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.5727; *An Act Concerning The Time For Treatment When A Child Is Admitted To Hospital For Diagnosis Or Treatment Of A Mental Disorder*

What is this bill about?

H.B. 5272 will require a hospital to notify a parent or guardian of a child's admission to the hospital without the parent's consent for diagnosis or treatment of a mental disorder not later than twenty-four hours after the child's admission.

We recognize the bill is limited and is important to be cognizant of the additional privacy protections available to children 16 years and older, whereby they must specifically authorize the release of any protected health information, which an admission would be considered.

However, involving parents in the treatment at an early stage may offer additional important information that can aid in developing a comprehensive treatment plan, which may enhance these children's outcomes.

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

By reducing the required timeframe for parental notification from five days to one, these children can receive the emotional support of their families, as appropriate, in a more timely manner.

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 represents an important step in ensuring that children are treated appropriately and receive necessary support from their families with respect to mental health services.
3. OHA supports this legislation based on the principles that it promotes for health and safety of Connecticut's Children.

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.