



MHA Legislative Update: January 2015

Momentum Slows for Proposal to Shift Medicaid Oversight to Independent Board

In early January, Republican state legislators proposed legislation that would set up an 8-member independent board to run the \$14 billion Medicaid program. The proposal calls for transferring the Medicaid program, now controlled by the state Department of Health and Human Services, to the independent board on Oct. 1.

Momentum for the bill slowed when several House Republicans on the joint House-Senate Program Evaluation Oversight Committee were replaced by newly elected House Speaker Tim Moore, R-Cleveland. The new members needed more time to get up to speed on the bill, according to committee co-chairman Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus. The measure can still be considered by the full General Assembly even without the committee's recommendation, but the lack of a formal OK may signal a lack of strong bicameral (both House and Senate) support.

Read more [here](#).

US Representative Murphy to Reintroduce Federal Mental Health Bill

At a Capitol Hill lunch hosted by the Treatment Advocacy Center on Jan. 27, US Representative Tim Murphy (R-PA) has indicated that he has plans to reintroduce the Helping Families with Mental Health Crisis Act within the next few weeks. The bill would increase access to psychiatric beds, allow patients to get medications they need more easily, and create accountability services to make sure care is delivered as it should be, among other measures.



Read more about the legislation [here](#).

Call-to-Action: Sign the Petition to Create a National Monument on the Former Dorothea Dix Psychiatric Hospital Site



On Jan 12, Governor Pat McCrory and Raleigh leaders announced that they have reached an agreement on the sale of the property that was formerly the Dorothea Dix Hospital campus to the city of Raleigh. Raleigh's plans for the \$52 million dollar deal include using the property to construct a city park, which endangers the existing historic buildings and the patients' cemetery.

The Dorothea Dix psychiatric hospital, named after mental health heroine Dorothea Dix, opened in 1846 and closed in 2012. Mental health advocates argue that using the property for purely recreational purposes would be a disservice to Dorothea Dix's legacy. Instead, advocates are petitioning for President Obama to issue a proclamation under the Antiquities Act creating a monument in Raleigh to honor Dorothea Dix and her legacy. Read more about the issue [here](#).

The petition affirms that, "A National Monument honoring her Legacy of advocating for persons with mental illness would not preclude the use of part of the campus for a City Park."

MHA of Central Carolinas invites you to sign the petition through the [change.org website here](#).

House Speaker Moore Announces Committee Chairs

New House Speaker Tim Moore has announced his Committee Chairs. Of note is the newly created House Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, which will be chaired by Rep. Jonathan Jordan and Rep. Sarah Stevens; and the new Chairs of the House Health Committee are Rep. Bert Jones, Rep. Justin Burr, Rep. Donny Lambeth, and Rep. Brian Brown. Read the full list [here](#).

Remember, you can contact your policy makers at any time:

<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

Mental Health Training Opportunities

Inquire about MHA Training opportunities in your area. We offer Mental Health First Aid (Youth, Adult and Public Safety versions), QPR Suicide Prevention (Gatekeeper, Adapted for Refugees and Train the Trainer), Advocacy, and Managing Money in Recovery.

Contact Nancy Woodard about MHA trainings at email: nwoodard@mhacentralcarolinas.org Or Phone 704-365-3454.

A Member Agency



United Way
of Central Carolinas

MHA

Spreading Hope, Spurring Action, Supporting Families, Saving Lives! Contact us at 3701 Latrobe Drive, Ste 140, Charlotte, NC 28211. Visit www.mhacentralcarolinas.org or email at mha@mhacentralcarolinas.org or call us at 704.365.3454.

Our mission is to promote mental wellness through advocacy, prevention and education.



Like us



Follow us



Subscribe MHACentralCarolinas