

NAME TAG

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc
"Takes a Glance"
Volume 1, Number 1

January, 2005



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



"Motivation is everything. You can do the work of two people, but you can't be two people. Instead, you have to inspire the next guy down the line and get him to inspire his people."

Lee Iacocca

NAME's First Issue of *NAME TAG*

NAME is excited to be sending out its very first newsletter! We will use the newsletter to stay in touch with our members throughout the year. It is one way we can continue to network with each other about what's happening in districts, states, regions, and nationally.

We want the newsletter to meet your needs. So, please give us feedback, especially what is helpful to you or what you would like us to add. It might take us a while to make *NAME TAG* as useful as it can be, but believe us, we are adamant that it includes "news you can use."

NAME TAG will be issued quarterly. If you have information you want to share with other members, please send your information and updates to: Cathy Griffin at cathy.griffin@state.mn.us.

President's Corner...

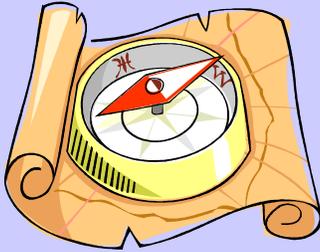
A little more than two years ago, a few of us were sitting around and asking ourselves a question. Should we create some type of structure that would allow states to exchange information pertaining to School-Based IEP Medicaid Services and School-Based Medicaid Admin Claiming? The answer was YES, as evident with the formation of NAME. As a result of this decision, many of you have been extremely busy during these past two years:

- Creating the organization By-Laws;
- Incorporating the organization as a "Non-for-Profit";
- Establishing the NAME web page;
- Formally responding to issues raised at the national level; and
- Conducting two national conferences to date (Denver 2003 and Boston 2004) as well as preparing for the third national conference this upcoming September in Seattle.

In the upcoming months, we will be "Charting the Course" for the organization's future. I am looking forward to working with the board and the membership as we strengthen the organization's ability to grow and to respond to the current and future needs of the membership. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of NAME. Through your efforts, the NAME organization has gotten off the ground and is moving forward.

With Admiration and Gratitude, John Hill, President

Board Prepares for Strategic Planning Retreat



Remember, where we come from isn't as important as where we are going.....

The Regional discussions were a favorite part of the Boston conference, "It's a Jungle Out There." The discussions were followed-up with a break out session. Based on the information gathered, the NAME Board of Directors agree that for NAME to succeed, we need to put time and effort into developing a strategic plan that will serve as our road map. We need to assess our current status, be clear about our vision, and know what we need to get us where we plan to go.

The NAME Board will gather in Minnesota on Saturday, February 12th and work through the afternoon of Monday, February 14th to develop a strategic plan. Tamyra Freeman of TLF & Associates from Indianapolis, Indiana is donating her time as a professional facilitator to work with the Board throughout the retreat.

The outcomes of the retreat are to:

1. Deepen the relationships between board members;
2. Build a framework that includes the purpose, goals, and direction of NAME;
3. Explore the structure of NAME and determine if changes are necessary; and
4. Assign strategic charges to NAME committees for additional planning and implementation.

The board is really looking forward to traveling to the frozen tundra of Minnesota, especially Albert Yoshii, from Hawaii!

Revision of By-Laws Proposed

During the Board meeting held at Boston in October, it was noted the by-laws need several technical and substantive revisions. The by-laws committee, chaired by Jane Reagan, has been hard at work ever since. They have prepared recommended changes in the following areas:

1. Technical updates for clarity and consistency;
2. Better readability for the purpose statement;
3. Allowing the two Local Education Agency Board Members full voting rights;
4. A process for Board Members to obtain an excused absence from a Board meeting;
5. Consequences for Board Members who have more than three unexcused absences in a year;
6. A process for absentee voting at Board meetings;
7. Staggered expiration terms for Board Directors; and
8. Dissolution language. (cont.)



Watch for an email alert to go to the NAME web site and review proposed by-law changes.

(Revision of By-Laws Proposed cont.) NAME's by-laws can be amended or repealed by having a first reading of the proposed change which is reviewed and voted on by the Board. Next, the approved revision is posted to the NAME web site. An email alert goes out to current members advising them of the posting. Members have thirty (30) days to give input. Based on the input, the Board has a second reading and then votes again. If the changes pass on the second reading, the revisions are effective immediately.

2004 Conference Now History

NAME's Annual Conference, "It's a Jungle Out There!" was filled with "good news" and "bad news":

Good News

Registrations up from 2003.....People were turned away
CMS agreed to present.....CMS's plane was cancelled
Great breakout sessions.....Can't attend three at a time
Lots of great food.....Put on a few pounds
So much to learn.....So little time

Bad News

The conference kicked off with Regional Discussion Groups. For many, this was the best part of the conference. Everyone graciously acknowledged CMS' Technical Director, Dr. Zelinger, dilemma when his flight was cancelled. The hotel quickly set up a speaker phone while Dr. Zelinger "flew" home from the airport to call in to the conference to give his talk. That evening, we all spent hours networking and eating our way around the room which was festive with jungle theme.

Next day, we started off with a wonderful welcome from Ron Preston who is the current Secretary in the Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts. Next, our keynote, Mark Therrien helped us to create joy by using laughter and humor to energize our work environments. There were fifteen informative break out sessions covering topics from the MAC Guide to Service Codes. We also found time to climb aboard the infamous Boston Duck Boat Tours and learned lots of little known fun facts about the wonderful and unique city of Boston. We topped off the conference with a NAME membership meeting and held annual elections for officers and board members.

The evaluations that were turned in were most thoughtful and are being used to plan an even better conference for 2005. We were very pleased to find the three highest rated (1-5) questions were:

1. I'm glad I came to the conference. (avg. 4.76)
2. Conference committee staff were helpful. (avg. 4.69)
3. I am interested in/will try to attend next year. (avg. 4.78)

Hats off to the 2004 Conference Committee!



Thanks to contributors and bidders, the silent auction raised \$1,500 which was donated to the Boston Institute for Arts Therapy (BIAT). For 20 years, BIAT has brought the healing power of creative arts therapy to special needs and at risk youth in the greater Boston area.



Questions about the 2005 Conference?

Check the NAME website:
<http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/>

email the co-chairs:
bneely@mesd.k12.or.us
dann.stevens@iowa.gov

“Charting the Course”

Co-Chairs Barb Neely and Dann Stevens announced the official title of the 2005 Annual NAME Conference as: “Charting the Course.” Charting the Course will be held in Seattle starting on Wednesday, September 28th and closing on Friday, September 30th. The Annual Membership Meeting will be held during this time and the Board will have an open meeting on Saturday, October 1st. All members are encouraged to submit a proposal to present a breakout session at the conference. There will be three strands for breakout session topics including:

- Policy/Advocacy
- Medicaid Administrative Claiming
- Medicaid Direct Service

It's never too early to start getting those approvals to travel.☺

Finding NAME on the Web

Michael Albino chairs the Web Committee and he is extremely excited these days. NAME has contracted with a web master who has accomplished many of the tasks we have been attempting for months. We hope you will visit the web site occasionally to watch it emerge. The address is: <http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/> The web site is where you will go to review the posting of the proposed revisions to the by-laws and get up to the minute information about the 2005 Annual NAME Conference. There will also be links to web sites with related information about Medicaid and Education.





Together we are better!

2005 NAME Board

*John Hill, President
 Cathy Griffin, President-elect
 Dann Stevens, Treasurer
 Matthew Fanale, Secretary
 Dann Stevens, Past President
 Garry Schaedel, Region I
 Michael Albino, Region II
 Brenda Mack, Region III
 Virgie Chambers, Region IV
 Penny Dipple, Region V
 Sue Robertson, Region VI
 Joyce Jackman, Region VII
 Steve Shelsta, Region VIII
 Albert Yoshii, Region IX
 Fritz, Jenkins, Region X
 Ruben Rojas, LEA
 Barbara Neely, LEA*

Membership

The Membership Committee is chaired by Brenda Mack. At the November Board meeting, it was decided to utilize the Membership Committee as the Communication Committee too. At the present time, this committee is developing a membership protocol. They hope to have a final draft of the protocol ready soon. This will be reviewed by Board Members and revised as recommended and then put into practice.

At the present time, NAME has 155 members distributed as follows:

CMS Region	States	Medicaid Voting Members	Education Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Associate Members	Totals	
Boston	CT						
	ME						
	MA	1	1	4	7	13	
	NH				2	2	
	VT	1				1	
New York	RI	1	1	1	2	5	
	NY	1	1	1		3	
New York	NJ	1	1			2	
	Philadelphia	DC		1		1	
Philadelphia	DE		1			1	
	MD		1	1	2	4	
	PA		1	1	3	5	
	VA	1	1	1	1	4	
	WV			1		1	
	Atlanta	AL					
		FL			7	1	8
GA							
KY							
MS							
NC				1		1	
SC				1		1	
TN							
Chicago	IL				2	2	
	IN	1	1	3	8	13	
	OH	1	1	1	1	4	
	WI		1		4	5	
	MN			1	8	1	10
	MI	1	1	1	2	5	9

2005 NAME Committees

Conference Committee

Barbara Neely, Co-Chair
 Dann Stevens, Co-Chair
 Rita Bouillon
 Penny Dipple
 Fritz Jenkins
 Kris Johnson
 Brenda Mack
 Carol Nolan
 Teresa Pastore
 Ruben Rojas

By-Laws Committee

Jane Reagan, Chair
 Greg Morris
 Ruben Rojas

Nominating Committee

Dann Stevens, Chair
 Brenda Mack
 Sue Robertson
 Cathy Griffin, Ex-Officio

Membership/Communication Committee

Brenda Mack, Chair
 Matt Fanale
 Cathy Griffin
 Dann Stevens

Web Committee

Michael Albino, Chair
 Barbara Neely
 Dann Stevens

Finance Committee

Dann Stevens, Chair
 Fritz Jenkins

Long Range Planning Committee

Fritz Jenkins, Chair
 Cathy Griffin
 John Hill



CMS Region	States	Medicaid Voting Members	Education Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Associate Members	Totals
Dallas	AR					
	LA					
	NM	1	1	4		6
	OK	1				1
	TX				3	3
Kansas City	IA	1	1	2		4
	NE					
	MO		1		1	2
	KS					
Denver	CO	1	1	4	1	7
	MT	1				1
	ND				1	1
	SD					
	UT	1		3		4
	WY	1	1	1		3
San Francisco	CA	1		5	6	12
	AZ			1	1	2
	HI		1			1
	NV					
Seattle	WA		1		2	3
	OR	1		7		8
	AK	1			1	2
	ID					
Totals		19	24	57	55	155

Free Care Ruling

On January 25, 2005 the Health and Human Services Departmental Appeals Board (DAB) rejected the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS's) petition for reconsideration of the DAB Decision No. 1924, issued June 14, 2004.

The 2004 decision concluded that the Oklahoma Health Care Authority disallowance of \$1.9 million in FFP under Title XIX be reversed. In a nutshell, the reason for the reversal was CMS's free care rule is only policy and is not supported by any regulation.

You can read the DAB's ruling at:

<http://gregontheweb.com.9.m6.net/>