Legislative Briefing

OHA Health Policy Action

Your guide to proposed health legislation, what we think about it, and what we're doing about it.

March 2013

H.B. No. 5567; *An Act Concerning Children's Mental Health*

What is this bill about?

H.B. 5567 will develop and implement a comprehensive children's mental health plan allowing for the incorporation of social and emotional development standards in the elementary and high school educational guidelines and requiring the appropriate state agencies to provide short-term and long-term recommendations regarding mental health prevention, early intervention and treatment services for children eighteen years old or younger.

What are the implications of this bill for healthcare consumer advocacy?

OHA has convening authority under our statute to bring all stakeholders together on mental health issues, and the authority to facilitate public comment on state and federal laws and monitor implementation of those laws. OHA will exercise authority within the next couple months, in partnership with the Office of the Child Advocate.

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. This legislation will establish a comprehensive children's mental health plan to identify and manage mental health issues in children eighteen years old or less.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare, evidence-based improvements to our healthcare system, and innovation to maximization healthcare system value.

Please refer all media, agency, and legislator inquiries to Vicki Veltri

OHA represents the collective voice of 3.5 million healthcare consumers. For our state to be competitive, our people must be healthy. Our mission is to • assure managed care consumers have access to medically necessary healthcare • educate consumers about their rights and responsibilities under health insurance plans • inform legislators of problems consumers face in accessing care and propose solutions to those problems.