

February 24, 2025

DMHAS Legislative Newsletter

Greetings to DMHAS Staff and Partners!

It has been another busy week at the legislature! See below a recap of what's been taking place:

DMHAS' Budget Presentation to the Appropriations Committee

This past Friday, Commissioner Navarretta went in front of the Appropriations Committee to answer questions legislators had on the biennial budget. The Commissioner will then take any questions that legislators had seeking additional information and prepare responses for the Health Subcommittee Work Session.

Following this, a public hearing was held where members of the public came out to testify their support, opposition, or requested changes, to the Appropriations Committee. Over 300 people signed up to testify and the public hearing went into early Saturday morning!



To watch DMHAS' budget presentation, click [here](#).
To watch the public hearing, click [here](#).

Introduction of the End Homelessness Caucus



Last week, Rep. Kadeem Roberts announced in a press conference the formation of the End Homelessness Caucus. Serving as Chair, Rep. Roberts highlighted the issue is long overdue and caucus members will use their knowledge and awareness to tackle the issues surrounding homelessness.

They will work collaboratively with service providers across the state and advocates to secure housing and services. Rep. Laurie Sweet, who also co-founded the caucus, will serve as Vice Chair.

Public Health Committee Public Hearing

The Public Health Committee had another [public hearing](#) on several bills that were drafted. To watch the public hearing, click [here](#).

Press Conference on Special Education

Senator Looney and Speaker Ritter held a press conference this week to announce funding for special education. The legislature will vote this week on providing a \$40 million supplemental appropriation to have schools with their special education needs. Read more about this announcement [here](#).

A future update will give further details on the emergency certified bills that were heard in session.

Did You Know?

Let's Continue to Learn about Committee Deadlines!

Last week, we learned about the early committee deadlines. The deadlines below take place around the midpoint of the legislative session. As a reminder, the legislative session ends on June 4th.

- A *Raised Bill* is a fully drafted bill introduced by a committee that is not based on a proposed bill that a legislator has introduced. An example of a title can be An Act Concerning Mental Health. There is a Raised Bill Deadline in which the committee must vote to have these types of bills drafted.
- Finally, there is the *Joint Favorable or "JF" Deadline*. Committees must vote bills out of committee before this timeframe. If not, these bills won't move forward.

What's Happening Next?

Committees continue to hold public hearings and committee meetings. To see what's taking place this week, visit the [CGA website](#).

A couple things to highlight:

- The House will be in session on Monday, February 24th at 5PM.
- The Senate will be in session on Tuesday, February 25th at 12PM.
- The Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee will be holding a public hearing on Wednesday, February 26th at 11AM Public Hearing on the Governor's capital budget. For details on what is proposed for DMHAS, please see testimony [here](#).

Have a Great Week!

In partnership, Chandra & Kelly