

Lobbyist Report

Month November 2021



Meetings/Workgroups attended

11/5 Rep. Bateman
11/11 Behavior Health Coalition Meeting
11/11 Rep. Tarra Simmons
11/12 Rates Workgroup
11/16-11/19 Legislative Committee Days
11/16 Rep. Leavitt
11/16 NAMI Call in Learning Session
11/18 House Republican Campaign Fundraiser

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

Committee day were held in November. This is the time when all legislative committees convene (virtually this year) to discuss what has happened over the interim and what they have planned for 2022. The committee's all held work sessions where they heard from work groups and other presenters in their respective committees.

The most notable committee I listened in on was the Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee and the Senate Health Care Committee. The main topic of conversation was the lack of health care providers (across all professions), COVID updates, and rates. The Childrens' Mental Health Workgroup presented their findings from the rates and workforce subcommittee that WMHCA worked with all year.

For 2022, lawmakers will be looking at potential solutions to the workforce shortage. A Medicaid rate increase of 7% is being considered and WHMCA is the lead on a workforce bill that addresses supervision of licensure barriers.

During a large and well attended fundraiser, I was able to speak with multiple legislators to discuss their plans for 2022 and I had some very good conversations about WMHCA and our ideas on a solution to the current status regarding behavioral health.

Meetings Requested

None at this time

General Legislative News

The 2022 session is most likely going to be entirely virtual, but there has been some discussion about opening up the building to legislators for "floor action" votes. It is still unknown if the public will be able to access the building.

Short sessions are generally "clean up" sessions where lawmakers fix any errors they may have

overlooked while passing bills in the previous session. Police reform, long term care insurance and COVID mandates are going to be on the top of the list as decisions made during 2021, while implemented with good intentions, have had some detrimental impacts and the public is looking for legislators to fix some of the most controversial decisions that were made.

What's on the Horizon?

WMHCA will be holding our "lobby day" most likely during the second week of February. Once a date is finalized, I will notify you so we can begin sign up and meeting requests.

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