

Lobbyist Report

Month June 2022



Meetings/Workgroup attended

June 1 - Workforce and Rates Subgroup

June 15 - Workforce and Rates Subgroup

Rep. Mari Leavitt

Candidate April Connors

Candidate Kristine Reeves

Candidate Bill Boyce

Candidate Carmen Goers

Rep. Drew Stokesbary

WMHCA hosted a very successful workgroup to discuss barriers to licensure, recruitment and retention, barriers to taking insurance and Medicaid, and many other topics surrounding behavioral health. We had a variety of attendees from multiple associations, groups, and individuals. This included LMHCs, LMFTs, LISCWs, community behavioral health providers and supervisors, WMHCA members and Board members. The goal of this workgroup is to provide a report back to the legislature on what we see as potential, and tangible, pathways to improve the mental health system in our state. We are hoping to prevent unnecessary and unrealistic bills from coming forward, as we saw in this years' session, and to put forth ideas to create legislation that will positively impact the profession and those that you serve. The response to the workgroup was very positive and we will be holding a follow up meeting on July 15th.

Echoing last month's report, legislators and new candidates are busy with campaigning. The recent Supreme Court decisions has taken over as the hot topics of conversation and it will be interesting to see the impact of those decisions during the August 2nd primary. Once the primary has passed, we will have a better idea of what we can expect for 2023 in terms of the layout of the new legislature.

In every discussion and meeting I have had with candidates and current legislators, the top priorities they wish to tackle has consistently been public safety and the mental health crisis. Both sides of the aisle are eager to make some changes to current law and to introduce new legislation to address these pressing issues.

My hope is to meet with as many current lawmakers and potential new ones as possible through the rest of the summer and into the fall so WMHCA is well known and can be used as a resource to help navigate lawmakers in a direction that is beneficial for the association and those that you serve. With little over one month to go, all those running are eager to meet with their constituents - if you are interested in talking with your legislators, please contact me at sara@sarastewartinc.com and I can help arrange a meeting.

I'm very optimistic that WMHCA will play a major role in creating and assisting legislation in 2023

and I feel that we are on the right path towards making some changes that will benefit the entire behavioral health provider community.

Meetings Requested

Rep. Timm Ormsby - District 3 (Spokane)
Rep. Nicole Macri - District 43 (Seattle)
Rep. Drew Stokesbary - District 31(Bonny Lake)
Rep Tanna Senn - District 41 (Redmond)
Rep. Joe Schmick - District 9 (Spokane)
Rep. Michelle Caldier - District 26 (Gig Harbor)
Rep. Laurie Jenkins - District 27 (Tacoma)
Rep. Tarra Simmons - District 23 (Bainbridge)
Rep. Tom Dent - District 13 (Moses Lake)
Rep. Alex Ybarra - District 13 (Quincy)
Rep. Eric Robertson - District 31 (Buckley/Bonny Lake)
Rep. JT Wilcox - District 2 (Eatonville/Yelm)
Rep. Tina Orwall - District 33 (Normandy Park)
Sen. Judy Warnick - District 13 (Moses Lake)
Sen. Manka Dhingra - District (Seattle)
Sen. John Braun - District 20 (Centralia)
Sen. Andy Billig - District 3 (Spokane)
Sen. Ron Muzzall - District 10 (Oak Harbor)
Sen. Annette Cleveland - District 49 (Vancouver)

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