



2017-2018 Legislative Review

1. Met with Attorney General Josh Stein to explain how acupuncture is a key solution to the opioid crisis.
 - a. Formed an ongoing relationship with Attorney General's wife who sits on stakeholder meetings involving government, insurance companies, health departments and law enforcement. She provides NCSAAM with updates on the focus of the working groups as well as supplies information about acupuncture to stakeholder groups.
2. Met with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to educate them on the uses of acupuncture.
 - a. Discussed state health programs and initiatives that could include acupuncture.
 - b. Educated DHHS of the national movement re Medicaid coverage for acupuncture.
3. Monitored the Administrative Oversight Committee meetings to ensure no negative movement concerning the sunset of NCALB.
4. NCSAAM President and Vice-President attended the N.C. DHHS Opioid and Prescription Drug Abuse Advisory Committee Meeting discussing what insurers can do to combat the opioid crisis.
5. NCSAAM Endorsed the STOP ACT.
6. NCSAAM sent letters to all 90+ sponsors of the STOP ACT encouraging them to consider acupuncture as part of the opioid treatment solution.
7. DHHS meeting and follow up led to an early March meeting.
 - a. Discussed specifics of acupuncture benefit for possible inclusion in N.C. Medicaid.
8. NCSAAM met with Rep. Murphy, the only medical doctor in the N.C. Legislature and sponsor of the STOP ACT.
 - a. Rep. Murphy is very receptive to the efficacy of acupuncture. Interested in how acupuncture might be included in the next bill that addresses treatment for those addicted to opioids.
9. Met with Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Medical Director and Chief Policy Analyst. Provided and discussed cost effectiveness studies, clinical effectiveness studies, coding, billing, sister state BCBS plans and credentialing.
 - a. Good probability BCBS will include acupuncture as a benefit in the next 2-3 years.
 - b. NCSAAM invited to share information and serve as resource as the benefit is developed.
9. Submitted application to N.C. State Treasurer to present and discuss evidence for inclusion of acupuncture in state employees health fund.