

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors of Maryland (LCPCM) What Really Happened in the 2017 Session

May 9, 2017



Public Policy Partners

www.policypartners.net

Webinar Instructions

There is a control panel on the right hand side of the presentation – to expand the control panel click on the orange arrow

To ask a question, you can enter your question in the “question” tab



Welcome and Introduction

- Welcome and Introduction to Webinar:
 - Susan Roistacher, LCPCM Legislative Committee Chair
 - Robyn Elliott and Rachael Faulkner, Lobbyists for LCPCM
- 2017 Session
 - Reviewed over 50 bills
 - Took positions on about 20 bills Submitted written testimony on all 20 bills and presenting oral testimony on most bills in both the House and Senate
- Discussion about LCPCM's policy work being year-round



Focus Areas of 2017 Session

- Licensure
- Teletherapy
- Behavioral Health
- Opioid Crisis
- Affordable Care Act



Licensure

- **HB 1458 – Maryland Music Therapists Act:** Established licensure requirements for music therapists under the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. LCPCM opposed. The bill failed but the licensure of music therapists will be reviewed during the 2017 sunset review of the Board.
- **HB 1198/SB 679 – Child Abuse and Neglect Training:** Requires all health care practitioners and other mandated reporters to take periodic training in reporting of child abuse and neglect. LCPCM opposed on implementation issues. The bill failed.



Teletherapy

- **HB 352/SB 1106 – Health Care Practitioners – Use of Teletherapy:** Requires five health occupation boards (Professional counselors, nursing, physicians, psychologists, and social workers) to adopt regulations on non-clinical issues on teletherapy. LCPCM supported and successfully obtained amendments to fix unintended consequences. The bill passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature.
- **HB 658/SB 570 – Maryland Medicaid – Telehealth Requirements:** Broadened Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services, including those provided by LCPCs. LCPCM supported. The bill did not pass.
- **HB 983 – Health Insurance – Health Care Services Delivered Through Telehealth Coverage:** For commercial insurance, requires that telehealth reimbursement policies include treatment for substance abuse disorders. Changes outdated terminology from “telemedicine” to “telehealth” in the law about commercial insurers. LCPCM supported. The bill passed and is awaiting the Governor’s signature.



Behavioral Health

- **HB 580/SB 476 – Keep the Doors Open Act:** Requires DHMH to adjust the reimbursement rate for community behavioral health providers each fiscal year. LCPCM supported. The provision passed in a separate bill called the HOPE Act.
- **HB 1127/SB 968 Health Insurance – Coverage Requirements for Behavioral Health Disorders – Modifications:** The bill changes references of drug and alcohol “abuse” to “use” and “misuse” and includes additional behavioral health settings/services to be covered under health benefit plans, including residential treatment centers; and intensive outpatient benefits, including diagnostic evaluation, opioid treatment services, medication evaluation and management. LCPCM supported. The bill passed.
- **HB 1383/SB 1042 – Behavioral Health Administration – Outpatient Civil Commitment Pilot Program:** The bill codifies an existing federal grant pilot program operating in Baltimore City. DHMH must conduct an evaluation to inform future planning to better serve State residents with serious mental illness who do not voluntarily engage in treatment. LCPCM closely monitored. The bill passed.
- **HB 1522 – Needs Assessment for Student School-Based Behavioral Health Services:** The bill requires DHMH and MSDE to conduct a needs assessment for school-based behavioral health services provided through community-partnered school-based behavioral health programs and school-based health centers. LCPCM supported. The bill passed.



Opioid Crisis

- **HB 1329/SB 967 – Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort (HOPE) and Treatment Act of 2017:** This bill contains multiple strategies, including:
 - Intent to expand drug courts
 - Expanding overdose response teams to include examination of non-fatal overdoses
 - Creation of at least 1 crisis service center
 - Creation of a service-rich, statewide crisis hotline
 - Expansion of medication assisted treatment capacity and referral
 - Changes to Overdose Response Program to do away with certification and retain training
 - Require guidelines regarding co-prescribing naloxone in certain cases
 - Provider rate increases (Keep the Door Open Act), beginning in fiscal year 2019
 - Require hospitals to have specific discharge plans for someone with a substance use disorder or who experienced an overdose
 - Remove prior authorizations by insurance carriers for naloxone
 - Create a plan to increase treatment in jails and prisons

LCPCM supported. The bill passed.



Affordable Care Act

- **HJ 9 – Protect the Affordable Care Act:** This joint resolution from the Maryland General Assembly requests Congress and Governor Hogan to protect the ACA. LCPCM supported. The resolution passed.
- **SB 571 – Maryland Health Insurance Coverage Protection Act:** Creates a 3-year Commission to monitor and make recommendations regarding major federal changes to insurance and Medicaid. The Commission may establish stakeholder workgroups. LCPCM supported. The bill passed.
- **HB 153 – Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act:** Includes a provision to require Medicaid to consult with stakeholders before implementing any major changes. LCPCM closely monitored and Consumer Health First, a collaborator with LCPCM, obtained the amendment. The bill passed.



Conclusion

- **Questions?**
- **Thank you! Looking forward to working with everyone for the rest of the year. Issues will include:**
 - Medicaid reform
 - Repeal and replacement or repair of the ACA;
 - Standard for insurers' provider networks; and
 - Telehealth reimbursement
 - Sunset Review Process of the Board of Professional Counselors including the Licensure of Music Therapists

