

Lobbyist Report

Month July.



Meetings/Workgroups attended

July 1 - Legislative Committee Meeting

July 5 - Amy Walen

July 12 - AWB Business Meetings

July 12 - Rep. Jessie Young

July 13 - Barriers to Licensure Meeting

July 13 - Rep. Paul Harris

July 13. - Sen. Lisa Callan

July 15 - Barriers Workgroup Part 2

July 26 - Rep. Slatter

July 26 - Rep. Tharinger

July 27 - HCA Workgroup Meeting

July 27 - Rep. Ybarra

July 28. - Rep. Abbbarno

July 28 - Rep. Riccelli

July 28 - Sen. Billig

WMHCA held our second work session to address barriers in the mental health profession. There was a large turnout and we are in the process of putting together a recommendation package to lawmakers. We have had positive feedback from those who participated and we are excited about putting together our plan for 2023.

We met with lawmakers from around the state to discuss the compact as well. The feedback was mixed but mostly positive and WMHCA is planning on running a bill to address some changes that need to be made in current statute so we can be sure we are able to join the compact. We also talked with legislators about issues surrounding insurance and Medicaid and the road blocks that prevent providers from taking both private insurance and/or Medicaid.

The battle to increase rates and wages is going to be an uphill one but lawmakers want a solution and they want it now so we are optimistic that we can get some movement in next session.

WMHCA has done great work over the interim on multiple levels. Not only are we leading the way on the compact, we have become a “go-to” for agencies and lawmakers when it comes to behavioral health issues. This is exciting in many obvious ways and we are setting ourselves up for a very successful 2023 session.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline launched this month and WHMCA is proud that we have been in many of the discussions, specially with Rep. Tina Orwall. We hope that 988 will make it easier for people to get support when they are in crisis. It's a very important piece of legislation that WHMCA was involved in over the last year and the launch is a big win for all of those involved.

We have held meetings with law enforcement to further establish a partnership so we can have a solid co-response pathway moving forward and also to discuss the need for officers to have access to mental health

Post primary election - we will be working with legislators to drill down on specific agenda and there. There are a plethora of highly motivated stakeholders and legislators alike that are looking forward to making a difference.

We will be working on viable candidates for the general election to see who we'd like to support and meet with.

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