

Senate Public Health, Welfare & Safety Committee

EXHIBIT No. 5

HB 422

Date 3/16/2015Improved Youth Outcomes
Children's Mental Health Pilot ProjectBill No. HB 422

Testimony

Legacy Provider Group – Jani McCall

March 16, 2015

- HB 422 establishes an “Improved Youth Outcomes” Pilot Project in the Children’s Mental Health Bureau.
- The history for this bill goes back to 2011 when the original proposal was vetted in the Interim Select Committee on Efficiencies in Government (SCEG) and passed unanimously as a Committee Bill. It passed the 2013 Legislature by 94% but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor.
- HB 422 was amended in the House to become a legislative study under the Interim Child Family Health and Human Services Legislative Committee.
- HB 422 requires the Interim CFHHS Legislative Committee to make recommendations for a pilot project to identify, track, collect and analyze evidence based practices and outcomes for youth and to explore performance-based principles and options for paying providers of children’s mental health services according to performance-based principles.
- The Improved Youth Outcomes Pilot Project is collaborative and will actively engage the Montana Legislature, DPHHS, providers and families and advocates.
- The Interim Committee will solicit information, research and recommendations from interested parties including DPHHS, providers, organizations presenting the interests of children with serious emotional disturbance and family members.
- Youth eligible for the pilot project must be enrolled in Medicaid, Healthy Montana Kids and/or in foster care under the supervision of the State.
- Providers must be licensed mental health centers, a child placing agency or a psychiatric residential treatment facility.
- The Pilot Project may be limited in scope to a specific number of youth and geographic region.
- The Interim Committee is charged with developing legislation for the 2017 Session, to approve the children’s mental health for a 2 year an Improved Youth Outcomes model with implementation in July 2017.
- Based on the results of the pilot, legislation will be developed for the 2019 Legislature for further implementation of Evidence Based Practices and Outcomes for other children’s mental health services and whether it will be done at once or phased in over time.

- There are several states that are engaged in evidence based practices in children’s mental health services and tying them to performance based reimbursement principles. Some the states include Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma Oregon, Pennsylvania and Washington.
- There are several reasons why this bill is important to support:
 - The costs of human services makes up a large portion of our state budget
 - New approaches to identifying and implementing evidence-based practices and tracking outcomes, funding for these services may result in lower costs and better outcomes over time
 - Research in other states indicates that linking provider payments to desired outcomes and quality improvements results in improved access to care, better care integration and coordination, family-focused planning, earlier and less restrictive interventions and reduced numbers of treatment days.
 - The Affordable Care Act (ACA) and federal budget deficits are driving changes in government spending in health care and human services.
 - The Center for Medicaid and Medicare services (CMS) is requiring effective and collaborative treatment and “evidence based practices” in behavioral health.
- The objectives of enhanced payment models are to link provider reimbursement to desired outcomes and quality improvements by improving access to care, care integration and coordination, individual planning and a focus on recovery and permanency for children.
- The Improved Youth Outcomes Pilot Project will improve quality of care and outcomes for high risk youth and address the costs of providing these services.
- Pay for performance principles such as financial incentives allows providers to invest in critical components such as improving recruitment and retention of quality staff, implement best practices, improve information technology to integrate data collection and analysis of systems processes and youth outcome data.
- This pilot project will increase and improve integration of services, accountability, transparency and quality for both State government and the private sector.
- Over time the project will raise the bar and change the paradigm for the provision and payment of human services in Montana.

3/16/15
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