

REDC Policy Update 1/17/2020

Good Afternoon REDC Members,

Below you'll find your SERVE Act policy update and requests:

- This week we did not have any co-sponsors added to the SERVE Act, but did have a number of good meetings with Committee Members including Sen. Blumenthal (D-CT), Rep. Cheney (R-WY), Rep. Davis (D-CA), Rep. Kirkpatrick (D-AZ), Rep. Kilmer (D-WA).
 - **One thing we've noted is that we don't have anyone we know in Wyoming to outreach to Rep. Cheney's office- Do any REDC Members have any connections with anyone in Wyoming (i.e. patients, alumni, professionals, etc.?) We could use 5 emails to her office to get her on board. Please email Luke if you have any! Luke.kopetsky@centerroadsolutions.com and we can provide a draft email and the staffers email to reach out to.**
 - Additionally, a number of you/your centers will receive emails from Luke for outreach to the above Members. We'll also be following up with anyone who attended the October hill day to do some more pushes with those meetings.

- How Will Impeachment Proceedings Affect Our Work:
 - One big question I'm sure you're wondering is what affect will Impeachment proceedings have on our work. I'd say, in the short term it won't, but will give us more time to gain support for SERVE in advance of the NDAA.
 - Originally there were discussions that Senators would not be able to co-sponsor bills, introduce bills, have Committee hearings, but in the short term that does not seem to be the case.
 - Below provides what we received from our contacts in Senate Majority Leadership:
 - Senate can receive House messages and Executive matters
 - Committees be authorized to report Legislative and Executive matters
 - Senators be allowed to submit statements for the Record, bills and resolutions, and cosponsor requests
 - Process Wise For What's Happened This Week and Will be Happening Next:
 - On Tuesday, January 21st the Senate will convene at 12:30 pm and be in a period of Morning Business. Following Leader remarks, the Senate will recess subject to the call of the Chair.
 - At 1:00 pm the Senate (yesterday 1/16), sitting as a Court of Impeachment, will resume consideration of the articles of impeachment.
 - Other timeline items on impeachment to note from the floor today (1/16):
 - The president may have until 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 18th, to file his answer with the Secretary of the Senate which will be spread upon the Journal.
 - The House of Representatives will have until 12:00 noon on Monday, January 20th, to file its replication with the Secretary of the Senate.
 - If the House of Representatives wishes to file a trial brief, it must be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 18th.
 - If the president wishes to file a trial brief, it must be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12:00 noon on Monday, January 20th.
 - If the House of Representatives wishes to file a rebuttal brief, it must be filed with the Secretary of the Senate by 12:00 noon Tuesday, January 21st.
 - *NOTE: the Senate will convene for Pro Forma session only, with no business conducted, tomorrow, Friday, January 17th at 2:00 pm.

- TRICARE for Kids Coalition Meeting:
 - We attended the monthly TRICARE for Kids Coalition Meeting.
 - During this meeting, DHA's CAPT Simmer attended and spoke on the T5 procedures. As a reminder, this is the plan to remove ~30% of the installation bases specialty care providers (think psychiatrist)
 - Within this conversation, there were a lot of important nuggets I wanted to share with everyone who currently is a TRICARE authorized provider and/or hopes to apply in the future:
 - TRICARE is planning to change the whole payment process, moving to **value-based care**. There will be an upcoming Request for Proposals (see it through Fedbizopps) on what value based care will look like.
 - DHA is broadening their definition of "network adequacy" too to mean more than just # of providers
 - They note that the challenge with tracking how much services are being used is that there is no referral requirement for mental health (unless its higher level for a servicemember)
 - As it relates to "value based care", "They don't want to let every provider in, they want to have the best providers. Arrangements with groups who provide a lot of different levels of care, and give them the quality outcomes that they want, and them the line share of business. They want to buy high-quality care".
 - In response, one Coalition member asked what the criteria to enroll is, who determines it, and if there is an opportunity for input.
 - DHA responded that it is an "inherently governmental decision" They may ask external entities like Children's Hospitals and professional societies. They have a "clinical communities" who they often ask for direct care things like what the metrics should be and if there is a benchmark. Issue is with behavioral health in finding a national benchmark.
 - They also discussed possibly having Centers of Excellence- but would also need to pay for travel- **Particularly they are looking at doing Centers of Excellence for Residential Treatment Centers.**
 - They want the best outcomes to send the kids to.
 - They also noted that they already collect outcome measurements for PTSD, depression, anxiety. However, it gets hard with outpatient because patients are often never technically discharged.
 - There is a rumor going around that Humana (TRICARE East) is **not certifying new providers**, and this is because Humana believes they have met their contractual requirements under TRICARE.
 - DHA claims that this isn't true- however- a bunch of the trade associations are saying that it is.

- **My Biggest Takeaway for the REDC: It will be important for everyone to start tracking outcome measurements and potentially seeing if there is a way to get ahead of the game in what would be good benchmarks for providing care (if you don't already have them).**
- Finally, we are hearing there will be a House Armed Service Committee hearing on February 5th related to military family access to care. This is broader into the disability space, but I have pitched Rep. Escobar's staff to ask a question for SERVE.

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