



Supporting Vermonters to lead healthy and satisfying lives community by community

Legislative Update for March 19, 2019

House Appropriations Committee Deliberates the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

With the goal of voting out the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill by the end of this week the House Appropriations Committee has been deliberating their priorities in the context of available revenues. They have shared an outline of the fiscal picture for fiscal year 2020 and projections for 2021:

https://lifo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/4fe1beb8fa/FY2020_Summary.pdf

The Committee is awaiting information on the amount of revenues that the House Ways and Means Committee will propose. In the interim they are considering a long list of priorities:

- Economic Development
- Restoration of reductions
- Energy Efficiency/Climate
- Higher Education
- New initiatives (\$100 million in requests from Advocates)
- Additional investments in current department budgets

At this time the workforce compensation request made by Vermont Care Partners appears to be on the radar screen, but is unlikely to receive support in the House of Representatives due to limited resources.

Senate Health and Welfare Develops Bill Guiding ACO Development

The Senate Health and Welfare Committee approved S.7 An act relating to the evaluation of social service integration with accountable care organizations. The bill calls for the Agency of Human Services in collaboration with the Green Mountain Care Board (GMCB) to develop a plan to coordinate the financing and delivery of Medicaid Behavioral Health Services and Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services with the All-Payer Financial Target Services. It also calls for the GMCB to submit a report evaluating the manner and degree to which social services, including services provided by the parent-child center network; designated and specialized service agencies; and home health and hospice agencies are integrated into accountable care organizations (ACOs) and make recommendations to enhance integration between social service providers and ACOs, if appropriate.

Senator Lyons wants to build in wrap-around services and care coordination by building on what's in Act 113 and expressed an interest in using the shared savings of ACOs, but in the end did not include that in the bill. She would also like to see the GMCB more involved in analysis of DA/SSA costs. Her goal is to build a framework for integration of social services and health care without getting into the business of running the ACO. Although the bill was voted on by the Committee she may make further amendments to it.

To take action or for more information, including the weekly committee schedules:

- Legislative home page: <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>
- Sergeant-at-Arms Office: (802) 828-2228 or (800) 322-5616
- State House fax (to reach any member): (802) 828-2424
- State House mailing address (to reach any member):
Your Legislator
State House
115 State Street, Drawer 33
Montpelier, VT 05633-5501
- Email, home address and phone: Legislators' email addresses and home contacts may be found on the Legislature home page at <https://legislature.vermont.gov/>
- Governor Phil Scott (802) 828-3333 or <http://governor.vermont.gov/>

The purpose of the legislative update is to inform individuals who are interested in developmental, mental health and substance abuse services about legislative advocacy, policy development and activities that occur in the State Legislature. The Vermont Council is a non-profit trade association which works in partnership with Vermont Care Network to form Vermont Care Partners. Together our mission is to provide statewide leadership for an integrated, high quality system of comprehensive services and supports. Our membership consists of 16 designated developmental and mental health agencies.