Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, May 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:04 am.

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

Excused: Rep. MacDonald, Sen. Rosenwald

Absent: Sen. Avard

Minutes from April 26, 2024 approved as amended (Rep. "MacDonald" name spelling correction)

Next meeting June 28, 2024 at 10:00 am

The meeting time of last Friday at 10:00 am for future meetings was discussed. Stay tuned for future decisions.

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Lori A. Weaver

Commissioner Lori Weaver gave an overview of "Mission Zero" progress report

- Six areas covered – Expansion of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), Community-Based Crisis Stabilizations Centers, Care Traffic Control, Expansions in Designated Receiving Facility (DFR) Beds, Expansion in Care in Step-Down and Less Restrictive Settings and Landlord Incentives to Expand Places to Remain Stably Housed.
- Rep Weber asked about length of stays and the Commissioner said not known presently
- Rep Edwards as how this will affect next year's budget. Commissioner Weaver DHHS is not looking to ask for more money as most of the programs are Federally funded
- Rep Pearson asked about communication between citizens, town officials and the DHHS concerning the YDC and Homestead. The Commissioner responded by saying the DHHS is looking for the opportunity to communicate with all parties.

DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report – Melissa A. Hardy, Division Director, Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS), Jessica D. Gorton, Director, Bureau of Developmental Services, DLTSS, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

- Making gains with data breech
  - June 28th – Release and authorization for services
- BDS funded 40 total new individuals through DD waivers
  - 23 are funded and 17 will be in FY24 Q2
  - IT improvements being made to improve data reported
- Struggling with workforce and vendors with Medicaid coverage
- There are 27 workforce grants - $16 million issued and $6.5 million on the horizon to help with recruiting and retention
- Rep Merchant asked how many had applied and this number was not known. Also asked, how many served, and this number is approximately 4,500

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Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report – Adam Birch, Administration, Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

- Adam Birch presented the 2023 Annual report in place of Michael Holt
- Applying for two funding sources to help recoup lost grants for PDMP lost September 2023
    - Overdose Data to Action
    - Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- Rep Merchant asked how we can maintain privacy – make sure other states have authorized users
- Rep Murphy asked if data gateway allows access by proxy - EDIC is a compatible with Gateway; Dartmouth is not a gateway yet – gateway is designed to have physician at the time of prescription
- Rep Merchant asked about data from pharmacies – core AWARxE software is where the data resides

2022 New Hampshire Suicide Prevention Report – Amy Cook, Suicide Prevention Project Manager, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) – New Hampshire. Jenny O'Higgins and Katherin Cox

- Rep Merchant asked why there was a big gap between genders successfully committing suicide where males are 3x more likely to follow through even though twice as many females attempt suicide. Males are more determined to carry out the act.
- Several Reps asked about isolation and the role social media play on suicides. It is recognized this is a big problem for many youths along with Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).
- The report is mainly for awareness and recognized culture needs to be redefined to address the problems

HB 2 Chapter 79:532 Laws of 2023, Public Awareness Campaign on Brain Health, Alzheimer's Disease, and Related Dementias Quarterly Report – Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services; and Jessica Eskeland, Senior Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter. (11:30 a.m. – 20 minutes)

- Reviewed goals
    - Educate the public on brain aging to help reduce dementia and Alzheimer's
    - Increase dementia screening
    - Encourage providers to talk to patients about early screening
    - Create a general awareness and reduce stigma
- Rep Merchant asked why there is no reference to pharmacies in their report – will include in future reports
- Rep Pearson mentioned survey results being conducted will help with future legislation
- Rep Edwards ask about trends to unify the departments. We are partnering and not combining

Meeting Adjourned at 11:54 am

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