)– all unanimously.

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Lori Weaver, Interim Commissioner

The interim commissioner gave a layout of the vision for DHHS in 2023. She mentioned building the workforce and retaining the ones currently in the system. She also mentioned managing internal resources by eliminating duplication. A third point mentioned was creating organizational value by developing leadership within the department. Finally, she mentioned providing transparency through thriving community initiatives

Child Fatality Review Committee Annual Report – Patricia Tilley, Director

The director gave a report on suicides and what the committee has found. The results indicate suicide by hanging, firearms and motor vehicle are most prevalent. The report is important because it is powerful, data driven and focuses on prevention.

Jo Porter and Marc Clement continued distributing and discussing their Child Fatality Review Committee annual report. The committee consists of 28 professionals and meets every other month. It is not an investigative body and they do not review deaths being reviewed in courts. There were some questions regarding the in home firearm inquiries as a way to discover if the home is safe and if legislation look into eliminating this question since the suicide statistics show this number is low.

Jo Porter talked about better understanding each situation and how to learn from them. She discussed increasing awareness, providing service professionals, creating procedures and improving data collection as ways to decrease accidental deaths. During questions and answers

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there was discussion concerning how kids obtain drugs, how homicide can be a natural death and motor vehicle deaths going down.

Medicaid Report by Henry Lipman, Director

Henry Lipman gave an overview of what his committee is doing. Currently, they are only reviewing 1/9th of those receiving benefits. There is a special enrollment for those losing eligibility. The Granite Advantage expires 12/31/23. During questions and answers we discussed how to elevate constituent concerns through the District Office, Service Link and NH Easy. We also discussed ways to keep dental student in NH through loan forgiveness programs.

John Williams spoke about the next meeting's agenda"
Proposed Agenda – February 24, 2023

- Welcome by Representative Mark Pearson, Chairman. Roll Call – Attendance.
- Approval of draft minutes from the November 18, 2022 regular meeting and the February 3, 2023 organizational/regular meeting.[1]
- DHHS Commissioner's Update – Interim Commissioner Lori Weaver
- SB 149 (2021) Uniform Application of Medicaid Spend-down Requirements Final Report – Karen Hebert, Director, Division of Economic and Housing Stability, and Dawn Landry, Administrator, Division of Medicaid Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.
- RSA 128:11, HB 79 Chapter 61:6 Laws of 2021, New Hampshire Health Officers Association Annual Report – Wayne Whitford, President, New Hampshire Health Officers Association.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

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[1] Representative James Murphy acted as Clerk taking minutes.