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2010



Raising the Standard

Showcase of General Session Speakers
National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Opening Keynote Address



Alexa Posny, Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS) was confirmed as assistant secretary for special education and rehabilitative services at the Department of Education by the U.S. Senate on Oct. 5, 2009. In this position, she plays a pivotal role in policy and management issues affecting special education and rehabilitative services. She directs, coordinates and recommends policy for programs designed to assist state and local education agencies improve the achievement of students with disabilities ages birth through 21, as well as adults transitioning from secondary school to higher education, employment or both. She helps ensure equal access to services leading to such improvement for all children, particularly children with disabilities. She fosters educational improvement at the state and local levels, and oversees the distribution of financial assistance to local education agencies whose local revenues are affected by federal activities. She also serves as the principal adviser to the U.S. secretary of education on all matters related to special education for individuals in pre-K, elementary, secondary and postsecondary schools. In addition, Ms. Posny served from 1999 to 2006 as state director of special education, deputy commissioner of education and commissioner of education for the Kansas State Department of Education. From 2006 to 2007, Posny served as the director of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Teamwork: The 'T' in EPSDT

Colleen A. Kraft, M.D., F.A.A.P. is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, and Transitional Year Program Director, Carilion Clinic. Dr. Kraft is a primary care pediatrician with Carilion Pediatric Medicine, and Medical Director of Medical Home Plus, a non-profit organization that extends the reach of the Medical Home by connecting families with community resources. She is a coauthor of the book Managing Chronic Health Needs in School and Child Care: A Quick Reference Guide, published by the American Academy of Pediatrics in September, 2009. Dr. Kraft was appointed to serve on the Virginia Interagency Coordinating Council and sits on the Board of the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. She is well known for developing and implementing evidence-based programs that connect children's healthcare with the prevention of infant mortality, developmental delays, child abuse, behavioral health problems, teen smoking and teen pregnancy. Dr. Kraft's professional interests include Early Childhood, Children with Special Health Care Needs, Community Pediatrics, and International Child Health.

How Can We Better Align IDEA and ESEA?

Nancy Reder, Esq., Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Relations, National Association of State Directors of Special Education for 14 years. She has more than 30 years experience in providing direct services to vulnerable children and families, policy analysis and nonprofit management. Prior to joining NASDSE, Ms. Reder worked as a Title I school social worker, director of social policy for the League of Women Voters Education Fund and for the U.S. House of Representatives as a senior staff member of the Select Committee on Children, Youth and Families. Ms. Reder received her B.A. and M.S.W. degrees from the University of Michigan and her J.D. from Catholic University's Columbus School of Law.

Friday, September 24, 2010

Medicaid for Children After National Health Reform

Rachel Klein, Deputy Director of Health Policy, Families USA, a national nonprofit organization that is dedicated to the achievement of high-quality, affordable health care for all Americans. Ms. Klein coordinates Families USA's research and policy work on Medicaid, which includes federal initiatives to strengthen and increase coverage for low-income people, as well as technical assistance to state-based health care advocates. Ms. Klein has been with Families USA since 1998. She holds an M.A. in Public Policy from the George Washington University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California at San Diego.



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