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Contact: Eireann Aspell, outreach coordinator, (603) 271-3781; eireann.aspell@ins.nh.gov

NH Insurance Commissioner Reconvenes Mental Health and Addiction Services Advisory Committee

CONCORD, NH – New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner John Elias is reconvening an advisory committee that has been instrumental in fostering strong connections between providers, carriers, advocates and other stakeholders on issues related to accessing mental health services, including treatment for substance use disorders, through private insurance coverage.

“There is tremendous value in reconvening this committee to continue discussing ways that the Insurance Department and other key stakeholders can remove barriers for New Hampshire residents seeking mental health and addiction treatment services,” said Commissioner Elias.

The Insurance Department first convened the committee in August 2016, and it played an important role in bringing providers and insurance companies together to discuss challenges facing New Hampshire residents seeking mental health or substance use disorder treatment using private insurance. Its last meeting was in January 2018.

The Department plans to reconvene the meetings with a renewed focus on hearing concerns directly from consumers, as well as on understanding recent developments regarding access to mental health and addiction treatment services in the Granite State.

The committee will meet in January and consists of appointed members representing substance use disorder treatment providers, mental health providers, health care providers, substance use disorder treatment advocates, mental health advocates, consumer advocates, insurance companies, behavioral health utilization review entities, and other state agencies.

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 are 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 mental health services. The department will seek input from committee members, and each meeting will include an opportunity for public comment.

The committee’s next meeting will take place January 25, 2019 from 9:00-11:00 A.M. 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 [here](#).

To receive email updates on the committee, please sign up [here](#).

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.