President’s Corner

Hi Everyone!

Where has the year gone?

It seems like it was just yesterday that I was taking on the role of NAME President. Before we know it, the 15th annual conference will be here and we will all be together in Fort Lauderdale.

As everyone is wrapping up their summer and starting the new school year, NAME is also getting ready to start a new year. With a new year comes changes in the leadership team. Before I hand over the reins to Kevin Bauer (MI), President Elect, I want to thank all of the leadership team that I have had the pleasure of working with all year for their dedication and hard work. This year has been a year of changes and questions, many of which are still unanswered but the work that everyone volunteers their time for is invaluable. The organization would not exist without all of the hard work everyone does on behalf of NAME.

I hope to see everyone in Florida in October but if I don’t, please keep an eye out for the NAME Flashes that will be taking the place of the NAMEtag’s throughout the year. This will allow us to get information out to everyone in real time.

See everyone in Florida!
Shannon Huska (CO)
2016-17 NAME President

Committee News

by Christie Guinn (NM) Communication Committee Chair

At the NAME recent Strategic Planning Meeting, the NAME Board of Directors and Leadership team elected to replace the quarterly NAMEtag newsletter with NAME Flash. The NAME Flash will be a mailer sent to our members when there is new information to share. You have already received several NAME Flashes regarding recent congressional activity on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. As President Shannon Huska mentioned above, our goal is provide NAME members with information in a timelier, efficient manner.

If you have information that you feel would be relevant to other NAME members, feel free to send it to us at info@medicaidforeducation.org for consideration as a NAME Flash. We look forward to continuing to keep NAME members “in the loop in a Flash” regarding School-Based Medicaid.
Partnerships

One thing that has become abundantly clear to our organization over the past eight months is the importance of building and nurturing relationships with others who share our vision for ensuring that public policy reflects what we know is the essential link between health and learning. One of NAME’s founding intents was to work with public schools, state and federal agencies to create a national forum to address the complexities and challenges of Medicaid reimbursement in school settings. Fortunately, from the very beginning, NAME’s leadership realized that as an alliance with no dedicated staff, the only way for NAME to successfully achieve our goal was to work closely with other organizations that understood why it was important for public schools to access Medicaid.

Initially, NAME worked closely with the Council of Administrators of Special Education (CASE), the School Superintendent Association (AASA) and the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE). With the assistance of these associations, NAME was able to establish direct communications with the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As questions and issues arose, NAME expanded its partnerships to include the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD), School-Based Health Alliance (SBHA), Healthy School Campaign (HSC) and many other associations that represent various school professionals including speech and language therapists, nurses, psychologists, occupational and physical therapists.

I think few of us could have anticipated some of the tumultuous turns in America’s most recent conversation about how to most cost-effectively deliver high quality health care in this country. Many of the proposed actions would have not only changed the way that the federal government funds Medicaid, but in all likelihood would have negatively impacted the capacity of public schools to access Medicaid funds. Without compensatory measures to enhance health care services to children living in poverty and more fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, school districts’ ability to meet the needs of all students could have been severely restricted.

NAME was only able to keep up with the conversation over the last eight months because of the willingness of our many partners to share information and access to critical contacts. I personally offer each and every one of our partners, sponsors and members a heartfelt thank you for providing NAME with the resources necessary for us to focus on educating all stakeholders about the critical role Medicaid plays in public schools. There is much work yet to be done to build a well-functioning health care system in this country---one that ensures that the health care needs of students are met so that schools can fulfill their primary role as educators.

I look forward to continuing to work with you to achieve the vision we share. Please contact me at john.hill@medicaidforeducation.org, or even better yet, join your colleagues in Florida at our national conference in October to share relevant data, stories, concerns, and suggestions for creating a system where students come to school ready to learn.

Committee News

Region 3 State Education Agency Representative Needed!

by Charles Tyler (MD) Nominating Committee Chair

We continue to seek an individual to fill the board position for Region 3 State Education Agency Representative.

Region 3 states include: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

Listed below are a few Board Responsibilities of a Board and Leadership team, to read more about being a NAME Board member and the responsibilities <click here>.

- Learn, know and assume responsibility to implement, communicate or act upon the organization’s mission, purposes, goals, policies, programs, strengths and needs.
- Demonstrate leadership by recruiting potential NAME members, committee members and nominees for elected Officer and Board positions.
- Serve as a mentor and undertake leadership assignments willingly.
- Represent the organization’s interest in the community and among individuals and organizations with whom NAME may or does have a relationship.
- Prepare for and actively participate in all Board meetings, including annual long-range and triennial strategic planning meetings.

This position, along with our newly elected Board officers, from the May 2017 NAME elections will start their three year term after our annual conference in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

If you meet the criteria and are willing to serve the NAME organization in the capacity as the Region 3 State Education Agency Representative, please contact Charles Tyler, Jr., Nominating Committee Chair, at ctyler@bcps.org, or (443) 809-4130.

We hope to see you in Florida!
Region 2 News-

All NAME Regions have full concern over the possible repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. Many of us have been actively working with the press and our colleagues to tell the story of how School-Based Services supports our local districts along with the physical and mental health needs of our children in schools. Interestingly, two Region 2 states, Texas being number one and Michigan number six, are in the top ten states for receiving Medicaid school funding in the nation.

Now that the U.S. Senate was unable to get the votes to repeal this Act, what’s next? The Senate will continue to try to come up with a compromise that will appeal to both sides of the aisle. As you know, NAME is working to protect Medicaid coverage for the student population, but that isn’t the only component of this repeal. The bill is not dead it’s in a coma, waiting to be revived, if we want to use an unfortunate analogy. Stay tuned…

News From Indiana-

The Indiana Division of School and Community Nutrition Programs has received permission from USDA to pilot the use of Medicaid Data for the purposes of Direct Certification. While Medicaid has been used for Direct Verification purposes for a decade, this will be the first time that Medicaid eligibility will be used for Direct Certification and the initial eligibility determination for Free and in some cases Reduced-Price Meals. To implement these changes, some small changes need to be made and implemented by Software Vendors who supply services to Indiana School Districts operating the National School Lunch or School Breakfast Programs.

The Division of School and Community Nutrition programs has created this site as a single source for accurate information on the changes in the Direct Certification System. These changes were to be implemented by July 1, 2017, so they are ready for the new Direct Certification School Year. Please note that there is a Registration Link where software support staff members can register their companies, product names, and contact information to be included in mailings directly from the Division. Software developers can also contact John Todd at jtodd@doe.in.gov, or 317/232-0865. Schools have the primary responsibility to ensure that their software providers know about these changes, but we want to assist in the process to ensure that everybody is ready for a new Direct Certification season, beginning July 1, 2017.

NAME 15th Annual Conference

Join Us

Fort Lauderdale
October 15-18
"The Sunshine State is Calling Your NAME"
by Deneen Gorassini (FL), 2017 Conference Committee Chair

It’s not too late to register to join your colleagues at the 15th Annual NAME Conference!

We are ready for your arrival in Fort Lauderdale, Florida as the “Sunshine State is Calling Your NAME” from October 15-18!

We encourage you to visit the NAME website where you will find the Conference webpage with the most current Conference Program, social activity information, frequently asked questions and much much more!
http://www.medicaidforeducation.org

Check out the 2017 Conference Corner article where you can find the FAQ’s, information on things to do in the Fort Lauderdale area as well as transportation options and other conference information.

Conference Program Update

This year’s Program and Education subcommittee received a record breaking number of proposals and has selected current and relevant Medicaid in Education presentations creating a packed Program!

⇒ The opening Keynote Speaker will address Mindfulness and our closing Keynote Presentation will address the recently approved Massachusetts School-Based Medicaid Program which includes Free Care Services.

⇒ Nugget and Breakout sessions will include topics such as compliance systems, random moment time study data, audit preparation and specialized transportation claiming, just to name a few.

⇒ Back by popular demand are the general sessions including the Practitioners Panel, featuring leaders representing various health professions; and the Fireside Chat, which will provide an update from NAME.

To stay updated as the topics are finalized, continue checking the Conference Program on the Conference webpage.

Dates to Remember

- Early conference registration ends on September 22nd
- Hotel registration conference rates ends on September 14th at 5:00 pm EST.

Social Activities

Arrive early or stay late! Plan a trip to the beach, visit South Beach or the Everglades National Park or shop on Las Olas Boulevard!

- Monday Night - Join your colleagues for a scavenger hunt Florida style! Hop on a Water Taxi Monday night and search of odd objects and interesting facts and hidden locales or just relax and enjoy the ride! Space is limited so register now! Cost is $35 per person.

- THE HILLS ARE ALIVE! - Get a group together, or go solo! Exclusive ticket offer for NAME Conference attendees has been made- so make sure you do not miss the wonderful production of “The Sound of Music” performance at the Broward Arts Center (performances scheduled October 10-22).

Silent Auction and Charity

Don’t forget to bring your donation item(s) for the Silent Auction fundraiser. Each state will have a designated space to show off their donation items. All proceeds will go to the selected charity Broward County’s HEART (Homeless Education Assistance Resource Team) in Fort Lauderdale. Will your State raise the most for HEART?

NAME’s 5th Annual Anysia Drumheller Memorial Run

Sign up for the 5K run (or 1 mile walk/roll) in honor of our dear friend, Anysia Drumheller on Tuesday morning- Join the event for $10 and your donation goes towards the NAME Anysia Drumheller Scholarship fund.

Details on registration, social events, 5K run, charity and things to do in Fort Lauderdale can all be found on the NAME 2017 Conference website.

NAME looks forward to seeing you in Fort Lauderdale soon!