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

S.B. No. 1091; AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE OF AND PROGRAM ENROLLMENT OPTIONS FOR TREATMENT THAT IS ORDERED BY A COURT FOR MENTAL DISORDERS.

What is this bill about?

S.B. 1091 will establish a task force to study health insurance coverage of and program enrollment options for treatment that is ordered by a court for mental disorders. This legislation addresses a significant problem surrounding court ordered treatment, which a covered service under a member's commercial plan is denied solely because it was court ordered, irrespective of any subsequent clinical affirmation. This seems inconsistent with public policy as well as the consumer's needs since, by the time a person's underlying mental illness has progressed to the point that the criminal justice system becomes involved, they clearly are in need of treatment.

Given the comprehensive nature of the proposed task force to study Connecticut's mental health system, it seems likely that the concerns implicated in SB 1091 would be addressed in that forum.

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

Persons with mental illness that have entered the criminal justice system will be able to receive court mandated treatment for mental disorders, that are clearly needed.

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. This legislation will provide coverage for court mandated mental health treatment for persons in need.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare, evidence-based improvements to our healthcare system, and consumer maximization of value for their health insurance premiums.

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.