CAPSEF Founded in 1974

Connecticut Association of Private Special Education Facilities

Member of the National Association of Private Special Education Centers and the Council of Affiliated State Associations

Testimony before the GAE Committee

on

House Bill No. 5049 - AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Monday, February 22, 2016

The Connecticut Association of Private Special Education Facilities (CAPSEF) is a voluntary association of private schools which provide quality, cost effective, special education and related services to the special needs of children and adolescents (birth to 21 years of age) of Connecticut. CAPSEF schools work with families, public schools, state agencies, other caretakers and providers to implement model programs, that enhance each student's ability to succeed while enabling caregivers to help children in need. CAPSEF represents over 40 programs (which is about 50% of all private special education facilities in CT) serving public school districts and families throughout the entire state of Connecticut.

CAPSEF requests your consideration of the following points regarding Bill 5049 – the Medicaid mandate in Sections 2 & 3. We understand the current discussion regarding full participation in the Medicaid program to maximize Federal match revenue as a necessary component of balancing the State's budget. CAPSEF members have questions and comments regarding how to conduct an efficient and successful transition to Medicaid billing.

1. We request the opportunity to work with DSS to develop a formula to cover the administrative costs of the program. Two specific areas of concern:
   a. Time: The staff's direct time; the administrative time; the time needed for reports, forms and data collection; the time to train staff; the time required to set up or change a system; all are factors that add time.
   b. Technology: Hardware, software, security.

2. Work with DSS to develop a uniform system and standardized forms needed statewide to insure cost effectiveness and efficiency for providing public school districts with appropriate data (a number of our programs service 30 to 40 public school districts each).

3. Provide specifics for clarity of our role regarding all that we are liable for in providing services to public schools.

4. Clear guidelines are needed to insure proper procedures are followed under both FERPA and HIPPA (concerns include data privacy, confidentiality, access, educational records and medical records, especially when stored electronically)

5. Further clarification is also needed regarding the billable data for those programs that utilize an integrated service model such as a push-in vs. individual pull-out delivery of service.

6. **We ask that you implement based on the July, 2017 timeline as described in Section 2 of the bill, and reflect that date in Section 3 as well. It is important that such dates are consistent with one another.**

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