



Medicaid Bills signed into Law by the 65th Montana Legislature

House Bill 599 – Allowing for the Practice of Certain Health Care Services under the Community Health Aide Program

House Bill 529 – Revising Requirements Related to Waiting List for Waiver Services

This bill requires the Department to establish by rule the procedures for moving a person from a waiver waiting list into one of the state's Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waivers. This includes the process and priorities to be used in making determination related to the waiting list. The Department may not modify the policies in the rule by adopting supplemental policies or procedures not subject to the administrative rulemaking process.

Addictive and Mental Disorders Services

House Bill 103 – Authorizing Certain Medical Professionals to Confirm the Chemical Dependency of an Applicant for Admission as a Medically Monitored or Managed Inpatient at an Approved Treatment Facility

Historically, 53-24-301 Montana Code Annotated (MCA) allowed only a licensed addiction counselor to confirm that an individual had a substance use disorder and was appropriate for medically monitored or managed inpatient care, which created an unnecessary barrier to these services. The 2019 Montana Legislature enacted House Bill 103 to allow additional provider types to conduct substance use disorder assessments and referral to appropriate acute services. Health care professionals licensed under Title 37 that may now assess and confirm an individual is appropriate for acute services include: a physician, a naturopathic physician, a physician assistant, an advance practice registered nurse, or a licensed addictions counselor.

Senate Bill 30 – Allowing Certified Behavioral Health Peer Support Services to Qualify as Medical Assistance under the Montana Medicaid Program

The 2017 Montana Legislature enacted Senate Bill 62, providing for certification and regulation of behavioral health peer support specialists, establishing certification requirements. In 2019, Senate Bill 30 provided funding for the certified behavioral health peer support services to be added as a new benefit under Montana's Medicaid Program for members with severe and



disabling mental illness. Additionally, the Addictive and Mental Disorder's Division chose to add this new benefit for members with substance use disorder. Prior to these two bills, peer support services were funded on a limited basis by contracts through the Substance Abuse, Prevention, and Treatment Block Grant and the Mental Health Block Grant. Certified behavioral health peer support services may be provided through Mental Health Centers, State Approved Substance Use Disorder providers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Indian Health Services, and Rural Health Clinics.

House Bill 660 – Creating a Mobile Crisis Unit Program

In House Bill 660, legislation was passed to fund Mobile Crisis Programs which are expected to provide mobile mental health crisis intervention services by a mobile crisis unit comprised of one mobile crisis unit professional and one or more support persons through coordination with dispatch, local law enforcement, emergency medical services personnel, and other appropriate local or state resources. The goals of the Mobile Crisis Unit program are to:

- Stabilize acute psychiatric or behavioral symptoms;
- Evaluate treatment needs;
- Develop a plan to meet the ongoing needs of the person having a mental health crisis; and
- Transport the person to a more appropriate facility for care if applicable.

Disability Services

House Bill 680 – Establishing a Caseload Cap on Targeted Case Management for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (DD)

This bill requires that a contract for case management services for individuals with developmental disabilities must include funding to allow for an average caseload of no more than 35 clients per case manager. It appropriates money through federal special revenue and general fund.

Senate Bill 5 – Requiring Review of Regulations Related to DD Community Services

This bill requires the Department to carry out a review of administrative rules, policies, and procedures and take necessary steps to eliminate or change a rule, policy, or procedure found by the review to be unnecessary, duplicative, or in need of revision, including applying for any amendments to Medicaid waivers.



Senior and Long Term Care Services

House Bill 669 - Implementing the Provisions of Section B of the General Appropriations Act

This bill:

- Revises the use of the Older Montanans Trust to fund 100 HCBS waiver slots over the biennium. Growth of slots is 25 every 6 months. Funding is in House Bill 2.
- Gives the directive to operate Southwest Montana Veterans Home using a contractor, and allowing the contractor to bill third parties, such as Medicaid.