Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, June 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:01 am.

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

Excused Absence: (All Present)

Minutes from 19 May 2023 approved as amended – meeting time was p.m., not a.m.

Next meeting September 22, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Room 205-207

SB234 – Alzheimer's Subcommittee – Jessica Eskeland – Senior Public Policy Manager

- Subcommittee members on the website are to be updated.
- Working on final appointments
- Gary Merchant will find a pharmacist to be added to this committee even though one is not required by statute.

DHHS Commissioner's Report – Morissa Henn – Associate Commissioner

- Report on the Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (PRTF) ○ Ribbon cutting ceremony at the Hampstead campus.
    - 12 bed program serving youth between the ages of 5 and 21 with behavioral and/or emotional challenges.
    - Therapeutic environment covering informed psychiatric care, education and 24/7 treatment.
    - The goal is to return patients to their community as quickly as possible.
- Report on the Youth Development Center (YDC) ○ HB49 allows funding to build a new, therapeutically oriented, architecturally secure with 18 beds.
    - A commission has been established and funds need to be committed to by 2026 ○ Timeline (sent in an email after the meeting took place):
        - June-August 2023 – Pre-Design Phase.
        - August-October 2023 – Schematic Phase.
        - October 2023-January 2024 – Design Development.
        - January-May 2024 – Construction Documents.
        - July/August 2024 – G&C approval construction contract/notice to proceed/begin construction.
        - March/April 2025 – Midpoint construction.
        - October 2025 – Substantial completion/beneficial occupancy/begin move in of EFE
        - November 2025 – Final completion/begin move in of Youth

DRAFT

- February 2026 – 90 Clock for retainage release stops (final payment possible).

Social Media and Youth Mental Health – Patricia Tilley, Director, Division of Public Health Services and Jennifer O'Higgins. Senior Policy Analyst, Division of Behavioral Health Services

• Presented their study on the effects of Social Media/Screen time on our youth
- A few takeaways: ○ 22% of youth experience bullying online ○ Girls and Native Americans more impacted. ○ More than half the girls surveyed feel sad and hopeless. ○ Surgeon General Advisory says Social Media use is nearly universal.

- There is a need to set boundaries.
- The report is missing positive data.
- Where can kids go to feel connected such as a crisis organization.

Annual Report on Newborn Screening – Courtney Keane, MS, Administrator and Rhonda Siegel, MSEd, Administrator, Division of Public Health Services

- RSA 132:10a – NH Infants eligible to be screened for a panel of disorders.
- Report does not include lead testing – lead passed on from mother to child.

Retained HB608 – Melissa Hardy, Division Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services and Sandy Feroz, Director, Bureau of Developmental Services

- First of 3 in-person family Q&A forums on BDS corrective action plan released June 6th.

Extending Granite Advantage Healthcare – Henry Lipman, Medicaid Director

- Dental – Colebrook has seen 3,000 patients.
- A list of contracted providers in the NH Adult Smiles Dental Network was distributed.
- Also covered was an update on the NH Medicaid Enrollment ○ Reports of some people accidentally being dropped from enrollment records because of certain communications has led to efforts to getting the ones in real need back on the roles.

Therapeutic Cannabis Program 2022 Annual Report – Michael Holt, Administrator, Division of Public Health Services

- The Maine Caregiver Model is unregulated and cheaper to run. ○ NH State law limits the number of registered dispensaries and licenses.
- Data shows the number of the number of qualifying patients was 13,364 in 2022 and has reached saturation with only 1,336 providers available.
- Out of the 13,364 qualifying patients, approximately 11,000 visit Alternate Treatment Centers (ATCs) with over 2,000 patients finding treatment elsewhere. A legalization model will muddy the waters.

Therapeutic Cannabis Oversight Board (TCMOB) – 2022 Annual Report – Michael Holt Administrator, Division of Public Health ○

Report Deferred till October 2023

Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 pm

DRAFT