

E-News Update

May 21, 2015

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NJACP Holds Monthly Membership Meeting

The NJACP May Monthly Membership meeting was held on May 20th and featured updates on fee for service and the supports program as well as a discussion with Joe Young, Executive Director of Disability Rights New Jersey. Disability Rights New Jersey is an advocate for the human, civil and legal rights of citizens of New Jersey with disabilities. Additionally, Representatives of Mercedien, a NJACP preferred vendor, discussed gap analysis, representative payee, HIPAA compliance, and merger and acquisition, and risk management services that are available to members.



Vicky Calabro, NJACP President, and Valerie Sellers, NJACP CEO, provided the following updates. Please note there are several requests for information from members so that NJACP can more effectively advocate on providers' behalf (these requests are highlighted).

- The Board's recent trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with Congressional Representatives was discussed and how productive the trip was with respect to educating Members of Congress about provider issues. Vicky commented, "the trip was a highlight of her career at NJACP".
- Members were reminded contract renewals are due by July 1st.
- Jennifer Joyce has been promoted to Director of the Supports Program and members were encouraged to review the revised Supports Program Manual and submit comments.
- The DDD is considering developing additional policies governing agency's Boards. NJACP is working to ensure the policies appropriately address the structure of boards and are not an overreaction to one or two instances.
- The provider database has been launched; however, there have been issues with the accuracy of the information. While the link is currently removed from DDD's website, when it is active again, members are encouraged to review their agency information for accuracy.
- The .5% COLA will be mailed this week and electronic payments will be available on May 22nd.
- Members were encouraged to complete the provider application to be able to bill Medicaid for services.
- **Members were asked to submit their questions about Representative Payee to Valerie at vsellers@njacp.org so that questions can be forwarded to Social Security Administration (SSA). After responses are received from the SSA, a FAQ will be developed and distributed to members.**
- The next Abuse and Neglect session will be held on June 23rd at 9:30 at NJACP. **Any members experiencing issues with Tanitel are asked to email Vicky at vcalabro@everas.org**

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- **Members were asked to provide specific situational examples of conflicts between case management and licensing responsibilities during field visits or when in contact with DDD/DHS. Members discussed issues where case managers report UIR's and other examples. It is critical to establish patterns so the issues can be addressed. Please email Valerie at vsellers@njacp.org.**
- **If you are experiencing an increased number of investigations from DHS/DDD, please inform Vicky at vcalabro@everas.org.**
- NJACP will be meeting with DHS Acting Commissioner Connolly to discuss the many issues involved in the transition to fee for service.
- Valerie emphasized NJACP needs additional information from agencies about the number of people they serve, and other items to effectively advocate for issues at the state and national levels. This data makes the association more powerful. Members are asked to complete the membership survey that was distributed.
- NJACP, The Arc, and ABCD will host a Medicaid Boot Camp on June 15th for training on Medicaid billing. However, this session will not replace the planned NJACP Medicaid Boot Camp in September.

Joe Young with Disability Rights discussed several important topics with members, including, representative payee, and landlord/tenant leases for people with disabilities, and guardianship issues. Disability Rights, on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA), will be reviewing agencies serving as rep payee. Issues discussed included the policy with regard to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities establishing their own bank accounts when the agency is representative payee. Joe felt people should be able to have their own bank accounts as long as the social security money remains in the agency established account or it is transferred to the individual's bank account for a specific documented reason. Clarification about this policy is needed from SSA.

At Joe's suggestion, NJACP will establish a small work group to review the language and policies surrounding leases for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in an effort to develop collectively acceptable language to providers and the people they serve and to also develop guidelines or recommendations about the lease process. DDD will be asked to identify next steps for a provider and a person regarding the delivery of services or covering the costs of a home, if a guardian is unwilling to sign a lease. Joe encouraged members to reach out to Disability Rights when there are instances the guardian and a person with I/DD are in conflict. Disability Rights can become involved on behalf of the consumer. Also, Disability Rights can become involved if people are moved into the community and they are not receiving adequate services and supports to meet needs. They can work with the DDD or take other action.

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With regard to guardianship, Disability Rights is supporting moving in the direction of Supported Decision Making for most people in the place of assigning a guardian. New Jersey has historically appointed guardians to people with all levels of need. The concept could also involve the appointment of a person with Power of Attorney but that is not a guardian. This effort is to afford people more independence. NJACP will schedule a program about Supported Decision Making to explore the concept further.

There were several areas of questions and the need for clarification of several policies from DHS/DDD. Disability Rights and NJACP will continue regular contact and information sharing on these issues.

NJACP looks forward to seeing you at the next Monthly Membership meeting, scheduled for June 17, 2015.



Representatives from **The Mercadien Group**, NJACP Preferred Vendor.

(L – R) Kyle Neeld, Sherise Ritter
Jane Kaye

White House Appoints New Disability Policy Coordinator

Last week, President Obama appointed Maria Town as associate director in the White House's Office of Public Engagement. Her primary focus will be incorporating the needs of people with disabilities in Administration activities. Town takes over the role from Taryn Mackenzie Williams, who left the role in March. Unlike Williams, who was in the position as a temporary detail from the Department of Labor (DOL), Town has been appointed to the position on a permanent basis.

Town has worked previously as an adviser in the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) at the DOL. She has particular expertise in developing youth leadership and promoting college and career readiness for youths with disabilities.

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Senators Introduce Low-Income Housing Tax Provision Legislation

According to ANCOR, on May 6, Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Pat Roberts (R-KS) introduced bipartisan legislation to reauthorize a tax provision which would improve access to affordable housing and spur private investment in developments that support small businesses and construction jobs on a national basis. The "[Improving the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Rate Act](#)" (S. 1193) would improve the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) by providing additional certainty for new housing construction.

The bill would extend the 9% rate for new development and establish a floor of 4% for acquisition deals. The previous rates, created by Congress, expired in 2008, leaving developers to deal with a floating rate and less predictability for funding.

“The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit supports more than 90,000 jobs each year nationwide and has helped leverage nearly \$100 billion in private investment in these critically needed affordable housing units,” Sen. Cantwell, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, said.

Sen. Roberts stated his support of the program, and committed to “push for its inclusion in any tax reform plan to be considered by Congress.”

The Senate bill is identical to House Bill [H.R. 1142](#) which was introduced in February by Reps. Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and Richard Neal (D-MA).

NJACP Educational Offerings

Registration and information on the educational sessions currently available are also listed on www.njacp.org

WEBINARS

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May 25 – Monday

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Emotion and Compassion Fatigue

In this session we combine research from 2 of the most popular topics we offer. Your staff will gain a basic knowledge of why the knowledge of emotion is so important and techniques to regulate emotion. Cognitive, behavioral, and physiological aspects of emotion will be explored. We will also discuss the dysfunction of emotion and how it affects compassion fatigue. Individuals will also learn about the causes, symptoms, and resources to recover from compassion fatigue.

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm HR Law: Interviewing Skills

In this course participants will learn about legal interviewing skills. We will discuss the purpose of the interview, job descriptions, illegal questions, the four different types of interviews, cognitive bias and more. You will gain a solid foundation that will allow you to conduct effect interviews and select the best candidate.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Teambuilding: Personality Styles and How They Shape Our Teams

In this course participants will be given an assessment that will uncover their personality and conflict style. Similar to famous programs like the Myers Briggs, TKI or DISC analysis, this questionnaire will uncover if the individual is a Conductor, Scientist, Angel or Salesperson. We will then analyze each style and discuss their strengths, areas of improvement, areas of misunderstanding and methods to flex to the style. Results of this class lead to improved performance, increased morale, relationships and service.

Registration is available at www.njacp.org

If you have any questions, please call us at 609-406-1400 or send email to cboyce@njacp.org

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WEBINARS

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May 26 – Tuesday

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Assertiveness and Conflict Management

Conflict is a part of all relationships. In this class you will learn how to handle it effectively and respectfully so that you can maximize your chances of a positive outcome. We will discuss the styles of communication, benefits and consequences, as well as a conversational structure for assertive communication.

12:45 pm – 1:45 pm Leading with Positive Psychology

Did you know that genetics makes up about 50 % of a person's dispositions and that 10% of happiness is a result of the events around us? That means that 40% of happiness and well-being is within our control. In this course we will explore the research and techniques that create positivity in the workplace. This research has also shown that bringing positivity into the workplace increases productivity and teamwork. We will also learn strategies to begin the positivity change process.

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Management: Writing an Effective Performance Review

In this session we will learn about the structure of a performance review. We will learn about setting effective goals, using power phrases, conducting the formal review, and more. You will also learn coaching techniques.

Registration is available at www.njacp.org

If you have any questions, please call us at 609-406-1400 or send email to cboyce@njacp.org