

Health and Human Services Oversight Committee

Minutes

Friday, February 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207

Meeting called to order at 10:04 pm.

Present: Rep. Pearson, Rep. King, Rep. Merchant, Rep. Weber, Rep. Murphy, Rep. MacDonald, Rep. Edwards,

Absent: Sen. Gray, Sen. Rosenwald, Sen. Avard

Minutes from January 24, 2024 were approved as presented

Next meeting April 26, 2024 at 10:00 am

DHHS Commissioner's Update – Deputy Commissioner Morissa S. Henn (10:10 a.m. – 20 minutes)

- Acute Services – more information on adult emergency department
 - Waiting for bed availability
 - Working on the need per the 2019 10-year plan
 - Met with stakeholders – refer to the handout
- Discussed Mission Zero Priorities
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)
 - Community-Based Crisis Stabilization Centers
 - Care Traffic Control
 - Designated Receiving Facility (DFRs)
 - Expansions in Care in Step Down and Less Restrictive Settings – Back Door Beds
 - Morissa to report back to the committee on back door beds
 - Landlord Incentives
- Will the Court Compliance Date of May 2024 be met – hard to say; working hard to meet that date

Medicaid Program/Medicaid Adult Dental and Medicaid Expansion Updates - Henry D. Lipman, FACHE, Medicaid Director, Sarah A. Finne, DMD, MPH, Medicaid Dental Director, Division of Medicaid Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. (10:30 a.m. – 20 minutes)

Sarah reported out on the handout:

- Consistent growth
- Continually looking for more providers
- Windsor, VT has more providers than Cheshire, NH – where are these providers
 - Sarah to report back to the committee
- Mobile Dental Clinics – well received
- Sarah to report on no shows – currently not being tracked
- Manage by Exception
 - Geographic concerns
 - No orthodontics except for dentures
 - Sarah to update the chart

Henry Lipman reported on Medical Expansion Financials – Medicaid Expansion DD and ABD Waitlist Quarterly Report – Associate Commissioner Chris Santaniello, Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS), and Jessica D. Gorton, Director, DLTSS-Bureau of Developmental Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. (10:50 a.m. – 20 minutes)

Jessica Gorton explained presented the quarterly report (Fiscal Year 2024 Quarter 1):

- NH LEADS Data system ceased at the end of 2023
- NH Easy started July 1, 2023, and has since expanded
- Developmental Disabilities waiver, Home Supports waiver and Acquired Brain Disorder waivers were all fully funded in Q1.
- Service coordination is qualified, but not receiving funds at this time of this report

HB 2, Chapter 79:547 Laws of 2024, Developmental Services Pilot Program Semi-annual Report – Associate Commissioner Chris Santaniello, Division of Long Term Supports and Services (DLTSS), and Jessica D. Gorton, Director, DLTSS-Bureau of Developmental Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. (11:10 a.m. – 20 minutes)

The semi-annual report was presented to the committee:

- 12 individuals applied for services in the pilot program
 - 6 were approved and granted service
 - It was mentioned the cost presented, \$545,903 was a lot of money and Rep Edwards asked for a breakdown
 - 5 individuals were provided “Enhanced Family Care”
 - 1 was denied, but funding from another source was available

SB 118 (2019) Child Fatality Review Committee Annual Report – Marc Clement, PhD, Colby Sawyer College, Co-Chair, New Hampshire Child Fatality Review Committee, and Rhonda N. Siegel, MEd, Section Administrator, Maternal and Child Health, Bureau of Family Health and Nutrition, Division of Public Health Services, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. (11:30 a.m. – 20 minutes)

Rhonda Siegel presented the annual (2023) report from the Child Facility Review Committee:

- The purpose of this committee is to look at data and collective experiences to help answer how these deaths may have been avoided.
- Rep Merchant asked about any correlation between lack of facilities and child fatalities – No data currently available and we hope to gather this over the next year
- The committee looks at deaths resulting from motor vehicles, poisoning/overdose, drowning, fire, falls and suffocation
- The report also looked at 191 infant (less than a year old) deaths in NH.
 - Ms. Siegel will look into the particulars associated with “Other Medical Causes” and “Unranked” accounting for 75 of the 191 infant deaths.
 - Deaths were primarily ruled “natural”

Meeting Adjourned at 12:03pm