

2026 Legislative and Administrative Priorities

State and Federal Issues and Advocacy

Richard S. Edley, PhD | President & CEO | redley@paproviders.org

- Continue to monitor federal issues, working closely with our national partners, educating legislators and staff, and updating membership as to key policy discussions in areas of critical importance, such as Medicaid (e.g., Federal HR 1) and its impact on service provision.
- Advocate for rate increases to expand program capacity and measurably move individuals off of waiting lists.
- Stabilize the service environment and workforce – Advocate for funding levels and rate structures that are sufficient to support provider operations, workforce recruitment and retention, and sustainable service growth.
- Reduce administrative burden – Eliminate duplicative documentation, reporting requirements and multilevel audits, and redirect administrative savings toward service expansion, workforce stability, and innovative program models. This includes:
 - Increased uniformity across Pennsylvania departments, managed care organizations, and counties/primary contractors.
 - Regulatory Reform – Streamline inconsistent and duplicative regulations across multiple agencies to enhance integrated, whole-person care and improve operational efficiency, ensuring any new regulations reflect stakeholder partnership and full implementation funding.
- Ensure a transparent accounting of HealthChoices spending, from allocation to spend. This includes a deepening partnership with DHS & HealthChoices primary contractors to ensure regulatory and process consistency for all stakeholders.



Behavioral Health | Adult and Children's Mental Health

Jim Sharp, MS | COO and Director, Mental Health, BH Division | jsharp@paproviders.org

[See more details on Mental Health Division Priorities](#)

- Update the IBHS regulations to reduce the current supervision standards to align with national best practice guidelines to guarantee sustainable, quality access and service delivery.
- Enhance telehealth flexibilities, including the elimination of signed encounter forms and expanded utilization of CRNPs in outpatient clinics.

Behavioral Health | Substance Use Disorder Services

Jason Snyder | Director, Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services, BH Division | jsnyder@paproviders.org

[See more details on SUD Division Priorities](#)

- Improve provider opportunities to influence and address decisions affecting them.
- Champion efficacy, safety, and quality in SUD treatment while acknowledging the changing treatment landscape.

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Tim Sohosky | Director, Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Division | tsohosky@paproviders.org

[See more details on IDD Division Priorities](#)

- Drive changes resulting in comprehensive rate analysis and timely refreshes that reflect the true cost of service, inflationary pressures, and Performance-Based Contracting (PBC) mandates.
- Promote "innovation by default" by supporting policy changes that make creative programming permissible without requiring waiver exception processes as the normal mechanism.

Brain Injury

Melissa Dehoff | Director, Rehabilitation Services Divisions | mdehoff@paproviders.org

[See more details on Brain Injury Division Priorities](#)

- Advocate and achieve a funding/rate increase and parity with other PA Human Services providers to continue to provide rehabilitation for those who have incurred a brain injury.
- Develop a targeted plan to engage key providers, political leaders, and stakeholders to advocate for a legislative package addressing critical issues for BI services in the form of advocacy with the CHC-MCOs.

Physical Disabilities & Aging

Fady Sahhar, MBA, PhD

Director, Physical Disabilities & Aging Division

fsahhar@paproviders.org

- Explore methods to increase rates, while bending the total cost curve.
- Seek transparency in VBP programs and capitation rates.
- Develop pathways to "in-lieu of" programs that promote community living.

Early Intervention

Cindi Hobbes

Director, International Pediatric Rehabilitation

Collaborative

chobbes@paproviders.org

- Explore options for adoption of the 8-minute rule for Early Intervention session billing.
- Establish a single, statewide policy for rescheduling cancelled Early Intervention sessions across all PA counties and joiners.
- Improve understanding of Medicaid eligibility as a funding source for EI services.