

2022 REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & FAMILY SERVICES

3rd Meeting

February 9, 2022

The Budget Review Subcommittee on Health & Family Services of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 3rd meeting of the 2022 Regular Session on February 9, 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, Deanna Frazier Gordon, Kimberly Poore Moser, Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Brandon Reed, Steve Sheldon, Susan Westrom, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Eric Friedlander, Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS); Eric Lowery, Executive Director, Office of Administration and Budget, CHFS; Lisa Lee, Commissioner, Department for Medicaid Services (DMS), CHFS; Steve Bechtel, Chief Financial Officer, DMS, CHFS; Victoria Elridge, Commissioner, Department for Aging and Independent Living, CHFS; and Ivanora Alexander, Executive Director, Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs, CHFS

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

Approval of Minutes

Representative Gibbons Prunty made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2022, meeting of the subcommittee. Representative Frazier Gordon seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved without objection.

Department for Medicaid Services

Commissioner Lee and Mr. Bechtel provided an update on the budgetary status of the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS).

In response to a question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Secretary Friedlander noted that he had been in contact with the Chair of the House Appropriations and Revenue committee about the Secretary's concerns regarding the 2022 Regular Session House Bill 1.

In response to a question from Representative Willner, Commissioner Lee stated that DMS was working to determine the best way to serve the adult population with severe mental illness.

In response to a question from Representative Gordon, Commissioner Lee said that there are inequities in the current waiver reimbursement rates. Commissioner Lee noted that a ten percent waiver reimbursement increase across the board would not address the inequities.

In response to questions from Representative Reed, Commissioner Lee noted that DMS was not opposed to waiver rate increases but wanted to see rates increased in an equitable way. Secretary Friedlander confirmed that if waiver slots were increased to the Governor's recommended levels, there would be enough providers to care for the individuals who received the additional waivers.

In response to a question from Chair Bentley, Secretary Friedlander confirmed that administrative costs for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services are less than ten percent of the cabinet's total budget.

Department for Aging and Independent Living

Commissioner Elridge provided an update on the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL).

In response to a question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Commissioner Elridge confirmed that eligible caregivers must utilize Kinship Care before using DAIL's Family Caregiver Program.

In response to questions from Representative Moser, Commissioner Elridge stated that the amount requested for the Office of Dementia Services was \$482,000 in each year of the 2022-2024 fiscal biennium. Commissioner Elridge confirmed that the request was for personnel and related costs, noting that all grant funding is used to support families impacted by dementia.

Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs

Ms. Alexander provided an overview of the Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs (OCSHCN).

In response to a question from Representative Gibbons Prunty, Mr. Lowery noted that a slight reduction in funding to the OCSHCN in fiscal year 2021 was due to extra one-time funds being provided for a specific project in fiscal year 2020.

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