

**AHS Secretary Hal Cohen**  
**Testimony to House Human Services**  
**S. 139, Section 10**  
**April 22, 2015**

Committee Members,

Please accept my apologies for being unable to testify today in person. I wanted to offer just a few brief remarks on Section 10 of S. 139.

**Sec. 10. REDUCING DUPLICATION OF SERVICES; REPORT**

(a) The Agency of Human Services shall evaluate the services offered by each entity licensed, administered, or funded by the State, including the designated agencies, to provide services to individuals receiving home- and community-based long-term care services or who have developmental disabilities, mental health needs, or substance use disorder. The Agency shall determine areas in which there are gaps in services and areas in which programs or services are inconsistent with the Health Resource Allocation Plan or are overlapping, duplicative, or otherwise not delivered in the most efficient, cost-effective, and high-quality manner and shall develop recommendations for consolidation or other modification to maximize high-quality services, efficiency, service integration, and appropriate use of public funds.

(b) On or before January 15, 2016, the Agency shall report its findings and recommendations to the House Committee on Human Services and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.

As you are well aware, the Agency has been working on our systems to measure, monitor and improve our outcomes over the last several years.

- **Performance Management for Service Delivery** - AHS is invested in efficient and effective service delivery and has been addressing this through our focus on performance management including:
  - **Individual contracts and grants**
  - **Monitoring those grants**
  - **Building outcomes**
  - **Using RBA and other tools to improve performance** - we have made great strides towards improving accountability

Constricting budgets over the last decade have also forced us to examine our provider system, assessing need and effectiveness of those entities and reflecting that in our budgeting and funding decisions. This last budget cycle was an extremely difficult budget to build and forced us to be even more critical in our decision making.

- **Budget Decisions** – For the FY '16 budget, AHS made decisions about funding, taking into account any visible duplication- we tried to ensure that reductions targeted any areas that could sustain reductions without sacrificing baseline service delivery.

We are currently planning an intentional review of our grants and contracts to begin immediately after the legislative session to identify funding available in our major service areas and to assess

funding practices, duplication and gaps. I believe that this begins to address the intent of Section 10 in S. 139.

It would be extremely helpful if you were to use S. 139 to encourage us to further our efforts to move AHS towards the use of Results Based Accountability. We would suggest that the following language be substituted for Section 10:

“The Legislature is concerned about the potential for duplication of services across the Agency of Human Services, particularly in services for individuals receiving home and community based long-term care services, with developmental disabilities, mental health needs or substance use disorders. We charge the Agency to continue its efforts to use Results Based Accountability, performance-based agreements and effective integration to ensure that services are efficient, cost-effective and non-duplicative.”

Thank you.