

Shortly before midnight on June 30th, the State Legislature sent an Operating Budget bill to the Governor for signature. The bill avoided a state shutdown. SSB 6050 followed a basic session plus 3 special sessions. The third session continues to iron out some of the necessary requirements of the operating budget.

The Developmental Disabilities population did fairly well in this budget. Small hourly increases were made available to Supported Living Providers, Adult Family Home Vendors, Agency & Individual Providers.

There were no reductions to the Basic Plus Waiver or to our Individual & Family Services slots. A plus, High School Transition dollars are now included in the Basic Plus Waiver. Money has been allotted to develop rules for Adult Family Homes servicing young adults with DD. Funding is also available for Early Intervention Services. Bills were passed for all phases of life in the DD population:

SB5317 : Bright Futures-Autism & DD Screening

SB5488: Applied Behavior Analyst Licensure (Paid by Provider Fees)

SB5688: Create Social-Emotional Learning Workgroup

SB5311: Add Crisis Intervention Training for all new & existing law enforcement officers

HB2063: Create a Workgroup for Achieving a Better Life Experience program (ABLE Act)

Funding was provided for our Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs) as well. Additional funds were set aside for compliance with the PASRRs per CMS – Assessment Requirements; add nursing/specialized services for RHCs and Community Nursing Facilities. They have also added Respite in an existing 8-bed cottage for crisis stabilization at Yakima Valley School RHC. Enhanced Respite for Community Crisis Stabilization (CCSS) was not funded.

Yakima Valley School is scheduled for closure by attrition. The legislature has funded a study to look at the conversion of YVS from a Nursing Facility to a Mental Health/DD facility. If feasible and approved by CMS, the federal match would increase from the current MH match of 25% to 50% match for RHCs.

With the 3rd Special Session continuing, we don't know if there will be other changes.

Respectfully submitted,

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