

- Discussion of **carryover** bills: Charlene reported that starting on 1/14/14 the committee will be working all the carryover bills.
 - LD230, Commission of health care cost and quality, Rep. Graham: report is due back to HHS committee.
 - LD347, An act to amend insurance coverage for diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, Sen. Lachowicz
 - LD499, An Act to promote dental care for low income populations, Rep. Harlow
 - LD936, An act to allow municipalities to impose service fees in lieu of property taxes on certain nonprofit organizations,
 - LD1449, An act to change the composition and duties of the Maine Children's Growth Council, Sen. Alfond. Will be worked on January 14th.
 - LD1552, An act to require the DHHS to initiate a new rate-setting procedure for services for preschool children with disabilities, Rep. Farnsworth. This will also be worked on January 14th by HHS committee.
- Discussion of approved bills
 - LR2555- Rep. Hobbins, Special Purpose Schools reimbursement. It is about bed days when children do not come to school due to illness, etc.
 - LR2224-Rep. Peterson, Blue Ribbon Commission on Independent Living and Disability
 - LR2453-Sen. Lochowicz, NET (nonemergency transportation)
 - LR2500-Rep. Sanborn, eliminate financial inequity in providing community-based behavioral health services.
 - LR2503-Rep. Farnsworth, protect children from abuse: the DDC asked Dick to introduce this bill and it is aimed at out of home placement.
 - LR2534-Rep. Dorney, improve behavioral health services and public safety
 - Rep. Eves - medicaid expansion.
 - LR2574-Sen. Vitelli, improve dental services for MaineCare eligible children
 - LR2590-Rep. Gattine, PIU/increase state recovery under the Federal False Claims Act.

Amendments to waivers

The waiver amendments to sections 21 includes separating work supports (individual and group), home support-remote support, career planning, a clarifying definition for shared living, and assistive technology. The department is also adding 4 additional reserve slots to this section.

Section 29 will have the new service of home supports and the assistive technology, separation of employment supports, etc. There will be an additional 30 slots for this waiver. DHHS hopes to have these amendments and new policy rules in place by March 1, 2014.

Section 32 is the waiver for children with children with intellectual disabilities or pervasive developmental disorders. This waiver has been a long time in getting up to speed. We are now told that there are children ready but no providers have signed up. The issue is simple: rates that are too low for startup, never mind sustainability. March 31, 2014, is the deadline for this waiver

to be implemented or CMS will eliminate it. Ginger reported that the rates had been referred to the DHHS rate setting office and they came back the same.

Sections 19 (HCB for elders and people with disabilities; there are under 1000 people on this waiver) and 22 (benefits for the physically disabled; there are 154 people on this waiver) will be merged together under section 19 as required by statute. A stakeholders' group has been meeting convened by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Office.

Section 20 is the Other Related Conditions waiver that was just implemented this year. With the implementation, the need for a number of changes has developed.

Section 18 will be the new HCB waiver for members with brain injuries. There is also a stakeholders group working on this.