**Heads-Up on Legislative Session Ahead**

2019-20 Session is a short session: February to May.

Likely (but not assured) topics for behavioral health:

* Reducing costs of prescription drugs
* Removing step therapy as a requirement for individuals with opioid use disorder who need medication-assisted treatment
* Legalization of marijuana
  + Set aside a % of any revenue from marijuana or other “sin tax” for prevention
  + Set aside a % of any such revenue for treatment (legalizing marijuana 🡪 increase in marijuana-induced psychosis, schizophrenia)
* Improvements at Whiting Forensic Hospital
* RBHAO statute
* School safety bill (protecting kids with behavioral health challenges from classroom removal)
* Social-emotional learning in schools
* Abolish solitary confinement
* Bail reform
* Supported housing?
* Insurance …?

Insurance coverage for peer support services not likely during short session. Plan to spend this year building the case and ensuring stakeholder agreement.

**AMA Opioid Task Force recommendations (May 2019) related to opioid crisis:**

* Remove **prior authorization, step therapy and other inappropriate administrative burdens or barriers** that delay or deny care that uses FDA-approved medications in medication-assisted treatment protocols for OUD.
* Support assessment, referral and treatment for co-occurring mental health disorders, as well as enforce state and federal laws that require insurance parity for mental health and SUDs.
* Remove administrative and other barriers to comprehensive, multimodal, multidisciplinary pain care and rehabilitation programs.
* Support maternal and child health by increasing access to evidence-based treatment, preserving families and ensuring that policies are nonpunitive.
* Support reforms in the civil and criminal justice system that help ensure access to high-quality, evidence-based care for OUD, including MAT.