



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEL & ENID ZUCKERMAN COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Center for Rural Health



Arizona State Office of Rural Health Webinar Series



Webinar Tips & Notes



- Mute your phone &/or computer microphone
- Time is reserved at the end for Q&A
- Please fill out the post-webinar survey
- Webinar is being recorded
- Recording will be posted on the SWTRC www.southwesttrc.org/ and the AzCRH www.crh.arizona.edu/

Arizona State Office of Rural Health Monthly Webinar Series

Focused on providing technical assistance to rural stakeholders to disseminate research findings, policy updates, best-practices and other rural health issues to statewide rural partners and stakeholders throughout the state.



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ARIZONA
TELEMEDICINE
PROGRAM



Arizona's 2017 Legislative Session:



The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly for Public Health



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Today's presenter:



Will Humble, MPH
Executive Director
Arizona Public Health Association

Arizona's 2017 Legislative Session:

The Good, The Bad, and the Ugly for Public Health

Will Humble, MPH

Executive Director, Arizona Public Health Association



Learning Objectives

- Be able to describe 3 bills that passed through the Arizona State Legislature that will have a positive impact on public health
- Be able to describe at least 1 bill that failed to pass that would have been good for public health
- Describe one good and one bad component of the final Budget that passed this legislative session



THE GOOD



Adult Emergency Dental Services

- The final State Budget restored \$1.5M in state match to emergency dental services to all adult Medicaid members
- Capped at \$1,000 per person/per year
- This benefit had been eliminated during the Great Recession
- Adult Medicaid members enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System had this benefit restored last year (also capped at \$1K/person per year)
- Children (under 21) Medicaid members have had and will continue to have comprehensive (including preventative) dental coverage



Newborn Screening- SCID

- State Budget authorized ADHS to collect the newborn screening fees to add Severe Combined Immune Deficiency syndrome to the list of newborn screening tests
- Babies born with Severe Combined Immunodeficiency look normal at birth, but they can't fight infections
- If caught at birth, a bone marrow transplant can successfully treat the disorder
- It's particularly important to test for SCID in Arizona because the disorder is much more common among Navajo and Apache babies (1/2,000)



State Loan Repayment

- State Budget increased funding to Arizona's loan repayment program by \$350K to a full \$1M
- Allows AZ to qualify for a full \$1M in matching funds from HRSA
- Loan repayment program provides incentives for providers to work in rural and underserved areas
- Leverages overhaul to the loan repayment statute and rules in 2014



Nurse Anesthetists

- [SB 1336](#) outlines medication orders and prescribing authority for nurse anesthetists
- Makes it clear that a physician isn't liable for anesthetic administration by a nurse anesthetist and modifies the definition of supervision
- Outlines medication orders and prescribing authority for nurse anesthetists
- Will improve access to care in rural Arizona



Occupational Therapy (Outpatient)

- AHCCCS currently provides coverage for (medically necessary) occupational therapy services in an inpatient hospital setting to all of their members
- Outpatient occupational therapy is covered (when medically necessary) for members under 21, and for adults that are enrolled in the Arizona Long Term Care System
- The state budget bill requires AHCCCS to start covering occupational therapy as an outpatient health service for all their enrollees (when medically necessary).



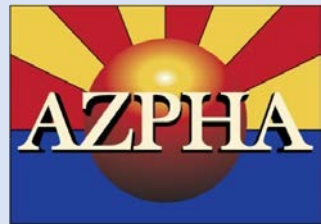
Tribal Involuntary Civil Commitments

- [HB2084](#) will allow a mental treatment facility to admit a patient for involuntary treatment for a mental health disorder pending the filing of a tribal court's involuntary commitment order
- Last year, the State Supreme Court amended the rules for enforcement of Tribal Court Involuntary Commitment Orders resulting in some tribal members having delays in getting treatment because of the new rules
- This statute will limit delays in getting treatment among some tribal members



Asthma Management

- [HB 2208](#) passed and will authorize trained schools to administer an inhaler for students in respiratory distress
- The old statute allowed kids to have & use (self administer) inhalers if prescribed by a doctor & the school had parental permission
- The new law will let trained school staff help the child use their inhaler. The new law will also protect the school from lawsuits
- UA's Western Region Public Health Training Center has [Stock Albuterol Inhaler Training for School Personnel](#) available on their website



Sunscreen Use in Schools and Camps

- [HB 2134](#) will make it clear that kids can take and use sunscreen at school and camps... and that staff can help them put it on
- School districts set their own policies concerning the administration of "medication" (including over the counter sunscreen) to kids
- Some school districts and camps prohibit the administration of "over-the-counter drugs" (e.g. sunscreen) unless a parent provides written consent and an order from a physician
- Provides schools, camps and day cares protection from lawsuits



Drug Overdose Review Team

- [HB 2493](#) will set up a drug overdose review team at the ADHS (much like the child fatality review team)
- Review Team will consist of 21 members; 9 heads of various government entities and 12 members appointed by the ADHS Director
- The Mission for the Team is to: conduct data collection and analysis, develop local data review teams, develop standards and protocols, provide training and technical assistance, develop investigation protocols for medical community, and educate the public regarding drug overdose fatalities



Teen Texting and Driving

- [SB 1080](#) will ban brand-new teen drivers from using their smart phone for the first 6 months of their license
- Using the phone in an emergency will still be OK and the law allows an audible tool under specified conditions
- Tickets can only be issued if the driver committed another violation
- The only other limitation in AZ for this kind of distraction is for school bus drivers
- Arizona will now join 48 other states that restrict driving smart phone use



Safety Net

- Fingerprint requirement for SNAP (food stamp) eligibility will be removed by HB 2091
- Fingerprinting had been a barrier for enrolling low income seniors in the SNAP program because of the perceived stigma
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was extended to 2 years lifetime participation (from 1 year)
- Program provides financial resources for very low income families



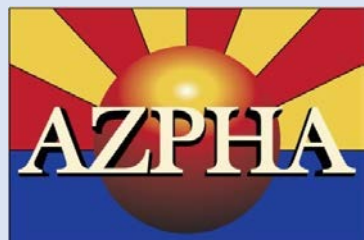
MISSED OPPORTUNITIES



Community Health Worker Certification

- [HB 2426](#) failed to pass the Legislature- would have set up a pathway for Community Health Workers in AZ to voluntarily become certified
- Would have been a big step forward for this important health profession
- Would have expanded the use of CHWs in Arizona's healthcare system in part by making it easier to get reimbursement for their services

Note: AzCHOW has received a \$122K grant from Vitalyst to help them with voluntary certification efforts!



Oral Health Services During Pregnancy

- HB 2442 would have provided comprehensive dental services for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid- including preventative services
- Passed the full House of Representatives but stalled in the Senate
- Important for improving birth outcomes and children's oral health
- Caries bacteria are vertically transferred during infancy



Influenza Vaccines in Hospitals

- [HB 2090](#) failed to pass
- Would have required hospitals to offer influenza vaccines to seniors during the cold and flu months
- Would have provided an additional access point for getting a flu vaccine among a high risk population
- Hospitals could, of course, elect to offer the vaccines



Recess in Schools

- [HB 2082](#) failed to pass
- Initially would have required at least 50 minutes of recess per day, was amended to require at least 2 recess periods
- Likely failed because of a conflict between legislative members
- Data suggest that physical activity during the school day improves cognitive skills and attitudes, enhances concentration and attention, and improves classroom behavior

[*The Association Between School-based Physical Activity, Including Physical Education, and Academic Performance*](#)



Tanning Bed Use

- [HB 2194](#) failed to pass (again)
- Would have prohibited kids under 18 from using tanning beds (does not apply to spray tans)
- Would have prevented studios from claiming that tanning beds are risk-free
- Bills similar to this have failed over the last several years



BAD BILLS that Luckily Failed



Traffic Safety Camera Ban

- [HB2525](#) failed to pass, but would have banned traffic safety camera use by all AZ jurisdictions (red light cameras and photo radar)
- Passed the House 32-28 but failed to get out of the Senate Transportation and Technology Committee
- Good evidence that red light cameras prevent serious intersection crashes that result in severe injuries and deaths
- Less evidence that photo radar saves lives and prevents injuries
- A few jurisdictions are over-doing photo enforcement which may end up ruining it for everybody (editorial)



THE BAD



Voter Initiative Signature Gathering

- [HB 2404](#) was passed and signed, making it more difficult to get voter initiatives on the AZ ballot
- Prevents signature gatherers from getting paid by the signature (for voter initiatives- not for candidate signatures)
- Makes it more difficult to get the large number of signatures that are needed to get citizens initiatives on the ballot in the future
- Many public health measures came via the Citizens Initiative:
 - Proposition 204 raising the qualifying level for Medicaid to 100% of federal poverty
 - First Things First
 - Smoke Free Arizona Act



Voter Initiative Compliance Standard

- HB [2244](#) passed and was signed changing the compliance standard for all aspects of voter initiatives to "strict compliance"
- Former standard was judicially determined as "substantial compliance"
- Requires that the Secretary of State generate a rule handbook with the requirements
- This new law will make it harder to get initiatives on the ballot (including future initiatives with public health policy implications)

Note: Referenda underway to refer both HB 2404 and HB 2244 to the statewide ballot in November 2018.

75,000 signatures required to hold implementation pending voter approval



Family Planning

- HB 2542 passed as part of the budget requiring the ADHS to apply to become a Title X (family planning) grantee in Arizona
- Title X Funds about \$5M annually in comprehensive family planning
- Arizona Family Health Partnership (AFHP) for many years has been the grantee
- If ADHS gets the award (as expected) Planned Parenthood cannot be a sub recipient because of ARS 35-196.05



Bottom Line

Biggest win

- Restoration of emergency dental services for adult Medicaid members (10/1/17)

Biggest disappointment

- Failure to achieve voluntary certification for Community Health Workers

Biggest Losses

- New laws that making Citizens Initiatives more difficult to reach the ballot
- Mandate that ADHS apply for the Title X family planning grant (which will likely result in Planned Parenthood leaving the Title X network)





Thank you
Questions?



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**Your opinion is valuable to us
Please participate in this brief survey:**

https://uarizona.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2sksHk1QsSMnY8J

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