



TO: Georgia Association of Community Service Boards
FROM: Brock Clay GPA
DATE: January 20, 2012
SUBJECT: Weekly Legislative Report

CALENDAR

The General Assembly was adjourned for budget hearings this week, but will return January 23 – 26 for legislative days 6-9.

Public Hearing

The public hearing on the NOW and COMP Medicaid waivers will take place on January 26, 2012, 1:00 p.m., at the Department of Community Health, 2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303, in the 5th Floor Board Room.

Legislative Meetings

The House Health Appropriations Subcommittee has a hearing scheduled for Monday, January 23 from 3:00p.m. – 5:00p.m. in room 606 CLOB.

The subcommittee will hear presentations from DCH, the Dept. of Public Health, and their respective attached agencies.

The Senate Health & Human Services Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 25 at 1:00p.m. in room 450 CAP.

BUDGET

The Joint House-Senate Appropriations Committees met for departmental budget hearings this entire week. The Department of Community Health (DCH) presented their budget on Thursday, January 19. Commissioner David Cook gave a well received presentation to the joint hearing. There were few questions asked about Medicaid and SHBP, and none of the questions asked were related to the redesign of either program. Most of the SHBP questions related to specific complaints SHBP members had about notices and coverages of the plan.

At the following link is a copy of Commissioner Cook's presentation from the joint hearing:

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/8/33/180741920January_19_DCH%20Pres_to_Joint_Approp.pdf

DBHDD also presented on Thursday and Commissioner Shelp spent most of the presentation discussing new programs and partnerships that the department is engaged in (such as partnerships with universities).

Commissioner Shelp was asked several questions after his presentation, and they included questions on the proposed new rates for the NOW and COMP Medicaid waivers. Commissioner Shelp did state that the study prepared by Burns and Associates was required, but that rate changes were not. Commissioner Shelp also stated, in his opinion, that the public notice issued by DCH was to gain public input, and that he would sit down with Commissioner Cook after the public comment period was over to discuss the proposed rates and whether to implement them or suggest a new set of rates (depending on the feedback received). Commissioner Shelp stated that his opinion was the public notice issued was not binding and did not mean the proposed rates would go into effect.

At the following link is a copy of Commissioner Shelp's presentation from the joint hearing:

<http://dbhdd.org/files/FY12A%20&%20FY13%20Joint%20Appropriations%20Committee%20-%20Final.pdf>

Budget Documents

At the following link is a copy of the House Budget Office's Tracking Sheet for the FY 12 Amended and the FY 13 Budgets. This tracking sheet provides a simpler format of the budget, especially as changes are made by legislature:

[FY 12 Amended Budget Tracking Sheet](#)

[FY 12 Budget Tracking Sheet](#)

MEDICAID

The Navigant Consulting report due from the Medicaid Redesign study was released at the end of this week. Below are 5 links, with the first being the report on the study and executive summary, and the rest are appendices to the report.

We will begin reviewing the report this weekend and will provide a further update later on:

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/1/180740547MASTER_Chapter_1-5_and_Exec_Summary.pdf

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/2/180740560Navigant_Final_Report_to_GA_Appendices_A_to_H_1-17-12.pdf

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/30/180743197Navigant_Final_Report_to_GA_Appendices_I_and_J.pdf

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/31/180744319Navigant_Final_Report_to_GA_Appendix_K.pdf

http://dch.georgia.gov/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/29/3/180740570Navigant_Final_Report_to_GA_Appendices_L_to_R.pdf

MEETINGS HELD THIS WEEK

This week Robyn Garrett-Gunnoe, Dr. Derril Gay, Jason Bearden, Tod Citron, and Josh Mackey met with a number of legislators to discuss the NOW and COMP waivers proposed rates and the TANF funding cuts. The group met with Rep. Katie Dempsey (R-Rome) and her House Budget Office staff, Senator Renee Unterman (R-Buford), Rep. Keith Heard (D-Athens), and Rep. Ed Setzler (R-Acworth).

Overall, each meeting was very successful in educating the legislators on these issues, as well as gaining their insights and input as these issues develop.

On Friday, Dr. Derril Gay and Josh Mackey attended a working group reviewing changes to **HB 231** (mental health transports). Much progress was made at this meeting, including reviewing the definitions provided in the bill, as well as ensuring participation in the bill's aim was voluntary on the part of facilities. There are some issues to be worked out in regards to including the responsibilities of DBHDD and sheriffs into code, but the work will continue on the bill.

Dr. Gay and Josh Mackey will continue to be involved in the working group on this legislation.

<http://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/en-US/Display/20112012/HB/231>