

FHA 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

FHA will promote legislative policies that advance the mission of hospitals to provide high quality, accessible health care services.

Workforce

Nursing Student Loan Forgiveness

- Modify the existing loan repayment program that assists nurses with paying for their education and incentivize more new nurses to enter the field.

Medicaid GME Funding

- Maintain the increased GME funding levels implemented in 2023 and advocate for future increases to meet Florida's growing necessity for physicians.

Allied Health Pipeline

- Continue to advocate for an expansion of investments in career/technical programs, state college system and state university system programs that support allied health professions.

Continue/Preserve LINE & PIPELINE Nurse Education Funding

- Continue LINE/PIPELINE funding and evaluate program performance based on the first-year data.
- Expand this type of program to include other healthcare partners that support the requirement for meeting competencies and knowledge needed to successfully transition to practice.

Behavioral Health Workforce

- Florida currently ranks 43rd in the U.S. with a behavioral health patient-to-provider ratio of 550:1. Efforts should be focused on growing the number of behavioral health providers available to Floridians.
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Medicaid / State Budget

Medicaid Rate Increase for Complex Adults - \$170.8 M (\$71.8 M GR / \$99 M Federal Funds)

- Rate adjuster for care provided to complex adults. This increase would carry momentum from the legislature's pediatric increase and improve stagnant Medicaid reimbursement rates

Medicaid Innovation - Care Coordination - \$35 M (\$15 M GR / \$20.7 M Federal Funds)

- Advocate for Medicaid reimbursement to incentivize care coordination teams within hospitals with the goal of reducing high-cost Medicaid "superutilizers"

Medicaid Rate Increase for Obstetrics - \$82 M (\$34 M GR / \$47 M Federal Funds)

- Florida Medicaid covers more than half of all births yet reimburses providers for obstetric care at low levels. FHA will advocate for a Medicaid rate increase for hospital obstetric care that will improve the pay-to-cost ratio for these services.

Leveraging Federal Medicaid funding for Behavioral Health

- Require the state to perform a study on the amount of Medicaid reimbursable services being provided to Medicaid-eligible recipients using only state general revenue.

Maternal Call to Action

- Increased reimbursement for SBIRT
- Increased reimbursement for OB providers

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FHA 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT

Medicaid Policy

Hospital @ Home in Medicaid

- FHA has developed language for 2024 that would authorize AHCA to seek authority from the federal government to apply Medicaid reimbursement to hospital @ home care.

DPP Quality Component Reform

- FHA has communicated with AHCA about access to the quarterly quality data that informs the DPP Quality performance metrics – as well as changes to the existing metrics. FHA will work with legislators to address this in 2024.

Medicaid Managed Care Plan Transparency

- FHA will seek legislation requiring the Agency to publicly report data on health plan performance on key metrics set forth in the contract, such as prior authorization timeframes, % of providers credentialed and loaded within 60 days, average days to pay claims, etc....

Supplemental Payment Programs

- Require AHCA to adhere to consistent timeframes for the process of administering key hospital supplemental payments including LIP & DPP.

Maternal Call to Action

- Residency program training on treating pregnant women with SUD
- Legislation to address access to SUD treatment under Medicaid

Payer Accountability

Prior Authorization

- Lack of statutory set timeframes for health plans responding to prior authorization requests creates significant delays in providing medically necessary care. FHA will seek legislation to require those health plans licensed in Florida adhere to existing federal standards.
- Health plan processes and policies for waiving prior authorization requirements during a state of emergency vary significantly. Providers must monitor each health plan's website and line of business to determine if any flexibilities have been granted. FHA will seek legislation establishing standards as it relates to prior authorization during a state declared emergency.

Downcoding and Audits

- FHA will seek legislation to prevent health plans from arbitrarily denying or decreasing payment and from reopening medical necessity determinations during an audit or allowing a claim to be downgraded if it results in altering medical necessity.

Definition of Clean Claim

- Reduce health plan denials by defining "clean claim" in Florida statute and require health plans to pay clean claims within certain time frames.

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FHA 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT

Behavioral Health

Behavioral Health Workforce

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Health Information Exchange

- Examine opportunities to increase community follow-up and warm handoffs to the right care setting by utilizing HIE.

Community Mental Health Models

- The Florida Hospital Association advocates for policies that improve access to the right care, in the right setting, at the right time. FHA supports the expansion of Florida's Community Mental Health Models, which improve overall health care outcomes and reduce costs.

Baker Act Reforms

- Florida's involuntary admissions law often creates legal hurdles that prevent patients from stepping down to appropriate levels of care. FHA is focused on modernizations to Baker Act statutes that create clarity for patients and providers.

Regulatory Issues

Quality Form

- The AHCA Quality & Patient Safety form introduced in 2019 creates significant burden on providers and fails to provide patients with meaningful information on quality. The requirement to share this form with each patient should be repealed.

340B Reform

- For-profit pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs), insurance companies, and drug manufacturers are diverting 340B savings away from their intended purpose by imposing extra charges, discounts, claw backs, dispensing fees, and burdensome administrative hurdles on eligible providers.

Rural Hospital Issues

Rural Emergency Hospital Licensure

- Statutory change is needed for AHCA to create a new REH hospital license. This gives rural hospitals an option to pursue this license and provide emergency department and outpatient services.

Rural Hospital Capital Improvement

- Request recurring funding to the program along with additional nonrecurring funding

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