

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Paul H. Joffe, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioner's Office
221 State Street
11 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel: (207) 287-3707
Fax (207) 287-3005; TTY: 1-800-606-0215

December 1, 2011

Senator Earle L. McCormick, Co-Chair
Representative Meredith N. Strang Burgess, Co-Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator McCormick, Representative Strang Burgess, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services:

On behalf of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services I am pleased to provide the attached report in response to your letter of June 16, 2011. The Health and Human Services Committee voted against LD 1195, but asked that DHHS Office of MaineCare Services to poll licensed social workers and mental health professionals to determine the percentages of those professionals who bill MaineCare independently and the percentage who use billing agencies. That information is included within this packet.

Please direct any questions or concerns to Guy Cousins, Director of Substance Abuse Services and Acting Director of the Office of Adult Mental Health Services. He can be reached at 287-2595 or by email at guy.cousins@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Mayhew
Commissioner

MCM/klv

Enclosure

Office of Adult Mental Health Services
LD 1195 Report to the Committee on Health and Human Services

During the First Regular Session of the 125 Legislature of the Health and Human Services Committee considered LD 1195, Resolve, To Create Equitable Reimbursement for Mental Health Professionals. Committee Members heard at the public hearing challenges faced by licensed social workers and mental health professionals who are reimbursed under the MaineCare program for services through Mental Health/Billing Agencies, as well as those who bill MaineCare independently.

The HHS Committee designated LD 1195 as Dead during the last legislative session. In a follow up letter, the HHS Committee has requested DHHS to survey licensed social workers and mental health professionals to 'determine the percentages of those professionals who bill MaineCare independently and the percentage who use billing agencies.'

The Office of Adult Mental Health Services developed a short survey tool in conjunction with Karen Glew, Office of Continuous Quality Improvement Services and David Perkins, DAFS/OIT/DHHS. OAMHS obtained a list of 8,059 currently active licensed social work and mental health professionals registered through the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulations. OAMHS notified all these registered professionals through a mailing on October 21, 2011 directing them to a web-based survey and requested the survey to be completed by November 15, 2011. A total of 777 licensed mental health professionals (8%) responded to the survey. Please see table below for detailed breakdown of the survey results.

Our summary of the results indicates the following about the licensed social workers and mental health professionals who responded to the survey:

1. 5% bill MaineCare directly—only.
2. 5% bill MaineCare directly AND through a Mental Health/Billing Agency
3. 53% bill through a Mental Health/Billing Agency
4. 13% do not bill MaineCare
5. 21% reported not self-employed and not billing through a Mental Health /Billing Agency
6. 4% missing data or no response

The second page of this report contains the raw data and percentages. With the data received and an analysis completed, there is no compelling information that supports a recommendation opposing or supporting a flat fee for social workers as previously presented. (See attached LD1195 testimony report).

Respectfully submitted,



Guy R. Cousins, LCSW, LADC, CCS
Acting Director, Office of Adult Mental Health Services

| | Bill MaineCare Directly Only | Bill both MaineCare directly and Mental Health /Billing Agency | Bill MaineCare through a Mental Health /Billing Agency | Does not bill MaineCare | Not self-employed AND not employed by a Mental Health/Billing Agency | Missing data | Totals |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| Reporting self-employed and NOT employed by a Mental Health/Billing Agency | 40 | 22 | 139 | 87 | 0 | 8 | 296 |
| Reporting employed by a Mental Health/Billing Agency but NOT self-employed | 0 | 0 | 232 | 11 | 0 | 7 | 250 |
| Reporting self-employed AND employed by a Mental Health/Billing Agency | 0 | 11 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 37 |
| Reporting employed by a Mental Health /Billing Agency and missing information on self-employed | 0 | 0 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8 |
| Reporting self-employed but missing information on employed by Mental Health/Billing Agency | 0 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 12 |
| Reported no self-employment AND no employment by Mental Health/Billing Agency | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 164 | | 164 |
| Missing Cases | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| Totals | 40 | 35 | 410 | 99 | 164 | 29 | 777 |
| % | 5% | 5% | 53% | 13% | 21% | 4% | 100% |