March 31, 2023 Legislative Committee Minutes

Attendee Legislative Committee Council Members: Matthew Conaway, Mark Smith, Rob Roozeboom
Absent Council Members: Kristen Aller, Brady Werger, Brittney Drinovsky, Roxanne Cogil, Carol Cross, Hugh Kelly
Council Staff: Brooke Lovelace, Carlyn Crowe, Lindsay Hommer
Public: None

Capitol Chat Overview

Crowe reviewed the power point that was shared during Capitol Chat. Recap of the bills are:

Survivors:
• Training school staff on seizure identification and seizure first aid (HF 608)
• Automatic annual increases in Medicaid reimbursement (HF 378)
• Getting rid of income tax on DSP wages (SF 7, HF 264)
• Including more stakeholder input on MH/DS Regional Governing Boards (HF 471)
• Public assistance asset testing, identity verification, community engagement (HF 613)
• Public assistance asset testing, identity verification (SF 494)
• Taxing MCOs to increase federal match to add more funding for Medicaid (HF 685)
• Adding a new definition of Brain Health (SF 210, HF 273)
• Reorganizing state government without input from key stakeholders (SF 514)
• Allowing teachers to remove disruptive students from classroom, three strikes (HF 604)

Failures:
• New college-based transition scholarships for young adults with disabilities (HF 252)
• Aligning ID Waiver caps on home and vehicle modifications with Bi waiver (HF 275)
• Ending insurance limits on autism treatment (HF 243)
• Requiring schools excuse absences for students getting autism treatment (HF 610)
• Stopping “switching” of prescription drug coverage when stable (HF 626) (this was updated after the presentation; it was listed as surviving when it in fact did not.)
• Allowing health care professionals to refuse service or referral on moral grounds (SF 297)
• Requiring all guardians and conservators to fill out the same forms (SF 295)
• Requiring health insurance coverage to follow the public policy set in the state (SF 295)
• Changing and eliminating HHS Boards/Commissions, ending per diems for citizen members (HF 566)

There will be a public hearing for SF 494 Public Assistance asset testing and identity verification on Tuesday, April 4th. If this bill passes, it would cost approximately $30 million in staffing costs.

State Budget

• Current: $8.21 billion
• Governor: $8.49 billion (3% increase)

Creating change with and for persons with developmental disabilities so they can live, work, learn and play in the community of their choosing.
• Senate: $8.49 billion (3% increase)
• House: $8.58 billion (4.5% increase)
• Allowed: $9.65 billion
• Spending 88% (instead of 99%)

Crowe stated that since all of the state budget funds are not being spent, now would be a good time to suggest investing in increases to direct support professionals (DSP’s).

**Capitol Advocacy Days Updates**

March 21st – Mosaic  
March 22nd – Life Connections Peer Network  
March 22nd – First Resources  
March 29th – Systems Unlimited

Crowe stated that all of the groups that attended were great.

**Action Items**

Contact your State Representative regarding SF494, the public assistance bill. It will move through the House soon. Use the Take Action Center on infoNET and customize the message easily.