PUBLIC HEALTH LEGISLATION TRACKING AND RESPONSE

Hannah Ellison

PHASE Intern
MPH/MBA Candidate
OVERVIEW

- Office of the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services (PHS)
- Importance of legislation
- Goals:
  - Delivery System Reforms
  - Gain experience within legislative process
- Tracked 160 bills during 2017 General Assembly (January 11 - April 10)
- Attended weekly meetings to record PHS legislative positions
- Researched legislation in other states
- Attended hearings
- Drafted language for fact sheet, proposed amendment
RESULTS

- 61 of 160 tracked bills passed
- Delivery system reform
- Opioid response
PRECEPTORSHIP TAX CREDIT

- Income Tax - Credit for Nurse Practitioner or Licensed Physician in Preceptorship Program - Alterations (HB683/SB436)
  - Update to 2016 legislation
- Passed as amended with 100 hour requirement for nurse practitioners
  - 160 for physicians
- 94% of nurse practitioner applications had been denied, 20% of available money not allocated
- Effective immediately
HOPE ACT

- Heroin and Opioid Prevention Effort and Treatment Act (HB1329/SB967)
- Passed as amended
  - Ease access to opioid overdose reversal drugs
  - Enhance local oversight of overdoses
  - Broaden DHMH CDS registration authority
  - Expand scope of drug courts
  - Create health crisis hotline
  - Establish crisis treatment centers
  - Ensure community behavioral health provider rate increase
  - Provide opioid use disorder information to patients
  - Prior authorization for opioid antagonist drug products
- Effective June 1, 2017 (prior authorization effective January 1, 2018)
- Utilizes the $10 million crisis fund for 2018
Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (HB1082/SB1060)

Passed as amended
- State Board of Education to expand existing program to include opioid addiction and prevention education
- Local school boards to establish policies to store and administer naloxone
- Higher education institutions to establish a policy, including awareness training for incoming students, obtaining and storing naloxone, training campus police or personnel

Effective July 1, 2017

Required $3 million appropriation for 2019 to award local grants
Health Care Providers - Prescription Opioids - Limits on Prescribing (HB1432)
- DHMH Departmental Bill
- Passed as amended
  - Providers to prescribe lowest effective dose of an opioid for the expected duration of pain
  - Exceptions for substance related disorders; cancer; end of life care, hospice, or palliative care; chronic pain
  - Prescribing practices based on evidence-based clinical guidelines
  - Disciplinary action by health occupation boards allowed
TAKEAWAYS

- The underlying goal is more important than the process-oriented goal.
- Building consensus is critical and requires listening and communicating with all relevant stakeholders.
- Adaptability and a willingness to think of innovative implementation ideas is necessary even working within a less-than-ideal framework.
- Recognize that there is a tension between being a quick study on a topic and waiting to act until you gain deeper expertise.
QUESTIONS?