



Month August

Lobbyist Report

Meetings/Workgroups attended

We had a meeting with Rep. JT Wilcox (House minority floor leader) and he told us not to worry about the proclamation as well. Also, during lunch with Senator Ann Rivers (R-Vancouver) she echoed the statements from Rep. Wilcox. It is very clear that Legislators recognize the need for mental health access.

Legislative Summary for Mental Health Specifically (To Send to Members)

The Governor's proclamation regarding tele-health has once again been renewed and will continue to be renewed at 30 day increments until the bill is officially enacted in January. Please know that I've been told by leadership in all four corners that there is no need to worry about the proclamation not being extended. They all recognize the need for your services during this time.

Meetings Requested

The Volk/Duty to Protect meetings were once again cancelled this month. With all of the big budget issues being priority, a lot of policy issues have been put on the back burner. There is another one scheduled for next month so we shall see if that one happens.

General Legislative News

"Hurry up and wait" is the current theme of the Washington State Legislature. Across the board in conversations with Leadership, there is a lot of uncertainty in how our state is going to proceed in these unprecedented times. Hopefully we will have a better idea come November after "committee days" are completed. Committee days are a time when legislators meet to determine who is going to sit on which committee. I've been told that this will be done virtually and it will be interesting to see how they manage those meetings. It will give us a better idea on how session will run in 2021.

What's on the Horizon?

September 8: call for behavioral health service providers: preventing suicide, what we know and what we can do. You can register here: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/4244015237023792909>
On September 18th, there is a Washington State Substance Use Disorder Certification Advisory Committee & Washington State Mental Health Counselors, Marriage & Family Therapists, and Social Workers Advisory Committee joint meeting. If you are interested in attending (virtually) please see the attached information.

Other things I've been tracking or paying attention too

If anyone is interested in having a meeting with their legislator, please email me directly at sara@sarastewartinc.com and I will set up an appointment. If it is your preference, I will join the meeting to help you navigate the discussion. Please don't be nervous about these meetings! They are very casual and it's a good way for you to further understand what happens in Olympia.

Sara Stewart

Melanie Stewart and Associates HPC Advocacy

Cascade Government Affairs 360-229-8168