Public Policy

2014 Legislature:

- Budget—long bill: the budget was passed by the House and the Senate and was signed by the Governor on April 30.
  - Funding for 2,040 new resources for people on the wait list for the Supported Living Services (SLS) HCBS waiver
  - 25% increase in spending authorization limits for the SLS waiver
  - Increase in maximum annual limit for SLS recipients from 35,000 to $43,750 for the SLS waiver
  - Other new resources: DD Comp waiver and SLS waiver: 28 for youth aging out of the child welfare system, 40 for adults who experience emergency or crisis situations, 30 for people transitioning from the Regional Centers or Mental Health Institutes, and 61 for youth transitioning from Children’s Extensive Services waiver (CES)
  - A rate increase of 2% for all providers
  - A total increase in funding for Family Services and Supports Program (general fund only) of $3.4 million

Other relevant bills signed by the Governor


- **HB 1032**: Rep. Kagan and Sen. Guzman—makes provisions for juveniles charged with crimes to have access to legal counsel.

- **HB 1051**: Reps. Schafer and Landgraf and Sens. Kefalas and Crowder—requires state departments to develop a strategic plan to address the wait list for IDD Services.

- **HB 1162**: Rep. Landgraf—in cases of rape wherein a child is conceived, adds additional protections re: parental rights of victim.
• **HB 1211**: Rep. Young and Sen. Tochtrop—makes CO services conform with federal law re: Medicaid accessibility for complex medical rehabilitation.

• **HB 1252**: Reps. May and Gerou and Sen. Hodge—allows transfer of funds from the DD Cash fund to support expenses of capacity building in the IDD service system.

• **HB 1301**: Rep. Mitsch-Bush and Sen. Kerr—changes state law regarding safe routes to schools for all students.

• **HB 1303**: Reps. Scott and Ferrandino and Sen. Schwartz—allows testimony to the Legislature from remote locations.

• **HB 1317**: Rep. Duran and Sens. Nicholson and Kefalas—changes payments and subsidies for child care for parents receiving public benefits; creates a sliding scale of payments based on income and makes allowances for payment to providers when children are absent.

• **HB 1338**: Rep. May and Sen. Hodge—creates Regional Center Legislative Task Force to make recommendations about the utilization of state and Medicaid resources at the RCs and requires a facility utilization review.

• **HB 1360**: Rep. Young and Sen. Aguilar—Home Care Licensure sunset—allows for Home Care Licensure requirements to move forward for five years; requires review of HC requirements vis-à-vis SLS and CES requirements; exempts PASA’s from surveying under HC licensure rules; creates funding for licensure requirements for small agencies. Requires the department to establish a group to work on recommendations for these requirements in the interim.

• **HB 1368**: Rep. May and Sen. Hodge—requires that youth with IDD in the child welfare/foster system be transitioned to adult DD services at the age of 18. Allows for exceptions to be made in extraordinary circumstances.

• **SB 005**: Sen. Ullibarri and Rep. Singer—adds assurances to CO labor law to protect right of minimum wage earners.

• **SB 012**: Sen. Kefalas and Rep. Exum—changes formula for the CO program for the Aging and Disabled to tie increases in funding to a %age of income related to federal poverty levels.

• **SB 050**: Sen. Aguilar and Rep. Moreno—requires hospitals to provide financial assistance information to all patients and limits the amount that is charged for private pay to a %age of Medicare reimbursable rates: Passed in the Senate; passed in the House with amendments; Senate failed to concur—conference committee requested.

• **SB 059**: Sen. Guzman and Rep. Lawrence—allows for felony crimes committed during the course of a rape to be prosecuted if DNA identifies probable cause for an indictment even if the statute of limitations has run out on the felony crimes.

• **SB 098**: Sen. Zenzinger and Rep. Schafer—establishes additional penalties and strengthens reporting requirements for crimes against elders.

• **SB 118**: Sen. Steadman and Rep. Melton—add additional protections for persons with disabilities by strengthening CO laws to conform with new changes to the ADA.

• **SB 130**: Sen. Tochtrop and Rep. Primavera—increases personal care allowance for people living in Medicaid funded nursing facilities from $50 to $75 a month: passed in the Senate; passed on 3rd reading in the House.

• **SB 187**: Sens. Aguilar and Roberts and Reps. Stephen and Schafer—creates the Commission on Affordable Healthcare.