



The Coalition's Legislative Agenda for 2009-2010 is aimed at Reinvesting in The Children's Plan.

I. SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE EXEMPTION FOR THE SOCIAL WORK AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

- Support the Article VII Bill A.157/S.57- Executive Budget recommendation to defer implementation of new social work licensure requirements related to training, supervision and certification. Without this extension, the number of clinically trained social workers who are eligible to provide counseling in the children's mental health public service system will be reduced. By enacting the extension, stakeholders will be able to reconsider training opportunities, supervision requirements and certification requirements, proposed amendments to the existing statute and avoid reductions in service capacity.

II. PROTECT CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC RESOURCES AND SAFEGUARDS FOR CHILDREN

- Support creation of child and family clinic indigent care pool to supplement the Medicaid indigent care pool in the DOH budget so that children's clinics receive the appropriate amount to avoid children becoming victims of billing and payment complications;
- Hold hearings jointly with the Insurance committees once rates are developed to allow children's clinic providers the ability to explain the adequacy or inadequacy of the rates, billing and procedure codes; and
- Mandate an Insurance Department Review of behavioral health network and rate adequacy of third party insurers to be completed prior to implementation of final OMH Clinic Rates in 2013 and which speaks to whether third party payors have been offering rates that are sufficient to support adequate behavioral health care services or whether the public mental health system has been supplementing their ability to maintain profitable operations.