

Government Affairs Committee Meeting Thursday, February 17, 2022 • 9:00 am–10:00 am

Instructions for connecting to the webcast will be sent out the day before the meeting.

Agenda

I. Welcome/Introduction

- A. Alan Hartl — RCPA Government Affairs Committee Chair
- B. Jack Phillips — Director of Government Affairs

II. Legislation

- A. House Health & Human Services Committee
 - 1. Looking for issues for Spring Session
 - 2. RCPA gave following issues:
 - a. Human Service Workforce Issues
 - ✓ Advocating the General Assembly to release federal funding that they placed in reserve for direct care workers (also see [RCPA media campaign](#));
 - b. Prudent Pay — Drafting Legislation
 - c. Severe Autism Issue
 - d. Brain Injury Provider Rate Issues
 - ✓ Hearing afternoon of March 2 — more details to follow
 - e. Drug and Alcohol Opioid Settlement Funds Allocations
 - f. D&A ASAM Implementation and Funding
 - g. County Mental Health Funding
 - ✓ Advocating and collaborating with the County Commissioners Association of PA (CCAP) and the Hospital Association of PA (HAP), as well as other organizations, to increase County Mental Health Funding
 - h. Amending Act 25 of 2018, which RCPA helped draft, by introducing new legislation regarding outpatient psychiatric issues (HB 2294)
 - i. Constituent issues for which RCPA has been contacted by various legislative staff. We have been assisting legislative staff with helping their constituents find services.
 - j. Continuing to work with legislators and staff on rate transparency
- B. Budget
 - 1. Governor's Proposed Budget:
 - a. \$91.25 million (\$190.1 million total funds) to increase MA rates for skilled nursing facilities, effective January 2023, to comply with regulatory changes planned for July 2023;

- b. \$50 million, or a 44% increase to state supplemental programs for aged, blind, and individuals with disabilities, to increase the personal care home state supplement from \$439.30 to \$1,351.80 per month;
- c. \$75 million in federal funds to recruit and retain behavioral health providers;
- d. \$36.6 million to invest in critical county behavioral health services;
- e. \$15 million in federal funds to stabilize payments to substance use disorder treatment providers and assist with pandemic related expenses;
- f. NEW: \$14.3 million to increase the monthly Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit from \$20 to \$35 for 75,000 to 95,000 seniors and individuals with disabilities;
- g. NEW: \$280,000 to implement Agency with Choice, preserving the ability for home and community-based waiver participants to choose their worker while allowing workers to obtain the support of an agency;
- h. \$18.8 million to serve an additional 832 individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism currently waiting for services;
- i. \$1 million to provide community placements for individuals residing in intermediate care facilities;
- j. \$1.25 million to discharge 20 individuals from state hospitals through the Community Hospital Integration Project Program (CHIPP);
- k. \$2.4 million for Department of Aging and Department of Human Services to strengthen older adult protective services (8 positions), create a child welfare crisis response team (4 positions), and support increased regulatory, licensing, budgetary, and administrative functions (30 positions) through increasing complement;
- l. NEW: \$8 million to extend postpartum coverage for birthing parents eligible for Medical Assistance to 12 months;
- m. \$15 million, a 77% increase, to implement additional evidence-based home visiting and family support services to 3,800 additional families;
- n. \$1.8 million to support court-appointed volunteer advocacy; and
- o. NEW: \$10 million for State Disaster Assistance, a new initiative to provide disaster assistance to individuals and to improve access to safe, secure, and weathertight homes.

C. Media Campaign

III. Open Forum — Additional Member Topics/Issues/Concerns

IV. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022, 9:00 am–10:00 am