



# NAME-Tag



### “NAME Advocates Program Integrity For School Based Medicaid Reimbursement”

Volume 9 Issue 1

December 2013/January 2014

### President's Corner

**“Men build too many walls and not enough bridges.”**

**-Sir Isaac Newton**

Greetings NAME members:

First, both Rena and I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for allowing us to serve NAME in the upcoming year. We are honored to be a part of NAME's leadership team and feel fortunate to represent such an outstanding organization of people who care about our nation's schools and the children we all serve. I serve in an Education agency, and Rena serves in a Medicaid agency, we hope that we can set an example of how different agency perspectives help shape a unified effort to move forward.

So many issues face us in the coming year: the Affordable Care Act, continuing budget constraints, changes in IDEA, and shifts in Medicaid requirements related to mental health service delivery. As an organization, we should embrace these issues not as obstacles, but as opportunities to better our cause of assisting schools in reimbursements for special education services. We have a track record of making 'Med-ucation' function better. Our nation's students deserve our best efforts!

As we begin our journey into the New Year, I ask all NAME members to renew their commitment to work together for the greater good. Our organization's strengths lie in our diversity, and in our ability to confront ambiguity and transform it to clarity.

If you are new to NAME, please consider ways you can contribute by joining a Committee or running for one of the two vacant seats on the Board in Region 1. To access the different NAME Committee information, log in to the Members only section of the NAME website > Committees. Other ways to be involved include offering fresh ideas to grow our understanding of the complexities of our work in new ways. If you are a long-standing member, please offer your wisdom to guide our organization as we continue to set a course of greater possibilities for our nation's schools and students.

In the coming year, I believe our organization will be a catalyst and a beacon for improvement: both at an organizational level with new and strengthened partnerships, and at a personal level with increased interactions between members as we embrace our mantra:

### In the NAME of collaboration

Best wishes to you all in 2014!

**Mark Smith** (OH)  
President  
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**Rena Steyaert** (MT)  
President-Elect  
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### Special points of interest:

- [Want to become a member of NAME?](#)
- [Interested in becoming a NAME Board Member?](#)

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## 2013 Conference Committee Update

### The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Story

*Jane Reagan (MI) and Teresa Pastore (MA) Committee Co-Chairs*

Exceptionally beautiful weather greeted 270 attendees as they arrived in Grand Rapids for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual NAME Conference and saw the splendor of the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel for the first time. The amazing variety of art from ArtPrize was still on display everywhere one looked, including many pieces of art in the hotel. To read the rest of story ... Log into your Members Only account on the NAME website, then click on the main menu > Annual Conference > Past Conferences> 2013 Conference (Grand Rapids, MI) < [click here](#)>

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NAME, Inc. would like to thank the following two companies for their generous support as a Gold Sponsor to the 11th Annual NAME Conference:

**Fairbanks LLC**  
**PCG Consulting Group**

## Where to find us

[www.medicaidforeducation.org](http://www.medicaidforeducation.org)

Find us on Facebook 



Email: [info@medicaidforeducation.org](mailto:info@medicaidforeducation.org)

## 2014 Conference Committee

**12th Annual Conference, "Fall for Medicaid in Education"**  
Steven Wright (NY) Conference Chair

### Save the Dates!

The 2014 Conference Committee began planning this summer and reminds you it's not too early to begin *your* planning!

Join us in **Niagara Falls, New York, September 16-19, 2014** for "Fall for Medicaid in Education", the 12th Annual NAME Conference.

Niagara Falls is located on the Niagara River and drains Lake Erie into Lake Ontario. Niagara Falls is the collective name for three waterfalls (American Falls, Bridal Veil Falls, and Canadian Falls) that straddle the international border between the United States of America (state of New York) and Canada (province of Ontario). The Falls are located 17 miles north-northwest of Buffalo, New York and 75 miles south-southeast of Toronto, Canada, between the twin cities of Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, New York. On average, about 4 million cubic feet of water fall over the crest line every minute. Niagara Falls is renowned both for its beauty and as a valuable source of hydroelectric power.

Arrive before the NAME Conference and/or stay after the NAME Conference to enjoy all that Niagara Falls has to offer. Take advantage of the "Maid of the Mist" boat tours or the "Cave of the Winds" walking tours. And Canada is just a short walk over "Rainbow Bridge" (bring your passports). For more information on what to do in Niagara Falls, please visit [www.niagara-usa.com](http://www.niagara-usa.com).

Be sure to check regularly the NAME Annual Conference Home page [<click here>](#) for updates about: professional development and networking opportunities at the Conference; things to do in Niagara Falls; the charity NAME selects to benefit from Conference fundraisers; the 'Call for Presenters', and more. We hope to see you in September 2014 in Niagara Falls, New York!

## News from the Regions 1-2-3

### Season's Greetings from Region 1!

Sheila Costa (NY), Region 1 Education Representative

This is the first opportunity I've had since the conference to thank Region 1 members for attending the 2013 NAME Conference and for participating in our Town Hall meetings. Members shared information on topics of interest and provided conference feedback and suggestions for future conferences. If you weren't able to attend the conference and/or the Town Hall meetings, we'd love for you to join us in Niagara Falls, New York in September 2014! Keep watching the Annual Conference Home Page for more Conference information [<click here>](#)

Continuing in the spirit of information sharing, Region 1 members were recently asked to submit information to NAME regarding how changes to parental consent guidelines are being implemented in their state. We've received updates and sample forms from: New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Rhode Island. If you are in Region 1 and your state is not listed, please provide updates/sample forms to [Region1@medicaidforeducation.org](mailto:Region1@medicaidforeducation.org) so we can share with other states.

Please contact your At-Large representatives Laurie Ray and Jennifer Haase or me to share and/or request information; provide suggestions, or anything else you'd like to discuss.

Also, there are two openings on the Board of Directors for Region 1: LEA Director and Medicaid Director. If you are interested in applying for one of these positions, log into the NAME Members only website and click on > committees > nominating committee [<click here>](#) for more information including the nomination form. This is a great opportunity for you to enhance your involvement in NAME and to be part of a great Leadership Team comprised of colleagues from across the nation.

Wishing you and your family an enjoyable holiday season!

## 12th Annual NAME Conference



**For Medicaid in Education**

September 16-19, 2014

Niagara Falls, New York



## More Committee News

### **The Affordable Care Act and School Based Health Care**

Governmental Affairs and Public Relations Committee  
*Alicia Neumann (CA) and Patsy Crawford (IL)*

Congress passed the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in 2010. Implementation of specific portions of the Act has been staggered. 2014 brings a new year of very important changes, including: expanded Medicaid eligibility; insurance mandates; and “Essential Health Benefits” package. We do not know what impact these components of the ACA will have on school districts for both the outreach and health-related services schools provide every day. The actual impact of this complex law will not be fully understood until services begin. What follows is a very brief overview that focuses on the potential impact ACA implementation will have on school districts.

#### **Medicaid Expansion**

The ACA allows each state to add more people to their Medicaid programs which will result in more students with Medicaid coverage. At this time we know the ACA's Medicaid expansion will extend Medicaid coverage to adult students (ages 18 and over) with disabilities receiving IEP related/ health services from schools under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Before the ACA, some of those students might have lost their Medicaid eligibility because of their age.

#### **Eliminating Lifetime Caps on Insurance Coverage**

The ACA includes an ‘individual mandate’ that requires most American citizens and non-citizen legal residents, who do not receive health insurance through an employer or government program, to purchase private health insurance by March 2014. As a result, many more families may acquire private insurance coverage which must meet certain standards of the ACA. For example, the ACA prohibits insurance carriers from placing annual or lifetime limits on “essential health benefits”.

Questions for us to consider and monitor as the ACA is implemented: will families of children with disabilities no longer be concerned about exhausting their lifetime or annual health care benefits? If so, could reimbursement from private insurers be accessed by Local Educational Agencies (LEA) to help cover the cost of school-based health services provided to insured students? As NAME members know, LEAs must obtain parental consent to request reimbursement or bill a student's private health insurance benefits, and that consent is rarely granted because of caps. So, might parents be more willing to grant consent?

#### **Essential Health Benefits**

The “essential health benefits” that all health insurance plans must now cover without annual or lifetime limits include preventive and wellness services, rehabilitative and habilitative services, mental health and substance abuse services, and pediatric services.

If LEAs are able to bill private insurance carriers, the historical “free care” obstacle that blocks schools from billing Medicaid for covered services provided to non-IDEA Medicaid-eligible students might be overcome. It is possible that if health care insurance plans are routinely billed by schools, the school-based services would not be considered ‘free’ under the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) interpretation of its free care principle. This has prohibited schools from billing Medicaid for non-IDEA services provided free of charge (following FAPE—a free and appropriate public education) to all students.

Another possibility for schools is to become “network” providers for Medicaid and commercial managed care organizations. This is something each state should explore.

#### **Outreach and Enrollment Assistance**

The ACA may provide expanded opportunities for LEAs to perform outreach and enrollment assistance for families into Medicaid and private health insurance exchanges. Schools' unique access to children and their parents could lead to LEAs playing a key role in states' outreach and enrollment efforts under the ACA. In states with an expanding Medicaid population, this could significantly increase the LEAs' reimbursable Medicaid administrative outreach claiming and provide additional reimbursement for these new outreach efforts.

NAME will monitor all these issues, and you can help by providing us with updates from your states. If there are policies your state has adopted or decisions made in your state that would be of interest to NAME members, please share those with the Governmental Affairs and Public Relations Committee. Send your stories, links and analyses to our email address anytime: [GAPRcommittee@MedicaidForEducation.org](mailto:GAPRcommittee@MedicaidForEducation.org)