President's Corner

Dear NAME Members:

At the midpoint of our terms as your President and President-Elect, we are pleased to report on the various activities of some of NAME's committees, as the organization continues to move toward our mission: Advocating Program Integrity for School Based Medicaid Reimbursement.

"In the NAME of collaboration" really works!

Revised IDEA regulations regarding the parental consent requirements to access public funds e.g. Medicaid, were published in the Federal Register on February 14, 2013. NAME believes that the revised regulations are an improvement over the previous parental consent requirements. Years of hard work by members of our organization have proved that by working together and gathering data, we can effect change at the federal level that benefits states, school systems and families. We thank all of you who contributed to this huge effort. We consider it an honor to be a part of an organization that can effect change this profound! The Education and Research Committee is planning a Topical Call for our members on May 1, 2013 starting at 3:00 eastern time. Look for additional information via email or by checking www.medicaidforeducation.org.

The NAME Education and Research (E&R) Committee, chaired by Rena Steyaert (MT), finished compiling the results of our 2011 Biennial Survey. As a member benefit, the final report is posted on the Member Only section of the NAME website. The committee has begun work on NAME's 2013 Biennial Survey and NAME will distribute it to states this year. Please take a few moments to complete the Survey because the more states that participate in the survey, the better the results.

Committee News

In this issue:

- President's Corner 1
- Committee News 1
- 2013 Conference 2
- More Committee News 2
- Members Corner 3
- Grand Rapids in March 4

In the NAME of Collaboration

Governmental Affairs Committee Update – John Hill (IN)

NAME, through its Governmental Affairs Committee, has been actively working with our partners from the U.S. Department of Education regarding the IDEA Parental Consent to Access Public [Medicaid] Funds regulation. The GA Committee has compiled a chronological record of the meetings and efforts by NAME to address concerns raised by OUR members regarding the regulations released in August 2006. These efforts started in October 2006 with a letter from NAME seeking clarification of the implementation of the regulation to the recent posting of the revised regulation in the Federal Register on February 14, 2013.

<NClick here to review the Parental Consent Timeline>.

Nominating Committee – Mark Smith (OH)

NAME NEEDS YOU!

Attention potential leaders and voting members of NAME: It is never too early to consider submitting your name or that of another member to run for an officer or director position on the NAME Board of Directors. Elections for the 2013/14 NAME Board of Directors will occur electronically just before the 2013 NAME conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and results will be announced at the annual NAME Membership Meeting in October. Please look for additional information on elections in future issues of NAME-TAG.
NAME Inc. would like to thank the following three companies for their generous support as a Gold Sponsor to the 10th Annual NAME Conference:

Fairbanks LLC
Paradigm Healthcare Services
PCG Consulting Group

Where to find us

www.medicaidforeducation.org

More Committee News

Education and Research - Rena Steyart (MO)

The Education and Research Committee (E & R) has been very busy since we met in Providence. We produced a timely Topical Call on School Based Transportation on December 13, 2012. The call hosted 44 phone lines on a toll free number.

During the call, participants had access to the presentation, federal regulations and two recent OIG audits that featured both reimbursement methods - Cost Based and Fee for Service. 27 members, 33% representing LEAs, 19% state Medicaid, 19% state Education, 22% vendor/consultants and 7% representing other completed an evaluation of the call, broad results of this survey include:

- 88% responded that the call was effective or very effective
- 88% thought the format was effective or very effective
- Vast majority learned something new or got better clarification on the topic
- 90% valued the Question & Answer portion of the call
- 92% would participate on another topical call

The Committee has ideas for future Topical Calls and is considering some mini webinars on topics from CMS. Members will receive notices about future activities which also will be posted on the Member Only section of NAME.

The final 2011 Biennial Survey Report has been posted to the NAME web site, log into Members Only> NAME National Surveys to view. This report includes a narrative analysis of the results. CMS and other partners have used data from previous surveys in their work. We highly encourage all states to participate on the 2013 Survey which will be distributed later this year.
Many people reported at the conference how much they appreciate getting to know people and what they do in their work roles. In an effort to keep that spark going, NAMEtag offers these member profiles as a way to help others get to know people involved in NAME outside of the conference. This issue features Donna Pletcher from Michigan and Barbara Rouse from Iowa:

**Donna Pletcher, Special Education Liaison for Medicaid and Financing**  
Wayne Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA), Michigan - Submitted by Kathy Merry (MI)

*Donna, what's your job at Wayne RESA?*

My time is divided among the Medicaid, Special Education and Finance Departments. In my Medicaid role, I have primary responsibility for direct service claiming, software support and financial reporting. I spend a good deal of my time analyzing electronic data to identify issues and anomalies that could impact our audit readiness.

*When did you join NAME & how have you benefitted from your participation in NAME?*

I believe I have been a NAME member since 2006. NAME has given me exposure to regional and national resources and information to broaden my understanding of the people, policies and politics involved in school-based Medicaid. I have had the wonderful opportunity to attend three annual conferences where I have gotten invaluable information and resources to guide me in my work and broaden my perspective.

*Anything else you’d like to add about NAME or something you’d like to see NAME get involved in to help you even more?*

I would like to see a secure blog or bulletin board area on NAME’s website where members could exchange information, share ideas and brainstorm resolutions to common issues.

And I’d like to thank the board and committee members for their hard work on behalf of our school districts and especially our students.

**Barbara Rouse, Des Moines Public School District, Iowa -Submitted by Jim Donoghue (IA)**

*Where do you work, Barbara?*

I work in the Des Moines Public School District.

*Tell us about your job.*

For the past five years I have been responsible for the behavioral Medicaid reimbursement program for the district. I work directly with social workers, and assist with training teachers and associates on Medicaid documentation. I am responsible for ensuring that the student’s Medicaid file is kept current (i.e. IEP, FBA and BIP reflect billable minutes, the student is Medicaid eligible, has an appropriate diagnosis and current parent authorization). I then work with our Medicaid billing agent and department accountant regarding Medicaid reimbursement funds. My job is currently evolving, adding the responsibility of health Medicaid reimbursement, so my learning curve will become steep again!

*How long have you been with NAME?*

This is my first year as a member of NAME.

*How have you benefitted from your participation in NAME?*

I attended the NAME conference in Providence last year. In addition to receiving a wealth of good information, I also came back to work with confidence that my district’s Medicaid program is doing things appropriately. That confidence alone means a lot, because I think that all of us who are working in Medicaid worry about whether or not we are doing things correctly. The other thing that has been very helpful over this past year is the information stream that comes from NAME. It helps to get information early, and with NAME, questions are not only allowed but also encouraged!

*What are some things you hope NAME will do in the coming years?*

Would it be possible to have contact lists for districts that have specific Medicaid reimbursement programs? It would be helpful to have the ability to “chat” with other people who are working with the same type of Medicaid reimbursement. Does NAME have any informational DVDs available for purchase? I appreciate the webinars that Jim Donoghue has for us here in Iowa and I am always grateful for any additional educational opportunities.
Grand Rapids in March 2013!