2021 Legislative Action Priorities

Child Welfare, Family Supports & Juvenile Services

- **CPS/APS/Youth Services/Adoption**: Improve recruitment/retention strategies; offer higher pay for degreed social workers, achieve caseload standards, address safety, clarify MCO roles
- **School Social Work**: Increase numbers to address trauma, expand social supports for readiness & learning
- **Early Intervention/Prevention Programs Work!**: Fund In-Home Family Education, Maternal & Infant Outreach, Right from the Start, Birth-to-Three & School Based Health Centers; Maximize FFPSA funding
- **Juvenile Justice Reform**: Expand Family Courts, community & school-based prevention & treatment

Medicaid, Health Care, Mental Health & Substance Abuse, Etc.

- **Medicaid**: Allow individual buy in; expand maternal care, assure funding, no work requirement
- **Addictions Treatment & Workforce**: Pass mental health parity, expand loan forgiveness & tuition help
- **Tele-Health/Tele-Therapy**: Make the COVID emergency declaration provisions permanent
- **Promote the Health Policy Agenda** of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
- **Mental Health Parity**: Pass the Kennedy Forum model legislation
- **Promote quality Mental Health Services** to keep kid & families healthy in the home & community
- **Increase/Apply Tax Tobacco, Soft Drinks, Etc.** & dedicate funds to prevention, cessation & treatment
- **Menstrual Equity**: Free products in middle schools & to incarcerated adults & juveniles; remove taxes

Professional Social Workers: The Best Prepared for the Job!

- **Improve Social Worker salaries, safety, and working conditions**
- **Keep strong Social Work licensing requirements** to protect the public from malpractice
- **Allow Nationally Certified School Social Workers** the incentives offered other school professionals
- **Social Work Education**: Increase/expand loan forgiveness, tuition support, state grants & aid
- **Promote the hiring of degreed Social Workers as the best prepared for the job!**

The Economy, Social Care Programs & Equality

- **Criminal Justice Reform**: Eliminate bail bond & civil forfeiture, enhance expungement & reintegration
- **Do Not Eliminate the Income Tax!** The loss of services & opportunity would be disastrous for struggling families & individuals! Instead increase severance tax, enact WV EITC, invest in Higher Ed, Etc.
- **Ban Conversion Therapy**: All mental & physical health professions uniformly discredit the practice!
- **Support the Consensus Agenda on Disability Policy of The Fair Shake Network**
- **Reproductive Health**: Support women in making reproductive health decisions with their health provider
- **Promote Racial, Economic & Social Equality and Opportunity; Oppose Injustice & Discrimination**