



Agenda Item Summary

File #: 24-00115

Agenda Date: 2/13/2024

Agenda Item Name:

Health Care Advisory Board Dental Therapy Legislation Presentation

Presenter:

Jaye Athy, CAPP CHOICES Program Manager, 352.264.6707, Dr. Frank Catalanotto

Description:

Presentation by the Health Care Advisory Board regarding proposed Dental Therapy Legislation

Recommended Action:

1-Support the proposed legislation and direct Alachua County's lobbyist to monitor, support and speak favorably on behalf of the proposed identical Senate and House bills. 2-Approve renewal of Alachua County's membership in Floridians for Dental Access as a government member.

Prior Board Motions:

N/A

Fiscal Note:

No fiscal impact

Strategic Guide:

All Other Mandatory and Discretionary Services

Background:

At their meeting on January 17, 2024, the Health Care Advisory Board heard a presentation from Dr. Frank Catalanotto on legislation proposed by Floridians for Dental Access. The proposed dental therapy legislation has been adopted by 11 states, with a 12th currently in the legislative process. The Therapists take an identical licensing exam as Dentists, and work under a Dentist's supervision. Dentists have written agreements that limit the Therapist's actions, and all billing is done through the Dentist. A requirement that at least 50% of the Therapist's patients be Medicaid-eligible increases access to dental services for Medicaid enrollees. The BoCC was previously a governmental member of Floridians for Dental Access. The Health Care Advisory Board recommends renewal of the membership, which consists of authorization to add the County's name to the public list of supporters and designating staff to join the mailing list for updates.