Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Draft Minutes
Friday, October 25th, 2024 @ 10 am LOB RM 2025-207

Meeting called to order at 10:05 am.

Present: Rep. Pearson, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Merchant, Rep. Weber, Sen. Rosenwald

Excused: Rep. King, Rep. MacDonald, Sen. Avard, Sen. Gray

Minutes from the September 27th were approved as written. Sen. Rosenwald abstained.

Next meeting: November 22, 2024

Emerging Medical Technologies Study annual report was given by Rep. Edwards.

-Rep. Edwards was elected as Chairman. Members agreed that the committee has value. The next meeting is in February. Speakers for the next meeting are being sought at this time. The charge and study purpose of the committee will likely be a topic for future legislation.

DHHS Commissioners Update given by Ellen M. Lapointe, CEO of NH Hospital.

-An 8 page handout was handed out dealing with the new High Security Unit at NHH.
-The choice of High Security Unit vs. Forensic Hospital was noted. It was felt that High Security was a more accurate description of the units intent.
-24 new beds will be added. Sixty (60) beds were asked for but Ms. Lapointe feels that NH will be able to handle the clinical load in NH with 24 beds added.
-The project is on budget and projected completion will be in 2 years
-The three (3) types of patients that the unit will serve was noted.
-The unit is physically attached to the NHH and the current design will allow additional units to be added horizontally.
-The unit will be accredited by the Joint Commission as is NHH.
-Pictures of progress were noted in the handout.

The Medicaid Enhancement for Children and Pregnant Quarterly report was presented by Henry D. Lipman, Medicaid Director, Division of Medicaid Services, NH DHHS

-Mr. Lipman sent out an electronic report.
-Year to date, 381 women have taken advantage of the plan.
-Home health benefits were without any changes

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-A suggestion was made that the reporting of this program could be done adequately annually vs. quarterly. It was noted that this report would be best given 6 months after the fiscal year is closed.

The Medicaid Program/Medicaid Dental and Medical Expansion Updates were given by Henry D. Lipman, Medical Director and by Sarah Finne, Medicaid Dental Director.

-There are over 16,000 unique members to date and the number grows every month.
-Pregnant women now get additional cleanings for oral health. The program is value based and preventive oriented.
-There is between 30 and 40 quality measures now being measured.
-The NH program is 4th nationally in size of the program and in the top quartile with regard to reimbursement in the US.
-The greatest disincentive to grow and join the program is workforce.
-Initially, visits were of the more acute and urgent type. With an additional Dental Hygienist now available for most visits the visits are now becoming more focused on hygiene and preventative care.
-"no-shows" are not a frequently heard of topic or complaint from providers.
-The Center for Digital Government gave the NH program an A- grade for implementation of the benefit.
-Notable, the next President of the ADA (American Dental Association) will be an oral surgeon from Concord, Dr. Richard Rosato.
-Medical Director Lipman noted that the Program will NOT be asking for additional funding from the NH Legislature at this time as the Centene Settlement Funds will continue to cover the non-federal share of the Adult Dental Program through the end of SFY2027.

The Annual Report on Implementation of the NH 10-year Mental Health Plan was given by Katja S. Fox, Director, and Julianne Carbin, Deputy Director, Division of Behavioral Health, NH DHHS.

-A handout listing the key accomplishments of the 12 goals set forth by DHHS was handed out.
-The Mental Health Plan is now at the half-way point of its implementation.
-Though much has been accomplished, it is recognized that it is still a work in progress.
-Several key initiatives have been implemented including the creation of Mission Zero, the launch of the Children's Behavioral Health Resource Center, increased funding for the Community Mental Health Centers and Federal approval for the Community Re-Entry program.
-A list of the State's focus in the coming years was noted in Commissioner Lori Weaver's message to the committee.

The meeting ended at 11:45 am.

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