

N A M E

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc.

Edition #14

E-tag

August 2009

“NAME Bridges Medicaid and Education to Promote Integrity in School Based Health”

The President's Corner

In July, NAME participated in a meeting with Cindy Mann, Director of the Centers for Medicaid and State Operations. On August 14, 2009, NAME will participate in a meeting with representatives from Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services / Office of Special Education Programs to discuss the current status of School-Based Medicaid Claiming. Participants anticipated to attend are: Amy Edwards (NAME President/Virginia Dept of Education); John Hill, NAME (Indiana Dept. of Education); Kathy Merry (Regional Education Service Center, southeastern Michigan); Larry Charny (New York City Dept. of Education); Bruce Hunter and Mary Kusler (American Association of School Administrators); Greg Morris (LEA.net); and Nancy Reder (National Association State Directors of Special Education). Among the issues being considered for discussion are: Parental Consent – 34 CRF §300.154(d)(2)(iv)(A); Practitioner credentials – Speech pathologist/ASHA certification; (EPSDT) – Providers that meet the professional qualifications and delivery of services in schools. We look forward to sharing the information with you in the next edition of e-tag. This type of high-level, high-profile dialogue is essential for the future viability and relevance of school-based Medicaid claiming. **That is why you turn to NAME.**

— Amy Edwards, NAME President

In the Media

New York in the News:

“City and state officials had vigorously disputed the federal government’s findings and fought to minimize any repayments.” [Different opinions](#). “The state of New York and New York City have agreed to pay \$540 million to settle allegations that they knowingly submitted, or caused to be submitted, false claims for reimbursement for school-based health care services, primarily speech therapy and transportation, provided to Medicaid eligible children from 1990 to 2001, the Justice Department announced today. The settlement is a record federal recovery by the Justice Department for the Medicaid Program.” [One door closes](#). “GOVERNOR PATERSON ANNOUNCES RESOLUTION OF DECADE-LONG DISPUTE WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE SCHOOL SUPPORTIVE HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM: Agreement Permits Program to Continue, Helping School Districts Finance Services for Children with Disabilities.” [Another door opens](#) “When news broke Tuesday that the [U.S. Department of Justice had entered into a whistleblower settlement with the state and city of New York worth more than \\$500 million](#), the Am Law Litigation Daily assumed some qui tam lawyer must be celebrating a whopper of a payday. But that doesn't appear to be so”. [Some tallies](#). “New York state school districts will not be able to submit claims for Medicaid services for a period of time in the wake of a record setting settlement between the state and the U.S. Department of Justice, which claimed that more than \$1 billion worth of claims were false.” [Claiming revisited](#). “We are informing all New York State school districts, counties and §4201 schools that, until a new State Plan Amendment is developed by New York State, you will not be allowed to submit claims for Medicaid eligible services (including Targeted Case Management) with a service date of July 1, 2009 or later.” [A NYS alert!](#)

NYC Turns To NAME

There are the lyrics from *New York, New York*: “If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere!”, there are also the lyrics to “Getting By With a Little Help From My Friends”. As NYS and NYC come to terms with the DOJ settlement and the requirement for the development of a new State Plan Amendment (SPA) the NYCDOE has turned to NAME to draw upon the vast body of knowledge and experience of its members in other states. Looking for context, common ground and insight, Amy Edwards from Virginia and Emily Tryer from Colorado have been generous with their time and information. They have engaged members of our Medicaid team in lengthy conferences calls, describing their SPA “experience”, policies and strategies they follow in collection of Parental Consent letters, and their respective considerations of TCM school-based claiming, as understood by the recent “partial” rescission of CMS-2237-IFC. **The ability to draw upon this level and scope of expertise is what makes NAME’s role in the future of Medicaid claiming so critical! And that is why NYC will be attending the Annual Conference!**

[Save the Date: NAME 2009 Annual Conference, San Diego, Ca. Date: October 14-16, 2009](#)

“Surfing the Waves of Medicaid in Education” 2009 Annual NAME Conference is building a tsunami of interest and enrollment. The topics include audits, cost based rates, data exchange, ethics, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, health care reform, outreach, positive behavior supports, school nursing, school based clinics, staff morale and motivation, the future of health information technology and much more. Keep yourself updated by frequently checking the developing conference schedule on the NAME website at: <http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/pdf/SurferDudelandingpage.pdf>.