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Insurance Commissioner Appoints Behavioral Health / Addiction Services Advisory Committee

Group includes legislators, providers, advocates, insurance companies; to meet Aug. 31

CONCORD, NH – New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny has selected 20 Granite Staters to advise him on issues related to accessing behavioral health services, including treatment for substance use disorders, through private insurance coverage.

The newly created Behavioral Health and Addiction Services Advisory Committee includes New Hampshire state senators, state representatives, substance use disorder treatment providers and advocates, behavioral health providers and advocates, and insurance company representatives.

At the monthly public meetings, the Insurance Department will share updates and information on its work, role, and recent developments relating to mental health parity and other issues relating to accessing behavioral health services. The department will seek input from committee members, and each meeting will include an opportunity for public comment.

“We received a strong show of interest in the committee from diverse stakeholders across the state,” said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “While it was difficult to choose among such strong candidates, each of the 20 members we have selected brings deep expertise and community connections and will be a real asset to the committee.”

Members of the Behavioral Health and Addiction Services Advisory Committee, with the interests they represent:

Behavioral Health Providers and Advocates

- Robert Feder, MD, Psychiatrist, Private Practice (NH Psychiatric Society)
- Paul Frehner, PsyD, Psychologist, Private Practice (NH Psychological Association)
- Christopher Kozak, Chief Operating Officer, Community Partners/ServiceLink (Community Mental Health Centers)
- Kenneth Norton, LICSW, Executive Director, NAMI-NH (mental health advocate)

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Providers and Advocates

- Amelie Gooding, MLADC, Program Director, Phoenix House-Keene Center (inpatient substance use disorder treatment provider)
- Courtney Gray, JD/MSW, Executive Director, NH Providers Association (substance use disorder treatment providers)
- Michele Merritt, JD, Policy Director, New Futures (substance use disorder treatment advocate)
- Stephanie Savard, LICSW, Chief Operating Officer, Families in Transition (substance use disorder treatment provider)

Insurance Company/Behavioral Health Review Representatives

- William Brewster, MD, NH Vice President and Medical Director, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
- Stephen Kozak, LICSW, Director of Behavioral Health Services, Tufts Health Freedom Plan
- Richard Lafleur, MD, Medical Director, Anthem New Hampshire

- Andrea Rancatore, LCMHC, MLADC, Supervisor of Medical Management, New Hampshire Healthy Families

New Hampshire Legislature

- NH Senator Jeb Bradley
- NH Senator Dan Feltes
- NH Representative Ed Butler
- NH Representative John Hunt

Other Members

- Lucy Hodder, JD, UNH Director of Health Law and Policy Programs
- Peter Mason, MD, Family Physician (health care provider/NH Medical Society)
- Joseph Plaia, JD, Portsmouth, NH (public member)
- Abby Shockley, MPH, Senior Policy Analyst for Substance Use Services, NH Dept. of Health and Human Services (agency representative)

The group's first meeting will take place Aug. 31, from 9:30-11:30 in Room 100 of the Walker Building, 21 South Fruit Street, Concord. The meeting is open to the public, but seating is limited. If you are interested in attending, and for more information, please register online:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=ygzv4fxab&oeidk=a07ed3g4tv116b25b3c>

To receive email updates on the committee, including notifications of upcoming meetings, please sign up here:

<http://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?llr=ygzv4fxab&p=oi&m=1124408681688&sit=4n5wclqkb&f=7fc1f348-1f14-4436-9f07-684662d74530>

About the New Hampshire Insurance Department

The New Hampshire Insurance Department's mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.