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NH Insurance Department Creates Behavioral Health and Addiction Services Advisory Committee
Commissioner to appoint 12-15 members representing a range of interests; seeks interested candidates

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

“My goal is to convene a broad and diverse group of stakeholders who will collectively represent a range of perspectives,” said Commissioner Sevigny.

Several months ago, the Insurance Department began hosting meetings with outside representatives to discuss these issues. The creation of the advisory committee allows the Department to formalize the group, open it to the public and invite more people to participate.

The committee will likely meet in July and consist of 12 to 15 appointed members representing: substance use disorder treatment providers; mental health providers; health care providers; substance use disorder treatment advocates; mental health advocates; consumer advocates; legislators; insurance companies; behavioral health utilization review entities; and other state agencies.

All individuals or organizations interested in serving on the committee should express their interest and explain the perspective they would add by writing to the Commissioner no later than July 8, 2016. Consideration will be given to parties representing the interests listed above, as well as to others demonstrating that they can offer a unique and valuable perspective to the committee. Expressions of interest should be emailed to Sandra.Barlow@ins.nh.gov.

“As substance use disorder treatment and other behavioral health services are increasingly accessed through private coverage, the Insurance Department seeks advice on what regulatory actions, including consumer assistance and educational outreach, will best ensure access to services for covered persons and facilitate communication among stakeholders,” said Commissioner Sevigny.

New Hampshire law allows the Insurance Commissioner to create an advisory council to assist him in dealing with regulatory challenges. The committee will meet monthly or bimonthly, and meetings will be open to the public. 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.

To receive email updates on the committee, 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.