

# Agency of Human Services

Senate Testimony

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

# AHS Policy Observations

## Appropriations

- Increases rates to DAs/SSAs from 3% in Gov. Rec. to 7% in the House's Big Bill
  - **\$21.3M GC** gross increase, **\$9.4M GF**
- 1115 Waiver implications
- Reduces SUD proposal by \$4.8M in GF including:
  - Decreases grants to Jenna's House by \$100,000
  - Cuts \$3.5M GF for the Substance Misuse Prevention Coalition, while increasing \$600k for the Substance Misuse Prevention Oversight and Advisory Council
  - Trims \$1.57M GF intended to expand residential treatment options
  - Repurposes \$880k to increase rates for existing SUD residential treatment providers
- Eliminates \$7M to expand the provider network for school-aged children in afterschool and summer programs

# AHS Policy Observations

## Language

- DAIL Positions
  - The House reallocated five of the ten positions created under section E.100
    - Negates the intended effect to use positions for critically needed LTC facility oversight, and APS and OPG specific staffing needs
- Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)
  - Gov. Rec. Language removed by the House would hold harmless UPK providers as DCF transitions from STARS to QRIS. AHS requests that the language be reinserted.
- Sec. B.325 - An increase in grant funds to CAPs for tax preparation assistance will require staff resources that OEO does not have capacity for
- Sec. E.203 - Restorative Work Group
  - Neither DOC nor DCF were consulted in drafting the language included in the House's version of the Big Bill
  - The intent of the creation of the workgroup is unclear relative to DOC's ongoing efforts to work with all entities named in Sec. E. 203, while currently collaborating with most proposed members

# AHS Policy Observations

## Appropriations (cont'd)

- AHS is referenced in at least three other bills with appropriations and AHS encourages the committee to hear from respective departments:
  - H.703, An act relating to promoting workforce development, \$23.4M across funds
  - H.720, An act related to the system of care for individuals with developmental disabilities, \$602k across funds
  - S.285, An act relating to health care reform initiatives, data collection, and access to home- and community-based services, includes appropriations like those currently included in Sec. E. 345 of the Big Bill, \$550k General Fund

Workforce Recruitment and Retention  
Incentive Grant Funding for Employees of  
Eligibility Health Care and Social Service  
Employers (Act 83 of 2022, Sec. 72)

# Program Overview

- Act 83 of 2022 defines program parameters for an initial grant program and a subsequent needs-based grant program
  - \$45 million is allocated for the initial grant program
    - Grant award is based on \$2,000 per FTE
- \$15 million is reserved for a second round of funding for health care and social service provider employers with a demonstrated need
  - AHS may utilize all or some of this additional \$15M for the first round of funding if demand exceeds \$45M.
  - AHS will develop a needs-based methodology and recommend grant awardees

# Timeline

