

The Resource

June 20, 2006

FOR PERSPECTIVE AND ANALYSIS

The Source of information for providers of community-based services for people with differing abilities.
A member service of NYSRA.

RECORD NUMBER ATTEND NYSRA'S EXECUTIVE TEAM MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

By Jeff Wise, NYSRA President & CEO

Another summer is upon us, and we at NYSRA are pleased that so many chose to kick off their season with a visit to our Executive Team Management Institute at Saratoga Springs on June 6 and 7.

A record number – officially, 101 registrants – joined us for two days of management discussions. NYSRA's meeting team worked hard throughout the past months to put together a relevant, stimulating and topical set of sessions. And those efforts paid off: The vast majority of feedback we have seen indicates that we accomplished those goals.

Roger Hallowell, a former faculty member of the Harvard Business School and highly regarded author and lecturer, led a day-long session on management strategies to fill out the first day of the two-day assembly. Day 2 gave attendees a choice: A panel discussion of workplace issues and employee relations, along with a similar panel discussion of emerging policy trends in Medicaid.

Given the attendance numbers at each of the Day 2 sessions, we can say that both topics are of keen interest to our membership and others who visited the Gideon Putnam Hotel during the gathering.

We are especially grateful to the panel participants who graciously agreed to make our sessions most compelling:

Workplace Issues: Alan Krafchin, Center for Disability Services; Mark van Voorst, Lifespire; Dipu Basu, Mountain Lake Services; Stuart Rosenblatt, CWI; and moderator Rich Landeau.

Medicaid Issues: Paula Wilson, United Hospital Fund; Jeffrey Crowley, Georgetown University; Gary O'Brien, Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for People with Disabilities; Ken Crannell, New York State Association of Counties.

All provided insight, information and stimulation of serious and significant topics that affect the delivery of services to people with disabilities.

While we enjoy a sense of satisfaction with the 2006 edition of our annual June Management Institute, the NYSRA staff already has conducted internal discussions aimed at making next year's meeting even better. Your feedback is always welcome and we are always happy to hear of suggestions and recommendations for maximizing your enjoyment of all

NYSRA functions. We will hope to hear from you.

Around the Capitol

NYSRA's efforts on legislation and policy issues will continue through and beyond the scheduled adjournment date of June 22 for the New York State Legislature.

Despite the disagreements between the governor and legislators on some key points of the state budget, the state budget season at the least held constants on most spending items. Trended programs received a 3.03 percent boost and virtually all state programs administered through OMH and OMRDD received their first cost-of-living adjustments – 2.5 percent – since 1994. While we pressed the argument for a greater COLA, given the absence of adjustments for 12 years, we were at least pleased that the adjustment was granted as a three-time event. It will be calculated on October 1 of this year, followed by similar increases (subject, as always, to legislative appropriation, which should come) on April 1, 2007 and April 1, 2008.

A major discussion occurred concerning how COLA increases may be spent. After much back and forth, service providers were successful at preserving the governor's language that gives providers the most flexibility – money may be used for staffing or for other significant expenses such as fuel. NYSRA and other organizations were able to persuade legislators, who were receiving pressure from other groups to restrict the money to staffing only, that providers need flexibility in putting together elements of their budgets.

Similar to the discussion around the COLA, most programs funded through VESID received increases, even if those increases were less than we had sought. We continue to engage the legislature in discussions over these programs in a budget process that really has become a perpetual, year-round dialogue. The next budget – one that will start next February 1 with a proposal from a new governor – is already on our minds.

Even as the legislative adjournment date approaches, some budget issues remain unresolved. There is still no agreement regarding the spending of the TANF surplus money the state receives from Washington – there are strong differences between the governor, who favors block granting the money to counties, and the legislature, which has typically programmed most of that money to ensure that programs continue. Word is that an agreement can still come before legislators leave Albany this week for their summer re-election campaigns.

NYSRA staff and our lobbying firm pursue daily activities designed to further the formal NYSRA Legislative and Policy Agenda. These activities include contact with legislators and their staff, notably the chairs of both houses of the Legislature. When appropriate, we also confer with "central staff" in each house – staff members who work for the respective legislative leaders, the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the Assembly.

Here are some "scorecards" indicating some of the results of Albany efforts to date during the 2006 Legislative Session.

The 2006 Scorecard: DD

<u>Asked</u>	<u>Received</u>
Continued trends	3.03 percent increase
COLA – Untrended programs	2.5 percent 10/01/06; 4/1/07; 4/01/08
Broad use of COLA fund increase	Broadest language retained
Funding of NYS-CARES and OPTS	Continued funding; emphasis to OPTS
Part D – Dual Eligibles Wraparound	Legislative Agreement; Veto Override

The 2006 Scorecard: Voc Rehab

<u>Asked</u>	<u>Received</u>
\$2 million – SE	\$1 million
\$2 million – Independent Living items	\$1 million
\$2 million – IE Case Services	\$1.5 million from TANF, but questionable
\$15 million – barriers to further education	Unsuccessful

The 2006 Scorecard: Mental Health

<u>Asked</u>	<u>Received</u>
COLA – Untrended programs	2.5 percent 10/01/06; 4/1/07; 4/01/08
\$10 million lump sum boost for same programs	\$3.4 million to counties to bolster programs
Broad use of COLA fund increase	Broadest language retained
Upstate MH program similar to NY/NY	\$850,000 for new units upstate – scattered site
Timothy's Law	Negotiations under way

OSY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

New York City's Department of Youth and Community Development has announced that a total of 22 provider organizations have been determined eligible for the award of an Out of School Youth (OSY) Workforce Development program to begin July 1, 2006. The awards are based upon the Request for Proposals issued by DYCD in November of 2005. **Congratulations to NYSRA member FECS!**

The RFP anticipated awarding OSY programs with annual spending of \$8.9 million. The OSY programs, which are funded through Title I of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998, focus on vocational training and education. Some out-of-school youth programs serve older youth aged 19 - 21, some serve younger youth aged 16 - 18, and some programs serve both age groups. Youth meeting the age requirement who have either dropped out of high school or have graduated from high school but need basic skills enhancement and meet the income requirements are eligible.

Participants are prepared for entry-level positions in fields that include medical, computer support, building trades and automotive services. Services offered by Out-of-School Youth Employment contractors include:

- Occupational skills training
- Job search and placement assistance
- Comprehensive supportive services
- GED Preparation
- ESOL and Literacy instruction
- Mentoring
- Follow-up service after completion of the program

NEW INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR CONSUMERS WITH DISABILITIES

More and more state Medicaid programs are exploring managed care options to improve the quality and control the costs of health care for consumers with disabilities. In response, the Center for Health Care Strategies (CHCS) developed an initiative on Managed Care for People with Disabilities to help states successfully move this complex population into managed care and strengthen existing programs to better serve people with disabilities. The program is supported by the California HealthCare Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Six states - California, Indiana, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington - will participate in this CHCS Purchasing Institute on Managed Care for People with Disabilities. The states, selected through a competitive process, will receive help designing, implementing, and evaluating managed care programs for adults with disabilities.

Continued from page 2

“We commend the six participating states for their commitment to improving the quality of care delivered to people with disabilities,” said Melanie Bella, vice president for policy at CHCS. “Targeting public resources to more effectively address the needs of this complex population can significantly improve health outcomes and help control costs.”

Over the 24-month initiative, participating states will share best practices through two CHCS Purchasing Institute training sessions and an online learning network. The training sessions will cover topics related to implementation and expansion of risk-based managed care programs for adults with disabilities, including care management, behavioral health integration, and performance measurement.

Helping states evaluate their managed care programs for people with disabilities will be a key goal of the new initiative. Each of the participating states will develop and pilot a new performance measure specific to people with disabilities. These new performance measures will target areas not covered by national standard measures.

Resources and best practices from this initiative will be shared broadly to inform additional states that are considering managed care expansions for adults with disabilities.

FEDERAL UPDATE

U.S. Census Bureau

MORE THAN 50 MILLION AMERICANS REPORT SOME LEVEL OF DISABILITY

About 18 percent of Americans in 2002 said they had a disability, and 12 percent had a severe disability, according to a report released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. Among people with disabilities, more than half of those 21 to 64 years old had a job, more than 4-in-10 of those ages 15 to 64 used a computer at home and a quarter of those age 25 to 64 had a college degree. “The demographic snapshots contained in this report help planners and decision-makers assess the needs of this important segment of our population,” said Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon. *Americans with Disabilities: 2002* was compiled from the Survey of Income and Program Participation.

Approximately 51.2 million people said they had a disability; for 32.5 million of them, the disability was severe. About 56 percent of people ages 21 to 64 who had a disability were employed at some point in the one-year period prior to the interview. People with a severe disability status reported the lowest employment rate (42 percent). This compared with the employment rates of people with a nonsevere disability (82 percent) and those with no reported disability (88 percent).

Similarly, 32 percent of people ages 25 to 64 with a nonsevere disability and 22 percent with a severe disability were college graduates. The corresponding rate for those without a disability was 43 percent. Among other findings, people with a severe disability had an increased likelihood of having Medicare or Medicaid coverage, living below the poverty level, reporting their health status to be “fair or poor,” receiving public assistance and having a household income below \$20,000. For instance, the poverty rate for people 25 to 64 with no disability was 8 percent, compared with 11 percent for those with a nonsevere disability and 26 percent for people with a severe disability.

The report defines a person as having a disability if they have difficulty performing a specific activity such as seeing, hearing, bathing or doing light housework, or had a specified condition, such as Alzheimer’s disease or autism. People are considered to have a severe disability if they are completely unable to perform one or more of these tasks or activities, need personal assistance or have one of the severe conditions described in the report. Other highlights:

- Four million children ages 6 to 14, or 11 percent, had a disability. The chances of having a disability rise with age: 72 percent of people age 80 and older had disabilities.
- Approximately 11 million people ages 6 and older, or 4 percent, needed personal assistance with an everyday activity.
- Among the population age 15 and older, 2.7 million used a wheelchair and 9.1 million an ambulatory aid such as a cane, crutches or a walker.
- About 7.9 million people age 15 and older had difficulty seeing the words and letters in ordinary newspaper print, including 1.8 million who were unable to see.
- There were 7.8 million people age 15 and older who had difficulty hearing a normal conversation, including 1 million unable to hear.
- About 14.3 million people age 15 and older had limitations in cognitive functioning or a mental or emotional illness that interfered with their daily activities, such as Alzheimer’s disease, depression or mental retardation. This group comprised 6 percent of the population.
- Among adults ages 16 to 64, 11.8 million or 6 percent reported the presence of a condition that makes it difficult to remain employed or find a job.
- Median earnings for people with no disability were \$25,000, compared with \$22,000 for people with a nonsevere disability and \$12,800 for those with a severe disability.
- Of those ages 15 to 64, 36 percent with a severe disability used a computer and 29 percent used the Internet at home.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Vision Rehabilitation Teacher, Part-Time: Provides vision Rehabilitation teaching for both adults and children in home setting, refers and networks with related agencies. Responsible for developing individualized treatment plan, case management and presentations in the community. Requires Bachelor's Degree in related field, training including Braille I leading to professional R.T. certification. ACVREP certification desirable. Agency will provide on the job training toward cert. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume/refs. to E.D., Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired of Jefferson Co., 321 Prospect St., Watertown, NY 13601 or for more information call (315) 782-2451.

Director of Vocational Services: Ulster-Greene ARC, a not-for-profit agency located in upstate NY, has an immediate opening for Director of Vocational Services, Pilot Industries. This position is responsible for effective operation and growth of a full complement of Vocational Services for developmentally disabled individuals. We are seeking a committed, action-oriented person to lead a diverse array of departments around a shared mission. The successful candidate will possess a relevant Master's Degree. Managerial/administrative experience with the OMR/DD and VESID regulations is preferred. Experience in providing services to persons with MR/DD is a plus. Our agency serves over 1,200 people who have developmental disabilities throughout the Mid-Hudson and Catskill Mountains region. We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefits package. For immediate consideration, please forward resume, with cover letter including salary requirements, to:
Ulster-Greene ARC
471 Albany Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
Attn: Tammy Paquette, Recruitment Manager
FAX (845) 340-0463
E-mail: tammyp@uarc.org

Direct Care: Work with individuals with traumatic brain injury. Part-time, days, evenings, weekends. Buffalo, surrounding areas including Southtowns. HS Diploma and car required. PCA/HHA preferred but will train. EOE. Call 716-332-5008 x275
Phoenix Frontier, Inc.
100 Leroy Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14214

Scheduler/Clerk: Some direct care required. Part-time includes weekend hours. High School Diploma and car required. EOE.

Call 716-332-5008 x275
Phoenix Frontier, Inc.
100 Leroy Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14214

Human Services - Senior Driver/Direct Care: Schedule maintenance for small vehicle fleet and maintain logs of use. Provide transportation for adults with disabilities. Clean, valid CDL and High School diploma required. EOE. Resume to:

Phoenix Frontier, Inc.
100 Leroy Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14214

NYSRA AND RRTI CALENDAR

June 2006

June 23
NYSRA New York City Regional Meeting

July 2006

July 19
NYSRA OPTS Conference Call 3PM

Waiver Services Committee (DD Division)

July 20
Working with Challenging Populations: Teaching People with Profound MR; Working with Adults on the Autistic Spectrum - Albany (RRTI Seminar)

July 21
Social/Sexual Issues for Adults with DD - Albany (RRTI Seminar)

August 2006

August 3
Employment Options Committee (Voc. Rehab Division)

August 8
DD Division

August 9
MH Division

