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. 6608; An Act Concerning An Integrated System Of Care

What is this bill about?

H.B. 6608 will require that The Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council, the Departments of Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families and Education, to develop recommendations for an integrated system of care addressing the social, emotional, psychological, psychiatric and behavioral health services needs of state residents.

This study will include a projection of the need for social, emotional, psychological, psychiatric and behavioral health services for children and adults; an inventory of existing services and inpatient psychiatric beds available compared to the projected need in the coming year; an analysis of barriers to care; and a comparison of services available in the private sector to those available to citizens receiving public assistance.

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

Our office has long been aware of the gross disparity in treatment of mental and substance use disorders. OHA anticipates collaborating and contributing in whatever way necessary to assist with the ultimate work of the task force, consistent with our mission.

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

Talking Points

1. OHA is aware of this proposed legislation and submitted written public testimony **in support** of this bill.
2. This bill will develop recommendations for an integrated system of care addressing social, emotional, psychological, psychiatric and behavioral health service needs.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of evidence-based improvements and innovation to maximize our healthcare system.

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.