JOINT COMMISSION ON HEALTH CARE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2013

Notes from the Chair

Serving as Chair of the Joint Commission is an exciting honor after my many years of working to improve health care for all Virginians. I look forward to building on JCHC's work of 21 years in addressing health-care concerns related to access, availability, quality, cost, and transparency.

In addition, as a vigorous advocate for military service members, veterans, and their families, I will seek to share information and provide assistance particularly related to health and long-term care services. As a first step, we have posted website links to specific resources for veterans on JCHC's home page.

In closing, I want to recognize Senator Blevins, a much-admired member of the Joint Commission who will retire in August. Harry, we will certainly miss your calm, reassuring manner and principled character. Thank you for your many contributions to the Commission, including your service as the Healthy Living/Health Services Subcommittee Co-Chair.

Message from the Vice-Chair

This year will be another busy one for the Joint Commission as we strive to provide useful, timely, and insightful reports on the many important issues we are studying. As in the past, we will work with advocates and stakeholders in shaping practical responses for policy-makers to consider during the upcoming session.

And finally, I would like to join Senator Puller in recognizing and thanking Senator Harry Blevins for his distinguished service on the Joint Commission.

Membership

Senator Linda T. Puller
Chair

Delegate John M. O'Bannon, III
Vice-Chair

Senator George L. Barker

Senator Harry B. Blevins

Senator Charles W. Carrico, Sr.

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Senator Stephen H. Martin

Senator Jeffrey L. McWaters

Senator Ralph S. Northam

Delegate Robert H. Brink

Delegate David L. Bulova

Delegate Benjamin L. Cline

Delegate Rosalyn R. Dance

Delegate T. Scott Garrett

Delegate Algie T. Howell, Jr.

Delegate Riley E. Ingram

Delegate Christopher K. Peace

Delegate Christopher P. Stolle

Secretary William A. Hazel, Jr.

Staff

Kim Snead
Stephen W. Bowman
Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.
Jaime H. Hoyle
Sylvia A. Reid

2013 Proposed Studies

Costs Associated with Untreated Dental Disease
SJR 50 (2012) – Senator Barker
Staff: Jaime H. Hoyle

Implementation of Expedited Partner Therapy
HJR 147 (2012) – Delegate Herring
Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.

Cost Sharing for Prescription Medication
SJR 579 (2011) – Delegate O'Bannon
Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.

Telemedicine and Mental Health Services
Approved Policy Option
Staff: Jaime H. Hoyle

Needs of Individuals with ASD in Transitioning from Secondary Schools
SJR 330 – Senator Northam
Staff: Jaime H. Hoyle

Factors Affecting Health Care Costs
HJR 687 – Delegate O'Bannon
Staff: Stephen W. Bowman

Update on Shortage of Physicians
HJR 689 – Delegate Purkey
Staff: Stephen W. Bowman

Grand-Aides or Similar Model to Expand Primary Care Services
HJR 571 – Delegate Hope
Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.

Administrative Responsibility for the Federal Rural Health Grant Program
Request by Delegate Garrett
Staff: Kim Snead

Age Restrictions for Tanning Bed Use (SB 1274)
Request by Senator Barker
Staff: Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D.

2013 Meeting Schedule

May 21st
10:00 a.m. JCHC
1:00 p.m. BHC Subcommittee

June 7th
1:30 p.m. HL/HS Subcommittee

September 17th
10:00 a.m. JCHC
1:00 p.m. BHC Subcommittee

October 22nd
10:00 a.m. JCHC
1:00 p.m. HL/HS Subcommittee

November 18th
10:00 am JCHC

Legislative Initiatives—2013 General Assembly Session

Senate Bill 945 – Senator Linda T. Puller
House Bill 2030 – Delegate Christopher K. Peace

Amend *Code of Virginia* Title 38.2, to require that qualified health plans allow enrollees, who are expected to have annual prescription medication costs in excess of their expected cost-sharing obligation, to request and set up equal monthly payments to reach that obligation over the plan year.

SB 945 was tabled in HWI and HB 2030 was left in HAC.

Budget Amendments*

Virginia Department of Health

- Expand, through the UVA Center for Telehealth, the Perinatal Telehealth Network to include Danville, Pittsylvania County, and Washington County and to initiate ultrasound services at the Culpeper and Staunton Health Department telemedicine sites. ($867,000 GFs)
- Allow for the customization and advertisement of the text4baby program. ($75,000 GFs)
- Advance statewide education programs on emergency stroke care through telehealth. ($25,000 GFs)

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

- Increase statewide funding for the Virginia Respite Care Initiative ($543,791 GFs)

**None of JCHC's introduced budget amendments were included in the approved budget.*