

N A M E

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.

Winter Edition

e-tag

February 2010

"NAME Bridges Medicaid and Education to Promote Integrity in School Based Health Services"

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings! Our NAME Board and Committees spent the end of 2009 harnessing the enthusiastic energy generated by our membership at the San Diego Conference to fuel our 1st Quarter 2010 preparations for the NAME Williamsburg Conference this September. As always, NAME's focus is on its mission: to inform membership on national health changes and Medicaid-related practices in schools, through our website, e-tag and our annual conference and in both those avenues, you will see some changes this year.

Check out the new website, coming very soon. The "Members Only" area provides the extra value that comes with NAME membership. "Members Only" will be available to all visitors for a limited time so you can experience the benefits of maintaining membership. .

With all the recent national drama around federal regulations and their rescissions and health care reform debate causing serious questions about the future of Medicaid in our schools, we are taking this apparent "lull" in the storm to reassess the inner workings of NAME. We are focusing on efficiency in dealing with the administrative realities of running an organization so that our energy can stay concentrated where it should be: providing consistent, timely information of high quality and value to our national audience.

Michelle Lyons-Brown, (Alaska) President

GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS & PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

NAME and several of its partnering organizations continue to be in regular contact with the Office of Special Education (OSEP) concerning the IDEA regulation requiring parental consent to bill Medicaid [34 CFR §300.154(d)(2)(iv)(A)]. In its joint 2009 NAME Conference presentation with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) last October, OSEP announced that it anticipated issuing further guidance on this topic in November, 2009; but recent correspondence indicates OSEP is still reviewing the matter. NAME continues to remind OSEP that this requirement imposes undue administrative burdens and results in lost revenues for our nation's public schools, which are under increasing financial stress. No other Medicaid provider is required to obtain consent prior to billing Medicaid. This parental consent regulation is arduous for schools in terms of obtaining and maintaining current signatures and lost revenue associated with inability to obtain signatures for a multitude of reasons.

JOIN US FOR "CREDENTIALS" TOPICAL CALL, 2 PM EST, MARCH 3, 2010

What are the Medicaid federal regulations for the qualifications and credentials for the clinicians and staff who deliver related services on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) that are billed to Medicaid? Where do/don't Medicaid and Special Education credential standards intersect? If you have pondered these questions and more, join the Topical Call sponsored by the Education and Research Committee on March 3rd. Caroline Brown, Partner, Covington and Burling will tell us "How to Keep Credentials Uncomplicated" and members of NAME will enjoy a discussion related to their issues and concerns. *Watch for registration materials coming to your email inbox in a NAME mailer!*

BIENNIAL SURVEY UNDERWAY

Did you know that 100% of the states responding to NAME's 2007 biennial survey, 100% reimburse schools for OT, PT and speech services on Individualized Education Programs (IEP) and that only about a third of the responding states cover orientation and mobility services on IEPs? NAME's biennial survey was sent to both State Medicaid and Education Agencies in early December. Please do your part to make sure that every state submits a completed survey this year. Those from state agencies, please take about 30 minutes to complete the survey if you have not already done so; those from a Local Education Agency or Vendor Agency, please contact your state agency and encourage them to complete the survey. This data is critical to the success of all of our members and the children we serve. If you have any questions, contact Denise Achin at denise.achin@ride.ri.gov or call her at (401) 222-8997 or contact Cathy Griffin at cathy.griffin@state.mn.us or call her at (651) 582-8263.

IN THE MEDIA

"Federal stimulus money has helped avoid drastic cuts at public schools in most parts of the nation, at least so far. But with the federal money running out, many of the nation's schools are approaching what officials are calling a 'funding cliff.'" [After stimulus money.](#) "A health clinic at New Dorp High School was granted \$181,000 yesterday, as part of a citywide effort to expand health services in high-need communities." [An idea whose time is coming...](#) "The American Psychiatric Association announced Wednesday that it is proposing to eliminate the diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome from the official diagnostic guide of mental disorders." [Implications of a redefinition.](#) "Autism trends, treatments and therapies routinely make headlines. Often overlooked, though, is the financial burden for many families with autistic children." [The financial burden of autism.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

8th Annual Conference, September 22-24, Williamsburg, VA

The 2010 NAME Annual Conference Committee is meeting monthly and planning another outstanding educational and innovative event. Look for the "Call for Presenters" in your inbox in the next few weeks. Keep yourself updated by frequently checking the developing conference schedule on the NAME website at: <http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/pdf/>