Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, September 22, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am.

Roll Call: Rep. Pearson, Rep. King, Sen. Gray, Rep. Murphy,

Absent: Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Weber, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Merchant, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Avard

Minutes from 23 June 2023 were approved as presented

Next meeting October 27, 2023 at 10:00 am

Special Order of Business: Appointed Representative Palmer as a member to establish a quorum

Request of the Chairman: Committee members need to attend the monthly oversight meetings. If you cannot attend, the Chairman needs to be informed and the member not able to attend needs to find their replacement.

Nomination and approval of Chair for RSA 126-A:15-a Subcommittee on Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related Dementia

- Senator Avard was unanimously selected as the chair of the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related Dementia committee.
- The Honorable Jeff Salloway was appointed as an adjunct member.

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Assistant Commissioner Merissa Henn

Morissa Henn presented an update on the Youth Development Center

- An architect has been selected to develop the plans for the new center which will be located on the same campus as the Hampstead Hospital
- The next Phase – a schematic design
- Bidding will start as the plans are completed with contractor selection to happen by Fall of 2024.
- Build is expected to take 18 months.
- YDC Impact Commission has been established to mitigate issues.
    - There will be a subcommittee on Safety
    - Have not seen runways
    - Leadership change to handle the new safety procedures

Media Power Youth Organization and Mission Overview – Heather Invart, Executive Director of Media Power Youth and Jenny O'Higgins, Senior Policy Analysis

- Media Power Youth based on Youth Programs, Family Education and Curricula.
- Focus on building critical-thinking skills needed to make healthy decisions in a cyber world with many different media messages and messages influencing youth using thoughts, feelings, behaviors and not so much on fact.
- Mental Health impact from social media which defines social infrastructure.
- Working to reach parents and their families through media workshops.

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DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report, Sandy Feroz, Director

- Presented data in the form of three pie charts.
- The biggest challenge is recruiting staff.
- Currently they are working on finding candidates that are close and train them the rest of the way.

2023 New Hampshire Health Care Quality and Patient Safety Commission Annual Report – Rori Dawes-Dyment, Director, Kris Hering, Vice President Quality Improvement

- In 2019 this became a permanent commission
- They meet 5 times a year.
- They are seeing an increase in workplace violence.
- They plan on returning to in-person meetings.
- Guiding principles:
    - Promote heigh reliability organizations.
    - Establish "just cultures without organizations.
    - Adopt evidence- based best practices to improve outcomes.
    - Ensure health equity, diversity and inclusion.

Adverse Events Annual Report – Doreen Shockley, Manager and Lizette Wee Sit, Supervisor

- Saw an increase in serious reportable events.
- More falls and more pressure injuries as a result of staffing challenges.
- Falls (34%), Pressure Injuries (35%) and Surgical Events (12%) make up 81% of the reported events.

HB 2, Chapter 79:429, II, Laws of 2023, prior review by Health and Human Services Oversight Committee for funding the New Hampshire Kidney Cancer Incidence Phase 3 Feasibility Study for the town of Merrimack, Whitney Hammond, Administrator and Michele Roberge, Bureau Administrator

- Current law requires $500,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 2025, to enter into a contract with an academic or research organization to complete the recommended Phase 3 feasibility study.
- There is no grant money or other state money set aside for this study.
- The purpose for the study is to see if a larger, more complex, more expensive epidemiological study will show whether the increased rates of cancer are related to a common cause.
- The selected academic or research organization will follow the steps outlined in the NH Cancer Cluster Concern Investigation Protocol.
- If cancer rates can be traced back to a common cause with a high degree of certainty, the organization will move on to a Phase 4 Epidemiological Study

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 am

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