Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, June 28, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:07 am.

Present: Rep. Pearson, Rep. King, Rep. Merchant,

Absent: Sen. Avard

Excused Absent: Rep. Edwards, Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Weber, Sen. Gray, and Sen. Rosenwald.

Minutes from May 24, 2024 were not discussed since there wasn't a quorum

Next meeting: September 27, 2024

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Associate Commissioner Patricia Tilley

Patricia Tilley discussed System of Care (SOC) 2.0 (NH Children Behavioral Health System of Care)

- Rep Pearson asked for a breakdown of the different levels – Ms. Tilley agreed to send
- Rep Merchant asked about behavioral vs mental health and what are we driving to model behavior for younger kids
    - Ms. Tilley – wrap around services and to reduce trauma
- Rep Pearson asked about how legislation could help and how we can help in general
    - More active volunteering
    - Community Centers
    - Talk it up with our friends

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Advisory Council on Child Care Annual Report – Marianne Barter, Chair, New Hampshire Child Care Advisory Council, and Jessie L. Davis, Administrator, Bureau of Child Development and Head Start Collaboration, Division of Economic Stability, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Marianne Barter and Jesse Davis talked through the 2023-2024 NH Child Care Advisory Council Annual Report

- The purpose of the council is to:
    - Develop quality and affordable childcare
    - Provide a forum for groups concerned with childcare
    - Advise the DHHS commissioner on policies and legislation regarding childcare
    - Communicate with the governor and the Education commissioner on childhood initiatives
    - Advise Bureau of Child Development Bureau and Head Start Collaborative priorities
- What has been discovered through their research
    - Childcare workers wage is on average $15.62 per hour
    - 15,500 MH residents are not working each month because they lack childcare
    - Higher education opportunities led to 500 new people taking early childhood education classes
    - They are reaching out to the business community to help
- Rep Merchant asked about the business community and their commitment
    - Business round table

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- Main focus is on wages

New England College (NEC) Nursing Program – Emily Higgins

Emily Higgins reported on the initiative to develop more nurses to fill vacant positions

- Background:
  - Critical shortage further affected by the pandemic
  - New England College (NEC) developed a 3-year Bachelor of Science (BSN) program
  - Concord hospital was NEC's inaugural partner
  - Because of retirements – finding it hard to find qualified instructors
- Starting a program to allow Licensed Nursing Assistant (LNA) to spend 30% of their training in a clinical setting to help earn money and offset their educational costs
  - Provide hospitals with LNA coverage year round
  - Immerse in one hospital for 3 years
- New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI) has a similar program
- Rep Merchant asked why stop at LNA – can this be done be stepped up to RN?
  - How can we blend LPN and Intern
  - Hospital LNA are only in outpatient
- Rep Merchant asked how the program could be helped through legislation?
  - Private non-profit scholarship
  - Nurse camp – 2 weeks – 1st course credit
  - Marketing

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Meeting Adjourned at 11:44 am