

KMHC – POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES – 2017 GA

KMHC Legislative Agenda: Behavioral Health IS a priority – Invest in it!!

PENSION REFORM – CMHCs & OTHER QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES RECEIVED FUNDING HELP IN THE 2016 BUDGET BILL TO PAY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION

Will there be any proposed changes to the pension system in 2017?

The sustainability of the public safety net – CMHCs, health departments, DV and rape crisis centers, children's advocacy centers – is at stake!

COMPREHENSIVE TAX REFORM TO INCREASE REVENUE & IMPROVE THE TAX SYSTEM

KMHC has voted in the past to support comprehensive tax reform to increase revenue and to provide a more equitable and elastic tax code, including an Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

MEDICAID & HEALTH SERVICES ACCESS:

PROTECT MEDICAID SERVICES AND SUPPORTS UNDER MANAGED CARE: Advocate for continuity of care at a minimum and for a strong role and voice for consumers and family members in the Medicaid system. Closely monitor the new MCO contracts and insist on their enforcement.

PROTECT MEDICAID EXPANSION IN KENTUCKY: 440,000 Kentuckians were able to access behavioral health & health services through Medicaid expansion, some for the first time.

****AGREED OUTPATIENT ORDERS & MANDATED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT – TIM'S LAW:** Create a system for individuals with SMI and anosognosia who have been involuntarily committed at least twice in the previous 12 months to have court-ordered and monitored outpatient treatment.

****GAMBLING PREVENTION & TREATMENT:** Establish funding through assessment of lottery, race tracks and registered charitable gaming entities for education, awareness, prevention and treatment of problem gambling provided by certified gambling counselors and CMHCs.

****INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT FOR SUD:** Bill had been filed previously by Rep. Keane and also by Rep. Jenkins to create a mechanism for involuntary commitment for those incapacitated by a Substance Use Disorder (SUD).

****ACCESS TO MEDICATIONS** – sponsored by Sen. Buford to put limits on Co-Pays charged for prescription drugs on a tiered formulary.

OTHER ISSUES:

**** HB 70 – RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS** – Allow Kentuckians to vote on amending Section 145 of the KY Constitution to require the automatic restoration of voting rights after a non-violent felon offender completes their sentence.

**** HELP DV VICTIMS WITH HOUSING:** Bill was again filed by Rep. Jenkins – prohibits landlords from refusing to rent to a rape or DV victim.

****PROTECTION AGAINST PAYDAY LENDERS:** Sen. Kerr is sponsor of a bill endorsed by a coalition which would put a cap on the interest that can be charged by payday lenders.

****CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES** – sponsored by Rep. Greer requires unannounced visits in child protective cases; named the Tucker Act for a young boy murdered by a family acquaintance.

**** HB 10 – EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** - Provide tax credits up to \$25,000 for employers who contract with a nonprofit agency for work performed by individuals with disabilities.