

NAME TAG

National Alliance for Medicaid in Education, Inc
"Takes a Glance"
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Providing a network among stakeholders to share information on issues pertinent to Medicaid programs in public education.



"Charting the Course" Brings Together 200 NAME Members in Seattle!

The 2005 NAME Conference, held Sept. 27th through Oct. 1st, was a successful event, bringing together over 200 people from across the country. There were attendees from 39 states who shared information regarding everything from recent audit findings to Medicaid reimbursement for primary and preventive services for students with disabilities.

Keynote speaker, Clay Roberts, gave an inspirational presentation on positive supports for children. NAME President, John Hill (IN), provided attendees with an historical background on our organization and a look to our future. Unfortunately our special guests, central office staff from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), had their travel plans cancelled at the last minute. We appreciated how they punted and delivered their presentation about Medicaid rate setting via conference call, accompanied by a power point that can be viewed at the NAME web site: <http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/>

NAME's Annual Membership Meeting was held on Friday with Cathy Griffin (Minnesota's Department of Education) assuming the position of President for the 2005-2006 year. The membership elected Brenda Mack (Delaware Department of Education), President-elect, Sue Robertson (Oklahoma Health Care Authority), Secretary and Dann Stevens (Iowa Department of Education), Treasurer. Also elected to the Board of Directors were members from three CMS Regions and two local education agencies, all of whom joined the seven other Directors. *(See full Board listing on page 5.)*

NAME members were, once again, very generous with the items they donated for the silent auction charity fundraiser and, the amounts they bid. It's always lots of fun to see the creativity of items representing the unique features of each state. Through the Silent Auction, we raised \$1,500 for the Pike Place Market Foundation in Seattle. This organization provides a variety of services, including childcare and health care for low income residents.



"Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat."

-Prince Phillip of England

President's Corner

For as long as I have been working in the area of health and human services, which is longer than some of our members have been alive, the programs are both threatened to and do change. Undoubtedly, they will change again, probably sooner, rather than later. Change is always scary. However, change can also bring with it new opportunities that previously weren't possible.

I know many of our members are currently concerned with the future ability of schools to access Medicaid for the health related service needs of students with disabilities. Personally, I am confident that the activities at the federal level that are causing some members to wonder, are actually an effort to help us better understand how to access Medicaid and not need to pay back millions after an OIG audit.

Whatever happens in the near and distant future, I am thankful that we will be in a position to assist each other in the implementation of those changes and to support each other as we move forward with a collective and committed determination to serve children with disabilities.

With good wishes and blessings for the new year,

Cathy Griffin, President

Committees Organizing for the 2006 Year

One of the duties of the incoming NAME president is to assign the committee chairs for the year. At the Board of Directors meeting held on October 1, 2005, in Seattle, Cathy assigned the 2006 Committee Chairs as follows:

- Long Range Planning Committee: Fritz Jenkins (OR)
- By-Laws Committee: Jane Reagan (MI)
- Membership Committee: Brenda Mack (DE)
- Web Steering Committee: Michael Albino (NY)
- Conference Committee: John Hill (IN) and Teresa Pastore (MA) Co-Chairs
- Program/Policy Committee: Cathy Griffin (MN) and Sue Robertson (OK) Co-Chairs
- Finance Committee: Dann Stevens (IA)
- Nominating Committee: John Hill (IN)
- Communication Committee: Matt Fanale (WI)

The board and the committee chairs were very encouraged by the number of NAME members that signed during the Seattle conference and volunteered to serve on committees. Committee Chairs have been contacting those who volunteered to discuss the purpose of the committee and to begin their work. If you have an interest to serve on one of the committees, please contact the current Chair.

2006 NAME Conference October 4 – 6, 2006 Hyatt Regency Hotel Indianapolis, IN

The 2006 NAME Conference Committee held its first organizational meeting on November 17, 2005. The committee is delighted to announce the 2006 NAME Conference will be hosted by the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Indianapolis from Wednesday, October 4, 2006 through Friday, October 6, 2006.

The conference committee will be meeting on the third Thursday each month. Any member interested in participating on the conference planning committee should contact one of the committee co-chairs, Teresa Pastore (617-886-8078) or John Hill (317-232-0864). If you have a specific area of interest please feel free to contact one of the following sub-committee chairs:

Logistics/Local Activities	John Hill 317-232-0864 jhill@doe.state.in.us
Speakers/Presenters	Greg Morris 989-772-2544 greg8355@gmail.com
Brochure/Programs	Teresa Pastore 617-886-8078 Teresa.Pastore@umassmed.edu
Charity Auction	Emily Tryer 303-866-6978 Tryer_E@cde.state.co.us
Vender/Sponsors	Dann Stevens 515-281-8505 Dann.Stevens@iowa.gov



*Mark your calendar!
Watch the NAME web
site for the most
current updates.*

<http://www.medicaidforeducation.org/>

2006 NAME Committees

2006 Conference Committee

John Hill, Co-Chair

jhill@doe.state.in.us

Teresa Pastore, Co-Chair

teresa.pastore@umassmed.edu

Finance Committee

Dann Stevens, Chair

Dann.Stevens@iowa.gov

By-Laws Committee

Jane Reagan, Chair

ReaganJ@michigan.gov

Nominating Committee

John Hill, Chair

jhill@doe.state.in.us

Membership Committee

Brenda Mack, Chair

bmack@doe.k12.de.us

Web Committee

Michael Albino, Chair

mca03@health.state.ny.us

Long Range Planning Committee

Fritz Jenkins, Chair

fritz.jenkins@state.or.us

Communication Committee

Matt Fanale, Chair

fanalmb@dhfs.state.wi.us

Program & Policy Committee

Cathy Griffin, Co-Chair

Cathy.Griffin@state.mn.us

Sue Robertson, Co-Chair

Sue.Robertson@okhca.org

Committee Updates

Conference Committee

The Annual Conference will be held in Indianapolis at the Hyatt. The 2006 Conference will be held October 4-6, 2006. Watch the NAME web site for upcoming information about registration, exhibit space, sponsor opportunities, proposed schedules, and call for presentations.

Finance Committee

At the end of November, the balance of cash on hand was about \$24,000. Most of our income is from conference registrations, membership dues, and sponsorships.

By-Laws Committee:

No current activity.

Nominating Committee

Reviewing the nomination protocol.

Membership Committee

As of November, there are 257 members in good standing representing:

- 29 State Medicaid Agencies;
- 31 State Education Agencies;
- 76 Local Education Agencies; and,
- 121 Associates

Web Committee

The contract with the web master is complete. We are changing web hosts. The site was down for several days during the transition. The new site will provide us with more flexibility and options, be easier to use, and cost less.

Long Range Planning Committee

A facilitated meeting was held in Seattle on Saturday to review and revise the NAME Long Range Plan.

Communication Committee

Preparing new member packet for distribution.

Program and Policy Committee

North Central Regional Resource Center indicates national Medicaid in Education survey data is collected and being developed into a report format. Completed data will be posted on NAME web site. P&P Committee will analyze data and determine how it can help us plan for the future.



"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

-Eleanor Roosevelt

New Board Members Rise to the Challenge

One sign that our relatively new organization is maturing, occurred at the 2005 membership meeting in Seattle when several members agreed to fill vacancies that occurred from the election of existing Directors into officer positions. These new board members have added a wonderful new depth and breadth of knowledge and experience. As members of NAME, we ask you to share your thoughts, insights, and knowledge with the officers and especially with the board member for your region. If we don't hear from you, we don't know how best we can serve you.

2005/2006 Board:

Cathy Griffin, President
MN Department of Education
cathy.griffin@state.mn.us

Brenda Mack, President Elect
DE Department of Education
bmack@doe.k12.de.us

Sue Robertson, Secretary
OK Health Care Authority
Sue.Robertson@okhca.org

Dann Stevens, Treasurer
IA Department of Education
Dann.Stevens@iowa.gov

John Hill, Immediate Past President
IN Department of Education
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Garry Schaedel, Region I
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Michael Albino, Region II
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John Tommasini, Region III
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Nora Poisella, Region IV
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Linda Sowle, Region V
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Kari Armijo, Region VI
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Joyce Jackman, Region VII
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Emily Tryer, Region VIII
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Elizabeth Touhey, Region IX
CA Dept. of Health Services
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Fritz Jenkins, Region X
OR Dept. of Human Services
fritz.jenkins@state.or.us

Rita Bouillon, LEA Rep.
Jordan School District (UT)
rita.bouillon@jordan.k12.ut.us

Barbara Neely, LEA Rep.
Multnomah ESD (OR)
bneely@mesd.k12.or.us

Many States Concerned and Frustrated



In late November, during a three day period, at least two dozen emails were flying back and forth between NAME Board Members. The cause of this electronic blizzard is from what is happening when State Medicaid Agencies are submitting State Plan Amendments (SPA). Some of the SPAs are in relation to what we have come to call School Based Services (SBS) and others are not. However, even SPAs that are not related to SBS are having the 90 day time clock stopped with questions that are directly about SBS. One state was advised that any state submitting a SPA for SBS will be carefully scrutinized because the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has decided on some new directions for SBS.

We understand that in some instances CMS is:

- Requiring states to revise their SBS rate setting methodology to a cost-based system. They are requiring this when a service is added.
- Questioning how/if coverage, benefits, and statewideness can/should be different in school settings.
- Not recognizing that some aspects of health care service delivery are different in a school setting than it is in a hospital, clinic, or home care setting.
- Indicating there is no such thing as School Based Services, which makes us wonder exactly what they mean because this is a term CMS has previously used in communications.

Please alert your regional board member or a NAME officer if your state is experiencing similar problems. We hope this is simply an effort for all involved to gain a better understanding of the types of Medicaid services that are provided as health related services in special education. Our goal is to track the issues, monitor the outcome, share information with our members, and take action to assure that Medicaid covered IEP services will continue to be funded, as required by the Social Security Act and IDEA 2004.

"NAME TAG" *Contributors:*

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Cathy Griffin
Jane Regan*