President’s Corner

Springtime greetings to everyone!

It is time to dust off the winter and gear up for new things in life that include new happenings in your NAME organization. One of those things happens to be the appointment of a 2017 Conference Committee Chair.

I had previously informed you that this was a new and exciting change NAME has implemented; starting this year the Immediate Past president will no longer be the Conference Chair the year after their presidency.

Since the 2016 conference will be in Montana (YEAH!!) NAME searched for a 2017 Conference Chair. I am glad to announce that I have appointed Deneen Gorassini from Florida, which is in Region 2, as the 2017 Conference Chair.

On the subject of members of the Board of Directors, I wanted to remind you that annual elections are being held earlier this year.

Be on the lookout for the opportunity to vote on the various candidates that are slated for this year’s openings, and as always, please consider running for an opening in the future.

See you in Baltimore!!

Rena Steyaert  (MT)
President
rsteyaert@mt.gov

May Is NAME Election Month!

by Tracy Brunner  (IN, Chair, Nominations Committee

The NAME Nominations Committee reminds you that electronic balloting for this year’s elections is early: voting takes place from May 18 to May 22, 2015, in this year’s National Alliance for Medicaid in Education (NAME, Inc.)

Election of Officers. Voting members, look for an email with the link to your ballot, then watch the NAME website for the announcement of 2015 election results.

Many thanks to all for your membership and active participation in NAME!
From the Hill

John Hill, Executive Director

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Mead, US Anthropologist

The world of Medicaid in education is a relatively small one in the context of both the nation’s health and education systems, but, as friends of NAME know, ensuring that students receive the medical services that they need to be present and fully engaged in their education is vitally important for student outcomes. The volunteer effort that drives the NAME organization should never be underestimated! A talented group of Medicaid and education professionals have built a great deal of momentum over the last year and I only see efforts expanding.

NAME is achieving success on a number of strategic initiatives including, but not limited to:
- Establishment of an ongoing dialogue with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS);
- Enhanced participation of our federal partners at the NAME annual conference;
- Membership expansion; and,
- New sponsorship opportunities.

Starting last November, NAME and CMS began having quarterly meetings to look for ways to ensure the integrity of the school-based Medicaid program, as well as improve student outcomes from medically related educational services. Some of the topics CMS and NAME have discussed to date: allowable Medicaid services, Random Moment Time Studies (RMTS), and “free-care.” The next quarterly CMS/NAME meeting is scheduled for July 15th. Please contact me if you have questions and concerns that you would like to see addressed in this dialogue.

NAME federal agency partners at the Health & Human Services Administration and the US Department of Education sometimes have a difficult time attending the NAME annual conference to present up-to-date information to us as key stakeholders. While there are several barriers, certainly travel restrictions are a common one. In order to address this issue, the 2015 NAME Conference Committee chose Baltimore, Maryland as the site for the 2015 NAME Conference.

The Conference Committee is anticipating a strong presence from our federal agency partners at the 2015 conference and we already have commitments for sessions that could clarify and expand our field’s understanding of several important issues. You can learn more by reading the 2015 conference article in this addition of the NAMETag and visiting the NAME webpage for more details: <click here>. Please show your commitment by registering for conference early and helping us create the largest ever “small group of thoughtful, committed citizens” in support of Medicaid in education.

Your participation in NAME helps us to bring into reality the vision of public policy valuing children’s health as essential to learning. If we are to be successful in ensuring the integrity of the Medicaid in Education program, we must grow our membership and the capacity of our membership to identify concerns and help co-create solutions to challenges as they arise. Several states are doing this by forming state-level organizations to focus on the Medicaid and education partnership. For example, a local initiative in the state of Texas has led to the establishment of the Texas Alliance for Medicaid in Education (TAME). NAME is in the process of finalizing procedures that will support state-level organizations to affiliate with our organization. We anticipate that this process will be piloted soon. Please help bring your state on board.

As NAME expands its efforts beyond an annual conference, the organization is modifying its approach to sponsorships. Historically, sponsorships (and sponsorship benefits) have been tied solely to conference despite the fact that many of these funds are utilized to cover the ongoing operational costs of the organization and build increased capacity to engage with our partners. At the NAME 2014 Long Range Planning meeting, the NAME Board decided to begin more clearly acknowledging the important role our sponsors play in making our ongoing work possible by designating our largest contributors as organizational sponsors, not just conference sponsors. Please let me and the NAME Board know what you think about this change and the opportunities it represents. Sustaining our expanded efforts is dependent on sponsorships keeping pace.

If our organizational initiatives at NAME align with your own aspirations in support of children in this country, please consider increasing the volunteer and/or financial commitment you are making to NAME. April 2015 marked my one-year anniversary serving as NAME’s Executive Director. I feel thankful to be among federal agency partners, as well as strategic and national partners who are working every day with the NAME Board and committees to make a difference that makes a difference in the lives of students.

(317) 902-5446 or john.hill@MedicaidForEducation.org

NAME Sponsors

NAME, Inc. would like to thank the following Gold Sponsor companies for their generous support to the
12th Annual NAME Conference:

Gold Sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fairbanks, LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Consulting Group, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Health Care Financing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts Medical School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NAME, Inc. would like to thank the following Gold Sponsor companies for their generous support to the 12th Annual NAME Conference:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fairbanks, LLC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public Consulting Group, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts Medical School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Health Care Financing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Massachusetts Medical School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the NAME of Collaboration
NAME Requests Questions for CMS for the 2015 Annual Conference

by Amy Edwards (VA), Chair, Governmental Affairs and Public Relations Committee

The NAME Governmental Affairs & Public Relations Committee is working with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to gather questions to help them prepare for their presentations at the 2015 Annual NAME Conference in Baltimore, MD.

CMS wants to hear from our NAME members regarding questions you would like to pose so they may provide answers during their presentations.

Please refrain from asking Free Care Policy questions, since we have already requested and submitted your questions to CMS on that topic, which they will use to prepare their Free Care Policy presentation. Also, please do not include state-specific questions that can only be addressed by your state Medicaid agency and not by CMS.

Please submit your questions by June 1, 2015 using this link:

In the Media: Links to News from Around the Country

By Larry Charny (NC), Communications Committee

Information on Special Education, Medicaid and their points of intersection are dynamic and complex. This column intends to provide a portal to the most recent information, from a variety of news outlets, covering a wide range of issues relevant to members of NAME.

We now embrace the immediacy of Facebook as an efficient means to share news and links with members and colleagues, but many schools and agencies still do not allow access to Facebook. So we continue to share in as many formats as possible.

Find a variety of links to some articles we think will be of interest to you here:
Greetings from your NAME Region 3 Representatives!

In April 2015 the NAME Region 3 Representatives to the Board of Directors had the opportunity to host a NAME Member National Conference Call. We started planning for this event by summarizing the topics that generated the most interest at the Region 3 Town Hall meetings at the NAME Annual Conference in Niagara Falls in September 2014. We then narrowed it down to three possible topics for the focus of the National Call and asked the Region 3 members to vote for the topic they wanted covered.

Based on member feedback, we conducted a National Conference Call on “Cost Based Rate Methodologies and Random Moment Time Study (RMTS)" on April 23, 2015. In spite of some minor technical difficulties, the feedback on the content of the presentation was overwhelmingly positive.

We want to thank all of the members of Region 3 who provided questions in advance, which helped to focus the content of the presentation. And thank you to all NAME members who participated on the Call and posed more questions to our presenters.

If you were unable to participate in the call, the PowerPoint presentation and the audio recording of the webinar are posted on the NAME website, in the “Members Only" section > NAME National Conference Calls.

If there are questions or future topic ideas you want to hear about, please email us anytime.

Region3@MedicaidforEducation.org

Stacie Martin (KS)  
Region 3 - State Education Agency Representative

Melinda Hollinshead (AZ)  
Region 3 - State Medicaid Agency Representative

Jeremy Ford (CA)  
Region 3 - Local Education Agency Representative

Shannon Huska (CO)  
At- Large - State Medicaid Agency Representative

News from the Regions

Region 3 States: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming

In the NAME of Collaboration
News from the 2015 Conference Committee

by Mark Smith, (OH) Chair and Teresa Pastore (MA) Vice Chair

As the school year winds down, the work of planning the NAME Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD (October 4-7, 2015) is all hands on deck and full speed ahead!

Registration just opened! <click here>

See the registration link on the NAME website that we are updating weekly. The Conference Program is shaping up. We are so pleased to be working closely with senior leadership from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to obtain commitments for multiple sessions featuring speakers from that agency and the U.S. Department of Education (USED) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS).

We know from past surveys, one of the more significant areas of interest for Conference sessions is about federal audits. You spoke, and we listened! A representative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is planning a general session on federal Medicaid school-based services audits. We expect a capacity crowd to hear this important topic.

Our program is also bringing back the popular “Fireside Chat”, a panel of NAME partners from national professional organizations, and the “Practitioner Panel” featuring national leaders from the American PT, OT and speech associations, among others. Each of these general sessions we know will contain current and pertinent information related to our programs—no matter where you work: at the national, state, or local level.

We also:

- have chosen “Charity Newsies” as the designated charity for our Silent Auction fundraiser proceeds
- are finalizing plans for social events including one in Baltimore, and an informal event in nearby Washington, DC.
- are finalizing the 5k and 1-mile routes along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Inner Harbor for our 3rd Annual Anysia Drumheller 5k walk/run event early Monday morning

The greater number of general sessions planned this year is resulting in fewer time slots for ‘nuggets’ and breakout sessions, so no “Call for Presenters” will be released this year. But we are designing sessions that we hope will take the best features of our popular town hall discussions, the ‘nuggets’ and the breakout sessions. We call these ‘facilitated discussions’, that will be led by NAME Leadership Team members to engage and challenge attendees with several ‘hot’ topics. These discussions will encourage active dialogue among attendees and promote sharing of best practices that you may take home with you.

We warmly invite you to join us in beautiful Baltimore for a dynamic opportunity to learn and network, and look forward to seeing you in October!

The Committee plans to exceed NAME’s past Conferences by bringing you pertinent and usable information and opportunities for discussion and networking. ..So join us as we set course for October 4-7, 2015. We will See you by the Bay!