Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, September 27, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

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

Excused: Rep. Murphy, Sen. Rosenwald

Absent: Sen. Avard, Rep. Weber

Minutes from June 28, 2024 and May 25, 2024 were both approved as written

Next meeting October 25, 2024

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Lori A. Weaver

Discussed DHHS Roadmap

- 6 Initiatives
    1. Mission Zero
    2. Reduce health impacts from environmental threats
    3. Continue federal funding to local education agencies
    4. Support successful transitions for individuals after incarceration
    5. Improver access to behavioral health services to meet the needs of NH children and families
    6. Healthy mothers, healthy babies
- Rep Edwards – wrap up May 2024 and received extension
  Commissioner Weaver – currently trending correctly
    - Average emergency waiting is 10 – was 50-60 patients
    - Some days hit 0 (Zero)
- Rep Merchant – How is DHHS addressing heavy metals at local transfer stations
  Commissioner Weaver – Reaching out to the Public Health Director
- Rep Merchant – can you give an update on clinics in schools program
  Commissioner Weaver – reports of scope creep – a report was requested and Rep Pearson will work with John Williams to schedule in either October or November

Youth Development Center (YDC)

- Rep Edwards - What happens when the YDC goes over capacity
    - Can we get a report

  Commissioner Weaver – we are actively working with youth before the need to be placed in the center and we are seeing a reduction
- Rep Edwards – What is meant by internal and external customers
  Commissioner Weaver – Internal is staff – currently 43 agencies and External is everyone else
- Rep MacDonald – What is the current case load
  Commissioner Weaver – several hundred – 4 assessments 12 within bounds – the Commissioner will follow up
- Rep Merchant – How does the competitive job market affect how the agency gets the job done and how can legislation help.

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Commissioner Weaver – our agency has been reduced from 4,700 positions to 3,000 – we are the most lean among other states. It requires intense work with pay that does not measure up to other jobs in the market

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) State Plan Review/Update – Karen Hebert

Karen Hebert presented her report on the Community Services Block Grant – electronic file attached

- Community Action Programs – working through 5 such programs to:
  - Assist low-income families and individuals. Also addressing youth needs through youth development programs
  - Grantees include - LIHEAP, Head Start, Weatherization, WIOA, and TANF work programs
- Particulars are listed in the attached document sent by Karen Hebert

2024 New Hampshire Health Care Quality and Patient Safety Commission Annual Report – Rori Dawes-Dyment, Director, Center for Quality & Patient Safety, Southern NH Healthcare, Chair, and Kris Hering, Vice President Quality Improvement with the Foundation for Healthy Communities, Administrator.

The commission returned to meeting in person – 35-40 members attending

- Rep Merchant – how do we measure success
  Rori Dawes – Collecting data (i.e. language) where disparities are seen as a work in progress
- Rep Merchant – what are your thoughts on harm reduction
  Kris Hering – Harm reduction is not a focal point at this time

Adverse Events Annual Report – Doreen Shockley, Manager, and Lizette Wee Sit, Supervisor, Health Facilities Administration, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

- Rep Pearson – Inverse events decreased as contracting tents increased – seen to be causative
- Rep MacDonald – What are pressure injuries – bed sores, etc

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Meeting ended at 11:40