The President’s Corner

Dear NAME Members,

NAME is a volunteer organization whose members contribute their time and expertise to endeavors benefitting Medicaid programs in schools across the country. We are regularly impressed with the caliber of work NAME produces year after year, solely by volunteers, and it all begins with you. As an example, your Board of Directors is finalizing plans for the Triennial Strategic Planning meeting in Albuquerque March 10-12, 2011. The agenda includes discussions of the composition and functions of the Board, as well as our annual budgeting practices. We anticipate that some decisions will result in changes to our Bylaws that will require Member review and input before becoming final. Look for a request for your comments on proposed Bylaws changes in the coming months. In the meantime, we would love to hear from you before this planning meeting with suggestions for improving NAME; we always welcome your voice.

For a few more examples of the benefits to you of the hard work of our members, read on! 

Sincerely,

Denise Achin (RI) 
President
Denise.achin@ride.ri.gov

Jane Reagan (MI) 
President-Elect
ReaganJ@michigan.gov

Education and Research Committee Update

School Based Services Trends and Data from across the country were the topics of discussion during the nearly two-hour National Topical Call held on January 25, 2011. This educational session provided a brief summary of the results of the 2009 NAME Biennial Survey of the States and was hosted and presented by the Education and Research (ER) Committee. The topic may sound dry, but the information gives all of us a chance to see how our state compares with the others. This was an unusual session for several reasons.

Save The Dates! NAME 2011 Annual Conference October 11-14, Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Annual Conference Committee continues to plan for the best event yet in October at the Hotel Albuquerque just steps from the ambience of historic Old Town. Is it on your calendar yet? Our theme this year, “Aspire to New Heights with Medicaid in Education” celebrates the fact that our Conference immediately follows Albuquerque’s Balloon Fiesta! If you’d like to come early to enjoy the show, make plans now because hotel rooms go quickly and early. Many members of the Committee will be headed to Albuquerque in March to begin working closely with the hotel and conference staff to iron out the details. You will be the first to know as soon as registration is open. Please begin thinking of a possible presentation topic that you are willing to share, as our “Call for Presenters” will be released soon. Keep watching the NAME Annual Conference web page for regular updates and plan to join us this fall in Albuquerque!

In the Media - by Larry Charny, Co Chair, Communications Committee

NAME provides a variety of forums for clarifying the many benefits of the Medicaid School-based programs versus the negative messages swirling in the media. Here are some articles we think will be of interest to you: 

Regional Updates

With a rotating schedule, all NAME Regional Representatives contribute regular updates from their states. The following regions have provided updates: 

Region VI (AR, LA, NM, OK, TX)—Suzy Whitehead (NM)
Region VIII (CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY) —Rena Steyaert (MT)

Many thanks to the Corporate Sponsors of the 2010 Annual Conference

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