Legislation/Consent Decree:

- Public Act #96-1372: Nursing Home Reform signed July 29, 2010
- Public Act #96-0951: Requires at least 2 house in-service suicide prevention training for school personnel working with grades 7-12 pupils.
- Public Act 96-0924: Creates Veterans’ Mental Health Courts.
- Public Act 96-1189: Requires that children with disabilities get transition services until age 22.
- *William vs. Quinn:* Class action lawsuit brought by ACLU and others that would give thousands of mentally ill state aid recipients a chance to move out of large institutions. Institutes for Mental Disease (IMD) are nursing homes that care for up to 400 persons with only serious mental illness. A settlement was reached on September 29, 2010 in favor of the plaintiffs.
- Executive Order #10-12 signed July 29, 2010 creates Illinois Health Care Implementation Council designed to implement the reforms contained in the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA). Implementation will improve health of residents by increasing access to health care, reducing treatment disparities, controlling costs, improving the affordability, quality and effectiveness of health care.

Children’s Mental Health:

- DCFS and ISBE are mapping out the continuum of children’s mental health services through state agencies.
- DCFS is looking at the issue of custody relinquishment for the purposes of families obtaining mental health services through Medicaid.
- Interagency personnel and advocacy organizations are determining next steps for moving enhancement of The Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) services forward. Definition: EPSDT is the child health component of Medicaid. It's required in every state and is designed to improve the health of low-income children, by financing appropriate and necessary pediatric services.
- A recent newspaper investigation into juveniles allegedly sexually assaulted in Chicago-area psychiatric hospitals propelled the state to begin new legislative reforms aimed at preventing abuse. State and advocacy groups are also examining home and community-based alternatives to psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTF).

Other:

- Legislative forums were given to address social issues relating to the disability population. One in Kane County had over 300 participants.
- The League is closely watching the Healthcare and Family Services department’s Medicaid fee-for-service program which will be implementing pilot programs in several Chicago area counties to transfer Medicaid services for 40,000 elderly, blind and disabled persons into an integrated care system which will give the state appointed HMO the contract to manage and coordinate health-related services.
- The League is also watching the Money Follows the Person initiative. Federal funds were given to selected states to assist in moving willing participants out of nursing homes by providing alternative community housing and supports.
- Thresholds will invest $3.5 million in the next three years in a new Veteran’s Project to provide at-risk veterans with mental illness with support services.
- Attended Mental Health Rally in May 2010.