Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes
Friday, November 22, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:06 am.

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

Excused: Sen. Rosenwald

Absent: Rep. Murphy, Sen. Avard

Minutes from October 25, 2024 were approved as written

Next meeting January 24, 2025

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Commissioner Lori A. Weaver

The Commissioner's report was broken up into three parts. The overall introduction was made by Morissa Henn

- Promoting Thriving Communities – presented by Chris Santaniello and Wendy Aultman
  - Rep Weber – why does it take so long to process waivers
    - Henry Lipman – higher priorities took precedence
- Medicaid Adult and Youth Reentry – presented by ? Landry and Henry Lipman
  - Rep Pearson - What is the current window? – 30 days – would like to see this moved to 45 days
  - Rep Edwards – General funds are less than we spend today – Should there be a net reduction in unfunded mandate?
- Report on HB 49 – presented by Morissa Henn
  - Progress on the replacement of the juvenile treatment facility
  - Serving in communities and not in institutional settings

HB 2 Chapter 79:399 Laws of 2023 Redundancy Elimination Report3 – Commissioner David J. Bettencourt, New Hampshire Insurance Department, or designee, and Kirk Williamson, Executive Director, New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

- Rep Edwards – redundancies have been found – some are significant
- Rep Merchant – there is a benefit to a centralized database
- General comments
  - Data needs to be relevant
  - Raw data or manipulated data – legislators need to give direction
  - Drug manufacturer price reporting – responsible to report out to the Board of Pharmacy

SB 455, Chapter 356 Laws of 2024, Medicaid Reimbursement Rates for Prosthetic and Orthotic Devices Update/Report - Henry D. Lipman, FACHE, Medicaid Director, Division of Medicaid Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

- Henry Lipman presented a report with Medicaid reimbursement rates
- Rep Edwards asked who asked for this report and Mr. Lipman did not know

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HB 2 Chapter 79:532 Laws of 2023, Public Awareness Campaign on Brain Health, Alzheimer's Disease, and Related Dementias Quarterly/Final Report – Wendi Aultman, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Adult and Aging Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and Jenny Horgan, Senior Public Policy Manager, Alzheimer's Association, MA/NH Chapter.

- Wendy Aultman reported on her handout:
  - Align one entity rather than several departments
  - Wendy Aultman's department will remain the overseeing department
- Rep Edwards – is this a one-time payment? $500k from the General fund per HB2.

DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report4 – Jessica D. Gorton, Director, DLTSS-Bureau of Developmental Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

- Jessica Gorton reported on her report to the committee
- Manual service started July 1st
- Rep Edwards complimented the department on their work and added "the report needs a point of contact".
- Struggling with resources
  - Grants looking for $15M and $7M
- Rep Weber – how can we reduce the number of people delayed for "no current Medicaid open"
  - Answer – it depends, and we are reviewing access and how to help

SB 177 (2019) Report Update regarding the Use of Restraint and the Use of Different Modes of Transportation of Patients to New Hampshire Hospital or other Designated Receiving Facilities – Cynthia F. Babonis, LICSW, Director of Social Work, New Hampshire Hospital, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and Caroline Lavoie, MS, Vice President, Data Analytics, New Hampshire Hospital Association.

- Cynthia Babonis and Caroline Lavoie presented their report to the committee
  - Rep MacDonald – there are fewer DRFs available in the north country
  - State is planning 5 more Designated Receiving Facilities in the next 12 months

New Hampshire State Commission on Aging Annual Report - Susan Ruka, RN, PhD, Commission Chair, and Rebecca Sky, MPH, Executive Director, New Hampshire State Commission on Aging.

- General comment – we need to approach the governor for an executive order to help grow caregivers
  - It is estimated that NH will need an additional 24,000 direct care workers
- Rep Merchant – what can we do to help the elderly stay in their homes?

Meeting ended at 11:40 am

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