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. 650; *An Act Creating a Parents' Support Hot line for Parents of Children Exhibiting Mental or Behavioral Health Issues*

What is this bill about?

S.B. 650 will develop a pilot program for a one-stop support mechanism for parents whose children are exhibiting behavioral health issues, allowing the parents to receive both emotional support and education regarding their child's behavioral health.

The hot line will also provide emergency services, including, but not limited to, mobile response, psychiatric assessment, medical consultation and substance abuse screening; provide crisis response and crisis stabilization services; and provide counseling and referral services to any parent, guardian or immediate family member of a child exhibiting signs of mental or behavioral health issues.

Though we have available crises services for intervention such as emergency mobile psychiatric services, this bill would provide parents the opportunity for coaching, education and intervention at all times, even when there is no crisis. In healthcare generally, we have similar resources available.

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

Our office advocates for the education and support of parents whose children are suffering from mental or behavioral health issues.

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 create a hot line for parents whose children are exhibiting behavioral or mental health issues.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles of access to quality healthcare and evidence-based improvements to our healthcare systems.

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.