



STATE OF CONNECTICUT Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services



Legislative Update #20

May 21, 2015

Budget

The negotiations between the legislative leadership, OPM and the Governor's office are continuing but there is no sign of an agreement as of this update. Hopefully, there will be an agreement in place before midnight of June 3rd which is when the session ends. If no agreement is reached, we can assume the legislature will call themselves into Special Session to get a budget agreement before June 30th, which is the end of the fiscal year. We will keep you apprised of any budget news as it becomes available.

Group Home Issues

As a result of the lobbying efforts from the advocacy community, it looks like the legislature will not take away our statutory zoning protections for group homes. **HB 6483 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GROUP HOME DISTRIBUTION** passed in the House and is on the Senate Calendar awaiting further action. The task force is limited in scope but advocates may want contact legislators who have appointment authority to the task force to ensure there is representation from the mental health community.

Other areas of interest

Many bills of interest to the behavioral health community are moving along in the process. We continue to monitor the progress of approximately 150 bills. At this time, we are looking to amend bills on the floor of the House and Senate to make sure the behavioral health voice is represented. Some bills that have moved from one Chamber to the next are listed below. Many of them were amended to include DMHAS in the task force work or to make sure that programs are only expanded if there is new money available. If you look up these bills on line you can read the amended language to get a better idea of legislative intent.

HB 6283 AN ACT REGULATING ELECTRONIC NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS.

HB 6708 AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION STATUTES.

HB 6976 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS.

SB 1015 AN ACT CONCERNING PROGRAMS FOR VETERANS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

SB 1064 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PALLIATIVE USE OF MARIJUANA.

SB 906 AN ACT CREATING THE INCARCERATED VETERANS REINTEGRATION COUNCIL.

SB 18 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HOARDING.

Accessing Information via the Connecticut General Assembly Web Page:

If you wish to get the details/status on a bill, read the text of a bill, or check on committee agendas or upcoming events in the Bulletin, log onto the Connecticut General Assembly web page at: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>

The CGA schedule of events can be accessed on that same page by scrolling down and clicking on the appropriate item.