

NAME TAG

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc
Take a Glance
Volume II Number 5

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Providing a network among stakeholders to share information on issues pertinent to Medicaid programs in public education.

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Due to an error, information in Volume II Number 4 regarding the article "Proposed Elimination of Administrative Claiming and Transportation Services" has been retracted and this article has been corrected.

Proposed Elimination of Administrative Claiming and Transportation Services

The President's 2007 budget would, through administrative action, prohibit federal reimbursement for IDEA-related school-based administration and transportation costs. Health and Human Services (HHS) estimates that the proposal would save \$615 million in federal dollars in FY2007 and \$3.645 billion in federal dollars over the FY2007-FY2011 period. Many school divisions rely heavily on this reimbursement and the elimination of Administrative claiming and transportation services could be devastating nationwide.

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) worked with Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MASS) and Representatives John Dingell (D-MI) and Ed Whitfield to Develop S 3705 and HR 5834, Protecting the Children's Health in School's Act of 2006 . S 3705 and HR 5834 amend the Title XIX of the Social Security Act to clarify the ability of schools to claim for administrative and transportation cost associated with services provided to students with disabilities and low -income students.

Over 60 state agencies, state associations and organizations have contacted the Secretary of Health and Human Services opposing the elimination of Administrative Claiming and Transportation Services. Many of these letters can be found on web sites such as www.medicaidforeducation.com , www.nasdse.org, www.theleanet.com, www.gregontheweb.com, and www.aasa.org .

NAME is Tax Exempt!

The IRS issued a letter approving NAME, Inc. as a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization in early July 2006. Receiving the letter culminated a seven month process and is one more piece in our long-term strategic plan. This opens the doors for NAME to receive tax-deductible donations from individuals and organizations.

In the future, this will also allow NAME to qualify for potential research grants that are sometimes only available to tax exempt organizations.

"Once you eliminate the impossible, whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth."

- Sherlock Holmes
(by Sir Arthur
Conan Doyle,
1859-1930)

A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both."

- Dwight D.
Eisenhower (1890-
1969), Inaugural
Address, January
20, 1953

President's Corner...

They say time flies when you're having fun..... I must have been having more fun than usual because this year seems to have flown at the speed of light. This is the last time I will be writing to you from the "President's Corner" of the *NAME TAG*, which just doesn't seem possible! As I begin to prepare to hand the torch to President-Elect Brenda Mack, I have taken a pause to reflect on what I did that was so darn much fun.....

Struggling to assist Minnesota's LEAs understand the IDEA-Medicaid connection can be frustrating, yet getting to work with staff from LEAs is about the most fun anyone can have and get paid to do it. They are all extremely dedicated individuals who care deeply about kids, and they know how to laugh and have fun while they serve.

Finding ways to improve collaboration between the State Medicaid and Education Agencies can be exasperating. However, our state agencies continue to make progress toward improving the integrity of billing covered IEP related services.

The activities at the federal level that threaten to eliminate and reduce Medicaid revenue that LEAs require to support the health care needs of this nation's children who are poor and/or disabled has been most stressful. Even in light of these federal initiatives, it has been a pleasure to witness the talent, skill, strength, fortitude, and ability of our colleagues to meet the challenge.

Given all the stresses of the past year, you would think that time would have really dragged because so much of what we do is no fun at all. Yet, the people we get to work with on a daily basis and the children and families we serve are why things that are stressful can bring us joy and the mundane can look exciting. This is why time flies.

With Warmest Regards,

Cathy Griffin, President

Frequently Asked Questions

There will be a new column on frequently asked questions in the next edition of *NAME TAG*. *NAME* is in the process of compiling a list of most commonly asked questions. Please email your questions to Amy Edwards , amy.edwards@doe.virginia.gov or Larry Charny, LCharny@schools.nyc.gov, co-chairs of the communications committee.

2005/2006 Meeting Dates

November 10, 2005

January 12, 2006

March 9, 2006: Indianapolis, IN

April 6, 2006 Special Meeting

May 11, 2006: Board Business

June 8, 2006: National Issues

July 13, 2006: Board Business

August 10, 2006:
National Issues

September 14, 2006:
Board Business

October 2006: Annual Meeting
Indianapolis, IN

IDEA Regulations Regarding Parental Consent

The Regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004) were published in the Federal Register on August 14, 2006. They are now official and must be implemented by State and Local Education Agencies by October 13, 2006. Section §300.154 (D) (2)(iv) on parental consent was amended. The following is the discussion of the revision by the Department of Education: "..... to clarify that parental consent is required each time a public agency seeks to use the parents public insurance or other public benefits. We do not believe that it would be appropriate to include a provision permitting waiver of parental consent in this circumstance even where a public agency makes reasonable efforts to obtain the required parental consent. However we agree with the commenter that a public agency could satisfy parental consent requirements under FERPA and section 617 (c) of the Act if the parent provided that required parental consent to the State Medicaid Agency and the consent satisfied the part B definition of consent in §300.9."

NAME and other organizations are currently analyzing this revision and recommendations regarding its implementation will be released in the near future.

Membership Stats

As of the end of July 2006, the NAME organization has 238 members. Of these, there are 44 'voting' members, which include 24 from the state Medicaid agencies and 20 from the Education agencies in 35 different states. The remaining members are from other state or LEA staff and other companies/agencies

We are still recruiting for voting members in the following states/territory: Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, West Virginia, and Wyoming. If you know of a state level staff person in the Medicaid or Education agency of these states, please encourage them to join. Better yet, see if they can attend the 2006 NAME Conference in October!

Watch the NAME web site for the most current updates.
<http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/>

2006 NAME Conference

Gold Sponsors

ClaimAide Consulting

Convansys, Inc.

Fairbanks

Indiana Department of
Education

Leader Services

Meccatech

MJcare School Based
Medicaid Billing

MSB

Public Consulting Group

UMASS Medical School

SILVER SPONSORS

Hansine Fischer &
Associates

Navigant Consulting,
Incorporated

The Lewin Group

MAXIMUS

Health Evolutions

We encourage any other individuals or organizations that want to support this conference to consider being a silver sponsor. The cost to be a silver sponsor is \$1,000. Contact Dann Stevens, of the Iowa Department of Education, at dann.stevens@iowa.gov or (515) 281-8505 if you want to be a silver sponsor or need more information.

"Journey through the Crossroads"

Indianapolis, Indiana

October 4 - 6, 2006

As of the early August, we have half of the expected 300 registrations. This year's National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc. (NAME) annual conference is being held at the Indianapolis Hyatt Regency Hotel, which is located in the heart of downtown, on October 4 through 6, 2006. To register online and for a link to the hotel, go to the NAME web page: www.medicaidforeducation.org.

This year's conference, "*Journey through the Crossroads*" will focus on:

- Policy/Advocacy;
- Direct Billing/Fee for Service; and
- Medicaid Administrative Claiming.

Wednesday's general sessions include presentations by:

- **Mary Kusler**, Assistant Director – Government Relations, American Association of School Administrators, will update attendees on the latest status of the "Protecting Children's Health in Schools Act of 2006" and other activities taking place in Washington, D.C. pertaining to School-Based Medicaid.
- **Rupert Boneham** (America's Favorite Survivor) will provide an overview during lunch of *Rupert's Kids*, this year's silent auction beneficiary.
- **A panel** will focus on various national initiatives, State Plan Amendment activities, free care, discrepancies in audits and their ultimate resolution at the third general session.
- **Regional round table** meetings for state agency and local LEA staff to discuss state, regional and other relevant issues among themselves.
- **Networking** at the evening welcome reception will conclude the day.

Thursday's agenda consists of nine breakout presentations, focusing on: Collaboration, State Plan Amendments, Part C Services, Documentation, Random Moment Time Studies, Nursing, Personal Care, School-Based Services 101 and the LEAnet. Thursday's sessions will conclude with facilitated Membership Town Meetings to discuss with each membership group (States, LEAs, and Associates) how NAME can best meet their



Richard Pimentel

bncely@mek12.or.us

*To learn more about
Rupert's Kids
Go to
www.rupertskids.org*

specific needs.

Friday's sessions begin with the NAME Membership Annual Meeting and board elections. CMS has been invited to present on School-Based Administrative Claiming following the elections, State Plan Amendments and Cost Reporting & Cost Methodology, and culminating the conference will be a motivational speech by Richard Pimentel who is this year's closing speaker. Richard spoke at NAME's first conference in Denver and he is back, by popular demand. His presentation will focus on leadership in times of change and crisis. You won't want to miss his insightful remarks about the "Journey" we are on.

Plan on joining us, as we journey to the crossroads of America. Previous conference attendees reported that they highly valued the opportunity to network with other states, share information and learn from their counterparts around the country.

John Hill, Conference Co-Chair

Silent Auction News! Silent Auction News!

NAME, Inc. encourages each conference attendee (State employees, LEA employees, vendors and other interested parties) to donate an item for the silent auction to benefit Rupert's Kids, an Indianapolis-based charity founded by Rupert Boneham, a former contestant on the CBS reality show "Survivor." Mr. Boneham will provide an overview of Rupert's Kids during the Charity Luncheon on Wednesday, October 4. Rupert's Kids provides mentoring and educational programming to at-risk youth in the Indianapolis area who have received intensive services from a variety of social service systems.

In light of the new developments in air travel security, bringing certain items may prove difficult for some attendees. Any attendee wishing to ship donation items via FedEx, UPS, or US Mail to Indianapolis may send them to:

John Hill
Indiana Department of Education
151 W. Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or you may drop off your item(s) when you register. You may request a receipt for your donated items at that time or request one from Emily Tryer at any time during the conference. Items will be on display throughout the conference in the registration area. If more than one participant from a state donates items, they will be grouped together. The Auction will commence when the first item appears Wednesday and bidding closes at 8:00 a.m. on Friday. Winning bids will be announced at the NAME, Inc. Annual Meeting on Friday morning. Highest bidders who are not present will be notified at a later date.

2005 - 2006 Officers and Board Members

President

Cathy Griffin
Cathy.Griffin@state.mn.us

President-elect

Brenda Mack
bmack@doe.k12.de.us

Immediate Past President

John Hill
jhill@doe.state.in.us

Treasurer

Dann Stevens
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Sue.Robertson@okhca.org

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joyce.jackman@dese.mo.gov

Region VIII Director

Emily Tryer
tryer_e@cde.state.co.us

Region IX

Liz Touhey
etouhey@dhs.ca.gov

Region X Director

Fritz Jenkins
Fritz.Jenkins@state.or.us

LEA Representative

Joseph Greene - Seminole County, FL
Joe_greene@scps.k12.fl.us

LEA Representative

Barbara Neely, RN - Portland, OR
bneely@mesd.k12.or.us

Nominating Committee Submits Slate for Fall Elections

The Nominating Committee presented its list of recommended candidates to the NAME Board on August 10, 2006 for the annual election of officers, regional board members and LEA representative whose terms will expire this fall. The ballot will be distributed to the membership at the October 6, 2006, NAME Annual Membership meeting in Indianapolis. Prior to the call for a vote, the ballot will be open to nominations from the floor.

2005/2006 Slate:

President-Elect:

Elizabeth Touhey, CA Department of Health Services

Secretary:

Terrie Belton, GA Division of Medical Assistance

Treasurer:

Dann Stevens, IA Dept. of Education

Region V:

John Hill, IN Department of Education

Region VII:

Shelley Witherbee, MO Department of Education

Region IX:

Melinda Hollinshead, AZ Health Care

Region X:

Fritz Jenkins, OR Department of Human Services

Local Education Agency:

Joseph Greene, Region IV, Seminole County Public Schools, FL

The Board is the governing body of the NAME organization and meets via conference call every other month. We are currently meeting monthly because of the federal issues. The Board is comprised of ten (10) representatives, one from each CMS region, who are State Medicaid or Education staff. In addition, there are five officers and two LEA representatives.

There are four Regional Board seats with term expirations this year. The regions, and the states they represent, are:

- V Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin;
- VII Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska;
- IX Arizona, California, Hawaii and Nevada; and
- X Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington

Regional Board Members serve a three-year term and are open to any voting member.

One of the two LEA representatives' term ends this year. This position is open to individual school district employees who are locally involved with Medicaid in education.

The Chair of the 2006 Nominating Committee is currently John Hill. For

2006 Committees

Standing Committees:

By-Laws Committee Chair

Jane Reagan

Nominating Committee Chair

John Hill

Membership Committee Chair

Brenda Mack

Communication Committee Co-Chairs

Amy Edwards and Larry Charny

Web Committee Chair

Michael Albino

Finance Committee Chair

Dann Stevens

Long Range Planning Committee Chair

Fritz Jenkins

Program/Policy Committee Co-chairs

Sue Robertson, and Cathy Griffin

2006 Conference Committee Co-Chairs

John Hill and Teresa Pastore

2006 Conference Subcommittees:

Logistics/Site, Food, Local Activities

John Hill, Chair

Speaker/Presenters

Greg Morris, Chair

Conference Brochure, Programs and PR

Teresa Pastore, Chair

Charity Auction

Emily Tryer, Chair

Vendor/Sponsors

Dann Stevens, Chair

more information contact John at (317)232-0864 or jhill@doe.state.in.us.

Committee Members Needed!

The value of the NAME, Inc. organization is found in the results produced by its committees. Without effective committees, it is not possible to keep moving forward. Our committees need members to provide assistance in meeting the current committee objectives. There are a number of committees in a variety of areas, so you can probably find a place to share your talents. Most of them do not meet very often, so you don't have to worry about a large time commitment. All of the chairs for the committees are willing to discuss the activities of their committees, so feel free to contact them. Or just send an email to the NAME web site and it will be forwarded to the correct person. Now, more than ever, it is important for all of us to come together and keep the organization strong and effective.

Hidden Treasure on Web Site!

The NAME web site has a very cool hidden treasure. Most of you may not have found it yet, but here are a few clues. How many times have you wanted to find out what another state's Medicaid or Education web site is? Or maybe their Special Education site specifically? Wouldn't it be great if you could bring up one document with all three of the sites for every state? You can do this on the NAME site. Have you found it yet?

You can go to the main page and scroll down past the By-laws changes reference for starters. There you will find a phrase that starts with "Access to State Medicaid, Education...". If you move your cursor over the text of that phrase and click on your mouse, a new window will come up and you win! A big THANKS to Michael Albino, Chair of the Web Committee, for putting this together and offering it as a resource to our membership and others.

Indianapolis, Indiana



<http://www.indy.org/video/Wow/ICVAPlan.html>

