NAME BRIDGES MEDICAID AND EDUCATION TO PROMOTE INTEGRITY IN SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES.

CMS Panel at Conference on Thursday, Sept. 25th at 3:15 pm

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are responsible for the Medicaid Program that funds the Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) and direct service billing of Individualized Education Program (IEP) services. A panel of staff from CMS in Baltimore, will describe how to prepare a State Plan Amendment (SPA) including what CMS looks for to approve services delivered in a school setting. Participants will receive an overview of CMS policy regarding reimbursement for School Based Services together with how to develop the State Plan pages for reimbursement and reconciliation to costs. The CMS MAC Team will provide an overview and describe the steps in the process and requirements to obtain approval of a time study for direct services, MAC or both. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

NAME and CMS Establish Dialogue

On August 28, 2008 two members of the NAME Governmental Affairs Committee met with four CMS representatives in Baltimore, Maryland in the office of the former CMS Director, Dennis Smith. The agenda of this first meeting was limited to a discussion of NAME’s mission and CMS presentations at the up coming NAME conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Septemvers 24–26, 2008. The parties agreed that it is in the public’s best interest to work together and agreed to schedule a second meeting following the 2008 NAME conference.

Coalition Committed to Protecting the Health Care Safety Net

On August 11, 2008, approximately 70 national organizations came together in Washington, DC to celebrate their success in lobbying Congress for a moratorium on six CMS regulations that advocates believe will have catastrophic effect on children’s health and education if implemented. While the current administration argued during the congressional debate that these organizations were only interested in protecting their special interest, it became clear that the special interest of this coalition is the health and well being of our nation’s citizens. The current moratorium, which in part allows schools to continue billing for Medicaid administrative claiming and transportation, expires on March 31, 2009. The coalition reaffirmed it’s commitment to work together to find a permanent solution to this group of regulations that threatens the nations health care safety net by disrupting and in some cases eliminating key services and programs necessary to the health and well being of our nations children.

Second Economic Stimulus Package with Medicaid Funds Likely To Pass

Congress this year likely will pass a second economic stimulus package that includes a temporary increase in the federal medical assistance percentage states receive for Medicaid. Click here for the Medical News Today article. Click here to see the Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report on Chair Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and committee Chair John Dingell (D-Mich.) proposed bill (HR 5268). FamiliesUSA has state-by-state comparison showing impact of the economic stimulus effect of H.R. 5268.