



RWC ADVOCACY

A Governmental Affairs Law Firm

Elizabeth L. Weihl
Partner

Email weihlb@rwca.com

Direct 517-374-2736

Cell 517-719-5398

FY 2018-2019 State Budget (awaiting signature)

DHHS

- Section 298(e) allowing managed health care plans in 298 pilot areas to contract with non-cmh providers – NOT INCLUDED
- Autism line item funding increased from \$105 million to \$192 million (but less than Governor's proposed increase). Mandatory fee schedule effective October 1, behavioral technician rates reduced 10% (but to no less than \$50/hour)

FY 2018-2019 State Budget (awaiting signature)

DHHS continued

- Adds \$5.5 million General Fund for non-Medicaid cmh
- Fully funds Healthy Michigan Plan and traditional Medicaid
- Language expressing legislative intent that if an applicant for HMP received traditional Medicaid in the previous year and is still eligible for traditional Medicaid, that applicant is ineligible for HMP

FY 2018-2019 State Budget (awaiting signature)

DHHS continued

- One time \$59.8 million adjustment to PIHPs (FY 2018)
- \$1.5 million for statewide reimbursement audit of PIHPs (FY 2018)
- \$6.9 million to Lakeshore for state's share of FY 2017 liability
- \$1 million "Michigan Enhancement Grant" to Macomb cmh

FY 2018-2019 State Budget (awaiting signature)

DHHS continued

- Reduces funding for Mental Health & Wellness Commission by \$9 million
- Maintains language that DHHS and its agents cannot require prior authorization for medicines treating epilepsy, HIV or organ transplant, or psychotropic medications
- Continues 50 cent/hour direct care worker wage increase from FY 2018
- Continues \$500,000 for Employment First initiatives

FY 2018-2019 State Budget (awaiting signature)

K-12/School Aid

- \$5 million new for Early On services, including early identification and intervention for children birth to age 3 with developmental disabilities or delays
- \$2.3 million to increase special education per pupil equalization amount; caps Wayne RESA at 2.5% more than current allocation
- Does not include \$500,000 proposed by the Governor for medication and parent supports offered through Special Education Mediation Program

Other Legislation – Senate Bill 897 (awaiting signature)

- Creates work and workforce engagement requirements for Healthy Michigan Plan enrollees age 19 through 62
- Exemptions for persons with disabilities, caretaker of a disabled or incapacitated individual, medical frail or with medication condition limiting participation, pregnant women, caretaker of child under age 6, enrollees age 19 or 20 who have been in foster care
- 80 hours/month with allowable 3-month period of non-compliance in any 12 month period

Other Legislation – Senate Bill 897 continued

- Fraudulent non-compliance would exclude enrollee from HMP for one year
- Replaces current option for enrollees to participate in “marketplace option” after 48 months and instead requires enrollees to pay premium of 5% of income as a condition of remaining enrolled
- Entire HMP program would terminate if required federal waiver is not secured within 12 months of application, with application no later than October 1
- Implementation date of January 1, 2020

Other Legislative Issues

- House C.A.R.E.S. Task Force
- Access to medications
- Opioids

Successful advocacy must

- Include both branches of government
- Include both statutory and regulatory engagement
- Be both pro-active and reactive
- Be both strategic and properly timed

The good news: Advocacy done right, Works!

General Advocacy Tips #2 - 8

- Engage your lawmakers in district when possible
- Communicate via call or email, personal meetings, testimony
- Arrange site visits
- Be courteous
- Be timely
- Be confident
- Be coordinated
- Be persistent

General Advocacy Tips

TIP #1

PARTICIPATE!

Legislative

148 elected members

110 House

38 Senate

Year- round (full time) Legislature

27 – 11 Republican super-majority in Senate

63 – 47 Republican majority in House

Two year session schedule

99th Legislature (2017-2018) began on January 1 and will end on December 31, 2018

Michigan Elections - 2018

All constitutional officers (Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General)

110 State House seats (43 open seats, primarily due to term limits)

38 State Senate seats (26 term limited, 1 currently open seat)

14 US Congressional seats (2 open seats), 1 U.S. Senator

Many potential ballot initiatives

In a presidential mid-term election

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

Questions:

- For this state's vulnerable citizens with disabilities, Medicaid means far more than health care. Medicaid is a life-line! It provides basic supports and services (usually staff) they need each day. How would your administration assure the ongoing availability of these vital supports for our most vulnerable citizens?
- How would your administration work towards the goal of dramatically increasing the number of persons with disabilities in Michigan's workforce?

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

Questions:

- How will your administration accomplish a reinvestment in education to address our poor, and getting poorer, standing in this area? How do you propose to increase our educational standing and stop the draining of resources from our public school system?
- One of the most important issues is a competitive wage (for a competent direct support workforce). How will your administration both make this a priority and then address the compensation for these crucial staff?

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

Responses received from:

- Jim Hines (R)
- Patrick Colbeck (R)
- Brian Calley (R)
- Bill Schuette (R)
- Bill Gelineau (LIB)
- Gretchen Whitmer (D)
- Abdul El-Sayed (D)

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

General Themes:

- Candidates with legislative experience more knowledgeable about specific programs such as Medicaid, Employment First, Freedom To Work
- Candidates have differing levels of experience with persons with developmental disabilities, as policy makers and as volunteers
- All candidates acknowledge the shortage of direct care workers, with different approaches on how to address it (wage increase; competitive wages determined by marketplace; other factors such as mentoring and credentialing; mandatory minimum wage for all

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

General Themes:

- Widely differing approaches to education and reading (Cabinet level literacy position; incentivize third party investments; break up Detroit Public Schools; school finance reform with a weighted foundation allowance for special education and at-risk students; reading coaches)

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

Follow up:

- Engage with candidates in public meetings and forums
- Attend local campaign events
- Look for community events where candidates are likely to be (4th of July!)
- Email and phone campaign staff
- Submit letters to the editor and opinion pieces to media
- Offer to be a resource for developing white papers and campaign platforms, and on transition teams

The Arc Survey of 2018 Gubernatorial Candidates

Follow up:

- Volunteer for campaign activities
- Make contributions
- And ...

V O T E !!

August 7 – Primary Elections

November 6 – General Elections



THANK YOU!