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. 972; *An Act Concerning Children and Behavioral Health*

What is this bill about?

S.B. 972 will require the joint standing committee to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of the current behavioral health support system available to children throughout the state. The committee will report the findings of the study to the General Assembly on or before February 1, 2014.

Recent events have unfortunately thrown into sharp relief the importance of an adequate behavioral health system in Connecticut and we know that additional legislation will be considered by the legislature addressing these issues.

This legislation can help Connecticut develop an innovative, clinically appropriate and cost effective behavioral health system for its citizens.

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

OHA has been and remains actively dedicated to improving consumer access to appropriate behavioral health services. Our office has been engaged in this discussion for years and is cognizant of the fact that this discussion will continue for some time to come.

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 legislation will require the joint standing committee to evaluate the current behavioral health support system available to children in the state.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare, evidence-based improvements to our healthcare system, and innovation to maximize healthcare system value.

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.