12 Conference Update
NAME’s 10th Annual Conference
We have a place: The Providence Biltmore
http://www.providencebiltmore.com/index.html
We have a date: Tuesday October 9, 2012 through Friday October 12, 2012.
We have a theme: The Tides Are Changing!
We have fun facts: Rhode Island is the smallest state in land area and could fit inside Alaska, the largest state, nearly 486 times! It is known as the Ocean State because there is a lot of beautiful coastline which you can access from anywhere in the state in less than an hour.
Please enjoy this beach scene, compliments of www.gonewport.com/

President’s Corner
Dear NAME Members:

Happy New Year!

As we reflect on the events of this past year, we want to acknowledge that almost all of you have endured significant budget cuts and are working with fewer resources while being expected to accomplish more. So thank you for your interest, enthusiasm, commitment and loyalty to the NAME organization. We also thank you for your provocative questions, thoughtful insights and innovative ideas. You push the NAME Board of Directors and our Committees to search for answers and share them widely. Our mission drives us to assist you to connect with each other and to urge for expansion of the national network of School Based Services professionals so you can work smarter and improve the integrity of your state and local programs. Our pledge to you, in the form of our New Year’s resolution for 2012, is to be ever mindful of that mission.

Yours in good health,

Jane Reagan (MI) & Steven Wright (NY)
President President-Elect

Committee News
Invitation to Participate in NAME’s Biennial Survey Sent
Education and Research, Cathy Griffin (MN)

An invitation to participate in NAME’s third biennial survey was sent to State Medicaid and/or Education contacts in 49 states on December 7, 2011. If you received an invitation to participate we encourage you to consider providing NAME with all data that you have available for the survey. If you represent a Local Education Agency (LEA) or are a vendor, please do your best to encourage your state colleagues to provide available data and support them with data if you have access to it. Our federal partners look to NAME for data relative to program needs and revisions and we want to be able to provide them with reliable data. In order to do that, it is important that we gather information from all states.
Best wishes for the New Year from the Education and Research Committee!
New FERPA Guidelines Introduced  
At-Large Education Representative, Mark Smith (OH)

The US Department of Education recently released additional FERPA regulations meant to protect records of students. While these new regulations strengthen penalties for the misuse of education records, they also give guidance that should encourage the use of student data as a tool to improve outcomes for students in a number of ways.

The official USDOE announcement:

FERPA regulations in the Federal Register:
http://federalregister.gov/a/2011-8205

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States earned the Performance Bonus by including features like continuous eligibility, elimination of in-person interviews, express lane eligibility and simplification of the enrollment/renewal process. These efforts directly benefit state School Based Medicaid programs by raising the number of students who are Medicaid eligible, thus increasing the revenue potential for their school based programs. Congratulations to all the states that have improved access to medical care through innovative efforts to cover more children. A link to the CMS press release can be found here.

Ohio: The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is beginning the process of streamlining therapists’ documentation guidelines for the Medicaid School Program (MSP) by aligning goal writing and medical necessity requirements. MSP, working in conjunction with the ODE’s Office of Exceptional Children, has begun work to add efficiencies to the requirements impacting medical necessity. Previously, school therapists were required to make medical necessity clear from the individual education plan (IEP) goals alone. Now therapists may reference their Treatment Plans when justifying Medicaid reimbursements for eligible IEP services. Ohio’s single state Medicaid agency, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), backs the changes as long as supporting documentation exists in the student’s IEP case file. This change has been a direct result of efforts made in preparation for presentations given at the recent NAME conference on the topics of documentation of medical necessity.

In the Media

Communications Committee, Larry Charny (NY)

Holding the mirror up to recent Medicaid and special education issues covered by the media – cause for reflection among our membership.

- New York Times – City Schools Missing out on Aid for Special Needs - “It's a hassle, but once you’ve got the infrastructure and staff in place, the costs are almost always worth the benefit,” said Ms. Reagan, who is the president of the National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, a professional group.

To read this story and other stories ‘In the Media’ <click here>

Parental Consent to Access Medicaid

Governmental Affairs Committee, John Hill (IN)

The comment period on the proposed changes to the parental consent to access Medicaid regulation closed on Monday, December 12, 2011. NAME greatly appreciates the official comments submitted by its members, friends and collaborating organizations. Comments that were submitted can be viewed at http://www.regulations.gov/

Click on “Read Comments”
Select “Public Submission”
Enter Keyword: “ED–2011–OSERS–0012”

NAME will reach out to OSERS regarding next steps now that the comment period has closed.