**Weekly Update April 18th, 2014**

**Day 96 of the Legislative Session**

We are anticipating the regular legislative session to end within the next week, and many bills are now moving fairly quickly and need your support and advocacy efforts. Additionally, we are now waiting for the Governor to sign many of these bills, including SB1077.

**SB1077 PASSES!**

**SB1077: Behavioral Health Professionals; Reciprocal Licenses** addresses corrections necessary after last year's extensive changes to the Board of Behavioral Health Examiners (BBHE) statute. The bill "grandfathers" approximately 76 reciprocal licensees and contains an emergency provision to assure that some reciprocal licensees do not lose their ability to practice. This bill passed both chambers with a 2/3 vote, which enables the emergency clause so that the bill can go into effect immediately. **The bill will now be sent to the Governor, so please contact her office at** [**http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp**](http://www.azgovernor.gov/Contact.asp) **and tell her you support SB1077.**

**ACTION NEEDED!**

**SB1216: Licensure; Behavioral Health Services** is the legislation that the Council has been working on to add the definition of “behavioral health” to the licensing statutes and make it easier to co-locate facilities providing physical and behavioral health care. The bill is currently waiting for a third read. Please contact your representatives and tell them you support SB1216.

**SB1386: Supplemental Approp; External CPS Review** appropriates $250,000 from the general fund THIS YEAR to contract with an independent expert consultant to complete an external review of CPS. SB1386 is scheduled for COW on Monday, April 21st. Please contact your representatives and tell them you support SB1386.

**PLEASE use CAPWIZ to contact members by going to** [**www.azcouncil.com**](http://www.azcouncil.com) **and clicking on the legislative action center.** Remember, you can also watch hearings and floor action in the comfort of your home or office by going to [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov) and click on “Live Proceedings”. Information about the bills, committees, and contact information is below.

**Actions For Next Week**

HB2105: Court-ordered Evaluations; Peace Officers Ready for Third Read

HB2172: BD of Psychologist Examiners; Psychologists Ready for Third Read

HB2173: Psychology Board; Behavior Analysts Ready for Third Read

HB2531: Court-ordered Evaluation Services; Payment Ready for Third Read

HB2605: Teachers; Suicide Prevention; Continuing Edu. Ready for Third Read

HB2007: Developmental Disability Service Contracts; Monitoring Ready for the Governor

SB1391: Schools; Noncertified Employees; Fingerprinting Ready for the Governor

HB2457: Mental Health; Veterans Court; Establishment Ready for the Governor

HB2454: Human Trafficking; Prostitution Ready for the Governor

HB2603: TANF Recipients; Drug Convictions; Notification Ready for the Governor

HB2310: Criminal Justice Info; Court Reporting Ready for the Governor

HB2321: Procurement Code Omnibus Ready for the Governor

Thank you for all that you every day to make the world a better place. As always, if you have questions, please feel free to ask.

**House Bill 2367: The “able bodied” bill passes**

**AZ Republic 4-18-14**

A proposal that could force able-bodied Medicaid recipients to get jobs and limit some to a maximum of five years of insurance is on its way to Gov. Jan Brewer for consideration after the House gave final approval to Republican House Speaker Andy Tobin's bill on Thursday.

House Bill 2367 requires the state's Medicaid program to apply for a waiver from federal regulators every year to allow it to impose the new rules. Federal officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services reiterated Thursday that the work-rule and time-limit proposals likely run counter to Medicaid's laws and regulations. Tobin, however, has said he believes Medicaid's position could change over time.

Tobin's bill also imposes co-pays on unneeded ambulance and emergency-room use. He has said the rules are needed to protect the state from excess expenses. Democrats argue that they would limit the effectiveness of the health system for poor Arizonans.

The bill passed the Senate and the House on party-line votes, with majority Republicans in support and Democrats opposed.

There was little discussion during the final vote on Thursday.

An analysis of the bill's impact released Wednesday by the Legislature's budget experts estimated that 141,000 current Medicaid recipients would lose coverage under Tobin's lifetime limit. That could save the state nearly $150million a year. Only about half of the 440,000 able-bodied adults now getting insurance meet the work requirement. More than 1.4million Arizonans were enrolled in the state's health-insurance plan for the poor as of April1.

As originally introduced in February, the bill would have a hard limit of five years for anyone getting Medicaid.

After an outcry from Democrats over its effect on the working poor, Tobin changed that provision, and it now affects only people who are able-bodied and don't work. The bill does not define "able-bodied." He also added exemptions for pregnant women, those on disability benefits and those caring for young children.

Tobin, R-Paulden, said that the federal opposition could change and that the requirements give the state tools to cut enrollment if the government fails to fund the program as promised.

Tobin's proposal includes a requirement for a co-pay for unneeded visits to hospital emergency rooms or ambulance use. The federal government had allowed Arizona to charge $30 co-pays for unneeded ER visits, but that expired Dec.31. Arizona is now asking federal officials for authority to charge $200 for such visits for newly eligible people on the state's Medicaid plan, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

Rep. Eric Meyer, D-Paradise Valley, said Tobin is trying to limit the reach of the program.

A Medicaid-expansion proposal pushed by Brewer last year led to a fracture among fellow Republicans and an impasse she broke by calling a special legislative session.