2022 REGULAR SESSION

House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue

Budget Review Subcommittee on Health & Family Services

1st Meeting

January 19, 2022

 The Budget Review Subcommittee on Health & Family Services of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 1st meeting of the 2022 Regular Session on January 19, 2022, at 10:00 AM, in Room 169 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

 Members Present: Representative Danny Bentley, Chair; Representatives Adam Bowling, Ken Fleming, Deanna Frazier Gordon, Kimberly Poore Moser, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Steve Sheldon, and Lisa Willner.

 Guests: Tanya Dickinson, Principal Investigator, Assisted Outpatient Treatment Grant, Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (BHDID), Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Stephanie Craycraft, Deputy Commissioner, BHDID, CHFS; and Judge Stephanie Burke, 30th District Court.

 LRC Staff:  Miriam Fordham, Kevin Newton, and Benjamin Thompson.

 **Tim’s Law Pilot Program**

 Ms. Dickinson and Ms. Craycraft provided information on the first year of the Tim’s Law pilot program. Judge Burke provided a judicial perspective on the effectiveness of the program.

 In reponse to questions from Representative Fleming, Ms. Craycraft stated that four hundred thousand dollars were spent out of the one million dollars allotted in the first year. Ms. Craycraft noted that all funds were acquired through a federal grant, and that the unspent funds were carried forward to the next year.

 In response to questions from Representative Bowling, Ms. Dickinson noted that the goal was to ramp up participation in the program as the service area expands. Ms. Dickinson noted that one condition of the federal grant is that BHDID be the payor of last resort. If an individual has Medicaid or private insurance coverage, those sources would be utilized first to pay for services.

 In response to question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Ms. Dickinson noted that there are published rules governing the use of grant funds. Ms. Dickinson stated that she did not know whether associated savings could ever fund the program in its entirety.

 In response to questions from Representative Willner, Ms. Dickinson stated that the pilot project defined how people would enter the assisted outpatient treatment program. Judge Burke noted that she believes the criteria used restricts individuals who would benefit from accessing the program.

 In response to questions from Representative Fleming, Ms. Dickinson stated that the average cost per client is roughly eighteen thousand dollars. Ms. Dickinson confirmed that six thousand dollars per client for housing was an estimate, noting some clients did not need any housing assistance while some need additional support.

 In response to a question from Representative Sheldon, Judge Burke noted that the grant application notes that the majority of the funds go toward salaries. Judge Burke stated that very few individuals received funds for housing.

 In response to a question from Representative Bowling, Judge Burke noted that in her observations, one third of the individuals in the program are hugely successful, one third have shown improvement, and one third are roughly the same as they were prior to entering the program.

 In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Ms. Craycraft noted that BHDID sought out federal grant funding because no funding was provided for Tim’s Law when the legislation was passed by the General Assembly.

 There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 AM.