

Medicaid Transformation Follow-Up

References made during Sarah Pfau's presentation:

- Division of Health Benefits, DHHS March 18th, 2019 Policy Paper: [*Behavioral Health and Intellectual/Developmental Disability Tailored Plan Eligibility and Enrollment*](#)
- [*S 387: Medicaid Work and Community Engagement Opportunity*](#), was filed on March 27th by Senators Hise, Bishop, and Krawiec. The bill would require work and community engagement as a contingency to participation in the *current* NC Medicaid Program; there is no language about a Medicaid Expansion waiver. The bill includes a list of 21 categories of individuals eligible for an exemption from the work and community engagement requirement. The individuals listed include I/DD individuals, individuals with a “disabling” mental health disorder, and individuals in a substance abuse treatment program. The bill would require DHHS to submit a draft State Plan Amendment to CMS by October 2019 for implementation by July 1, 2020.
- [*H 488, Address Direct Support Personnel Staffing Crisis*](#), was filed on March 27th by Representatives Dobson, Bell, Presnell, and Ball. The bill would provide an appropriation for Direct Support Professional (DSP) wage increases via directed payments to LME/MCOs for the biennium. Those wage increases would be for DSPs in ICF/IDD Group Homes specifically. The bill would also require a DHB actuarial study of the actual versus budgeted per capita cost for Innovations Waiver slots, including the inherent cost for DSP wages. All proposed wage increases in the bill would be for \$15 / hour: the equivalent of State-operated facility DSP wages.

[I did not mention this final bill at the meeting, but your stakeholders will want to be aware of it]:

- [*H 516, Mental Health Protection Act*](#), was filed on March 18th by Representatives Fisher, Autry, Brockman, and Dahle. The bill's long title is: **An Act concerning the protection of minors and adults who have disabilities from attempts to change sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.** The bill would prohibit six categories of professionals (including LCSW, LMFT, Psychiatrists, and Psychologists) from engaging in conversion therapy with an individual under 18 years of age or an adult who has a disability. Professionals prohibited from this scope of practice would be subject to disciplinary action by their respective licensing entities. DHHS would also have concurrent authority to initiate disciplinary proceedings for violations of the law, and would have rulemaking authority to promulgate relevant administrative rules. The bill also prohibits the use of any State funds or funds belonging to a municipality, agency, or political subdivision of the State for: a) conducting conversion therapy; b) referring an individual for conversion therapy; c) health benefits coverage for conversion therapy; or

d) a grant or contract with any entity that conducts conversion therapy or refers individuals for conversion therapy.

Sarah Pfau, JD, MPH
Senior Policy and Regulatory Affairs Specialist
Cansler Collaborative Resources, Inc.
8601 Six Forks Road, Suite 205
P.O. Box 99235
Raleigh, NC 27624-9235
Office (919) 334-4193
Cell (984) 255-4500
canslercollaborativeresources.com