



COMMITTEE WEEK UPDATE FOR THE UPCOMING 2012 SESSION
Friday, December 9, 2011
Conclusion of Committee Week 6

We have just concluded the final committee meeting before the January 10th start of the 2012-2013 Session. All legislation was completely overshadowed this week by the Governor's 2012-12013 Budget Recommendations. The beginning of the week was focused on redistricting in both the House and Senate. Both chambers released a variation of proposed maps and a few committee bills. The Governor released his Budget on Wednesday and the remainder of the week was filled with presentations by Governor Scott's staff on his proposed budget. Presentations on state employee health insurance/benefits were heard in a few committees.

Tuesday December 6th

House Criminal Justice Subcommittee heard a presentation from DJJ Secretary Walters on Juvenile Justice Reform initiatives and the committee work shopped mental health in the veteran court system. To see the presentations follow this link:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.com/Sections/Documents/publications.aspx?Committeed=2614&PublicationType=Committees&DocumentType=All&Session=2012&SessionId=70>

House Health Care Appropriations chaired by Representative Hudson was cancelled this week.

Wednesday December 7th

Governor Scott released his 2012-2013 Recommended Budget at a 1:30 press conference. To see the budget, follow this link: <http://letsgettowork.state.fl.us/billview/billpage.aspx>

Governor Scott's proposed a 66.4 billion dollar budget with his top 2 priorities being education and creating jobs. Governor Scott added an extra \$1 billion into the education portion of the budget but deeply cutting the transportation portion of the budget and the health and human services area of the budget. Out of the \$2.6 billion cut made by Scott, 85% of those cuts come out of HHS. This drastically hurts the Medicaid hospitals as the Governor proposed to reform Medicaid reimbursement methodology.

"Gov. Rick Scott, who made a name for himself by leading one of the nation's largest hospital chains, is targeting Medicaid and health care spending as part of his \$66.4 billion budget request. Scott proposes cutting overall state spending by 4.6 percent, but a large chunk of the savings -- nearly \$1.8 billion -- would come from Medicaid. And most of that is coming by changing how Medicaid reimburses hospitals. Rep. Matt Hudson, the Naples Republican who is in charge of the House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee, said he had not seen the budget and wasn't able to comment on specifics. When told of

the plan, however, to make hospital reimbursements more consistent Hudson said this: "Florida couldn't be any more different from top to toe."

The Governor's proposal to pull money out of the HHS budget also hurts mental health and substance abuse services. It looks as if funds from Children's Baker Act Services were removed in this proposal. The \$46 million for adult mental health and substance abuse services was held harmless. Karen Koch is working effortlessly to give us all a thorough and precise overview of all mh funding in the proposed budget.

Senate Children, Families and Elders Affairs Committee met. They heard a presentation on the importance of volunteers in the Guardian ad Litem Program and a presentation of the Independent Living Program by Oppaga. See this presentation follow this link: http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2010-2012/CF/MeetingRecords/Meeting_Packet.pdf The presentation focused on young adults and older children leaving the foster care system.

Senate Health Regulation Committee met and heard SB 402 by Negron. This bill creates the Statewide Task Force on Prescription Drug Abuse and Newborns; providing a purpose; providing membership of the task force; providing for reimbursement of per diem and travel expenses for members of the task force. SB 402 passed out unanimously.

Senate Criminal Justice Committee met and heard SB 498 by Lynn. Summary-Substance Abuse Education and Intervention Programs; Providing for the placement of certain misdemeanor controlled substance offenders in licensed substance abuse education and intervention programs as a standard condition of probation; providing that probation supervision services for defendants found guilty of certain misdemeanor controlled substance offenses may be provided by licensed substance abuse education and intervention programs; authorizing certain entities providing probation services to provide licensed substance abuse education and intervention programs; requiring private entities providing such programs to contract with the county and comply with other applicable provisions, etc. This bill passed out of committee unanimously.

Note- all bills we will be following will be listed in the Council's bill track in excel format . This will be included in Session Weekly Reports and will be posted on our website during Session.

Thursday December 8th

Senate Full Budget (previously called Appropriations) met in the AM and heard from Jerry McDaniel, Budget Chief to Governor Scott. He presented a slide presentation on the Governor's Budget Recommendations. To view the slides, follow this link: <http://letsgettowork.state.fl.us/reports/2012-Budget-Presentation-FY-2012-13.pdf>

Mr. McDaniel gave a brief overview of what was presented on Wednesday. Leader Nan Rich made it very clear she was less than thrilled with the cuts to HHS. Chair Alexander stated that the Senate would look very closely at the recommendations but that the Senate wouldn't necessarily go along with them. Each portion of the budget will be vetted more thoroughly in its respective committees.

Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations started off by Chairman Negrón claiming that he has “heard from sources in his district that he does not believe in mental health. He countered that he does believe in mental health that he even co sponsored a mental health bill years ago on parody. He stated that he does believe in mental health sciences but treatment should be provided by qualified professionals in correct settings. Chairman Negrón asked “should the State give special treatment to mental health?” He did not think so but that would be up for debate.

Second, Jane Johnson, HHS policy coordinator for Governor Scott presented on the HHS portion of the Governor’s recommended budget. Jane Johnson explained that \$46 million (same amount as last year) for adult substance and mental health services has been moved in the Governor’s proposed budget from non recurring to recurring. The Governor did not cut these funds. She did not present specifically on children’s mental health. Her presentation can be found at the following link:

[http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2010-2012/BHA/MeetingRecords/Package_\(FINAL\).pdf](http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2010-2012/BHA/MeetingRecords/Package_(FINAL).pdf)

Details of the \$1.8 billion cut/ reform to Medicaid hospital’s reimbursement methodology can also be found in this presentation. The Senate committee members have numerous questions on the methodology, specifically how it will relate to LIP. Details will follow in upcoming committee meetings.

The Committee was supposed to hear a full presentation from Oppaga regarding substance abuse and mental health contracting as a follow-up to their Full Budget presentation. Because of time constraints, Jennifer Johnson, Staff Director at Oppaga, only gave a brief description of outreach services and grief counseling. Oppaga spoke to 21 providers and explained that grief counseling met approx. once a week. Her description and many other detailed information can be found at this link:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/PublishedContent/Committees/2010-2012/BHA/MeetingRecords/Package.pdf>

Chairman Negrón will be following up in committee weeks to come. No discussion regarding Ms. Johnson’s 3 minute presentation arose. This is not at all what we, at the Council, expected of this meeting.

Articles of Interest:

Compliance of Budget remarks by Top Fl Officials <http://saintpetersblog.com/2011/12/compilation-of-analysis-and-reactions-to-gov-rick-scotts-budget-proposal/>

Budget Catastrophe to HHHS <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/state/scott-budget-plan-raises-school-spending-by-1-2019101.html>

Press release from Sec. Wilkins:

http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/newsroom/pressreleases/20111207_DCFSecretaryDavidWilkinsPraises.shtml

FIRST DAY OF REGULAR SESSION- JANUARY 10, 2012!

If you would like information on a specific committee meeting, a specific bill, or would like additional information on any happenings at the Capitol, please always feel free to ask. shane@fccmh.org , office (850) 224-6048, cell (850) 322-6693