DPW Mentorship Program to Assist Young Women in Treatment in Return to Community

On November 6 the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) announced the establishment of a statewide mentorship pilot program designed to assist young women (ages 12-21) in a juvenile detention program readjust to life outside of the program. The pilot program will be operated at the North Central Secure Treatment Unit in Danville (Montour County). The unit provides structure and therapy for young women who are ordered by the court to complete a comprehensive rehabilitation program at the facility. Mentors in the pilot program receive training on skills for building appropriate and supportive relationships and various methods to help a young person transition back into the community. After training is complete, mentors are matched with a teenager from their hometown or community. DPW said that individuals interested in becoming a mentor for this program should contact 717-787-1302. See http://listserv.dpw.state.pa.us/scripts/wa.exe?A2=ind12&L=NEWS-RELEASES&P=83275 FMI: See www.dpw.state.pa.us.
**DPW Selects PPL for Financial Management Services in HCBS Program**

On November 5 the PA Department of Public Welfare announced it has selected the division of Public Consulting Group, Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL) to handle payroll services to approximately 22,800 Medicaid enrollees who receive home-and community-based services (HCBS) through the DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) and Office of Long Term Living (OLTL). On November 6 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued *ODP Announcement 100-12* announcing that the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has selected Public Partnerships, LLC to be the new statewide Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent (VF/EA). The announcement includes DPW’s press release dated November 5, 2012, and provides additional information specific to the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). PPL is a nationally recognized firm that delivers financial management services to populations living at home that participate in 22 state programs in the U.S., including Pennsylvania. DPW said that a transition plan is in place to ensure the new contract will not impact benefits, services or access to care for enrollees. Current providers are working with the department and PPL to begin the transition of services. It is expected that the new service plans will be in place with PPL by January 1, 2013. DPW issued a competitive procurement to all current and new financial management service providers in January 2012. Current providers were required to submit a transition and implementation plan to ensure that waiver enrollees will not see a lapse in service or an interruption of care. PPL has an office in Harrisburg, Pa. and plans to establish additional regional offices in Pennsylvania. For more information about the Department of Public Welfare, visit the DPW website at [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). For the ODP Announcement see [www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net) under Topic Info then select Participant-Directed Services (PDS). For additional information, please contact Public Partnerships at 1-877-634-6805 week days between 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM (ET) or the local AE. As it becomes available, additional information can be found at: [www.odpconsulting.net](http://www.odpconsulting.net) under Topic Info then select Participant-Directed Services (PDS).
On November 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a final rule to implement a provision of the Affordable Care Act that provides increased payments to certain primary care physicians for specified Medicaid primary care services. The rule will be published on November 15. Under this provision, certain physicians who provide eligible primary care services will be paid the Medicare rates in effect in calendar years (CY) 2013 and 2014 instead of their usual state-established Medicaid rates, which may be lower than federally established Medicare rates. The payment increase applies to primary care services delivered by a physician with a specialty designation of family medicine, general internal medicine, or pediatric medicine or related subspecialists. States will receive 100 percent federal financial participation (FFP) for the difference between the Medicaid state plan payment amount as of July 1, 2009, and the applicable Medicare rate. See http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_factsheet.asp?Counter=4471&intNumPerPage=10&checkDate=&checkKey=&srchType=1&numDays=3500&srchOpt=0&srchData=&keywordType=All&chkNewsType=6&intPage=&showAll=&pYear=&year=&desc=&cboOrder=desc. See http://www.cms.gov/apps/media/press_releases.asp. The rule can be found at http://www.ofr.gov/inspection.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1
ODP Urges Providers to Update HCSIS Services and Supports Directory

On November 8 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued a HCSIS Services and Supports Directory (SSD) Reminder (ODP Announcement 102-12) to remind providers rendering services to individuals enrolled in the Consolidated or P/FDS Waiver programs to: (1) Sign up for the services they anticipate delivering in FY 2013-2014 (at the applicable service locations) in the provider's Services and Supports Directory (SSD) in HCSIS by December 31, 2012 and (2) end-date services and service locations from the provider's Services and Supports Directory (SSD) in HCSIS that are unused by December 31, 2012. If the provider cannot end date services or service locations, the provider should contact the AE. ODP says that compliance with the procedures will ensure that the provider’s SSD in HCSIS is up-to-date and reflects only those services and service locations that are currently used and/or are anticipated to be used in FY 2013-2014. All providers rendering fee schedule, Department-established fee and cost-based Consolidated or P/FDS services should follow steps 1 and 2 above to make certain rates are loaded into PROMISe and HCSIS in a timely matter. For the complete announcement, please read the communication posted at www.odpconsulting.net.
ODP Webcasts on SCO Monitoring Process

On November 8 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued ODP Announcement 101-12, informing supports coordination organizations of the updated SCO Monitoring Process webcasts and providing direction on accessing the webcasts. The series of webcasts are available to assist SCOs in preparing for each stage of the SCO Monitoring Process, which supports the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Assurances. ODP says that the webcasts have been updated based upon feedback from Cycle 1 and reflect the changes made for Cycle 2. The updated SCO Monitoring Process webcasts are available by logging in to the SCO Information Center (SCOIC) at http://scoic.odpconsulting.net/ > Annual SCO Monitoring > SCO Monitoring Process for 2012-13. ODP suggests that SCOs use the information in the webcasts to familiarize their staff with the SCO Monitoring process. Questions regarding the SCO Monitoring process should be directed to the statewide SCO Monitoring mailbox at ra-odpscomonitoring@pa.gov.
PARF Special Seminar on Strategic Leadership on December 6

On December 6 PARF will be presenting a Special PARF Seminar on Strategic Leadership: Managing the Cycles of Change with Dr. Albert A. Vicere, President, Vicere Associates, Inc., Executive Education Professor of Strategic Leadership at the Smeal College of Business, Penn State University. The 3 hour session will be held at the Nittany Lion Inn - Board Room at 200 West Park Avenue, State College, PA on December 6 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. Registration is at 9:00 am. The session rate is for PARF members at $99.00 per person and for non-members $149.00 per person. Registration Fee Includes: Continental Breakfast and Materials. Submit completed registration form and fee to PARF by mail, 3544 North Progress Avenue, Suite 101 Harrisburg, PA 17110 by fax (717) 657-8265 or by email parfedducation@parf.org. Registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and materials. Registration deadline is Friday, November 30, 2012. Registration is not complete and will not be processed without payment. This highly interactive workshop especially designed for human services organizations focuses on organizational and cultural change. The session will help you to assess your personal readiness and that of your organization to take advantage of the opportunities presented in today's world of unprecedented turbulence. Major changes and challenges taking place in the external environment will be identified. The session will then discuss how those changes and challenges are impacting participants and their organizations. Dr. Vicere and participants in the session will move on to examine how benchmark companies are adjusting to this shifting external context and to frame some of the critical strategic leadership challenges facing leaders today. Part of the session participants will establish a personal leadership agenda, capping the discussions by offering everyone a chance to assess themselves against a set of 21st Century Leadership capabilities. Throughout the day, Dr. Vicere and participants will share examples and stories from benchmark organizations worldwide and make liberal use of small group discussions to give participants a chance to apply concepts both to their organization and to their personal development. Al Vicere has been the featured keynote speaker at the PARF Annual Conference in 2011 and 2012, addressing the conference in 2011 on business survival and innovation and in 2012 on organizational change and management in a networked world. Al Vicere is Executive Education Professor of Strategic Leadership for the Smeal College of Business Administration at Penn State and President of Vicere Associates Inc., a consulting firm whose clients span the globe. He served for 12 years as the Smeal College's Associate Dean for Executive Education and has earned a number of MBA "Excellence in Teaching" awards for his courses on strategic leadership. Dr. Vicere has published over eighty journal articles and his books include "Leadership by Design," published by Harvard Business School Press, and "The Many Facets of Leadership," published by FT Prentice-Hall. He was awarded the 2003 Walker Prize by the Human Resource Planning Society for his article "Leadership in the Networked Economy," is a recipient of the Institute for Management Studies’ Distinguished Faculty Award, was named one of the “12 Gurus of Executive Education” by Business Horizons, and listed among the 10 top leadership development coaches in the book The Art and Practice of Leadership Coaching. Dr. Vicere serves on the Board of Directors for the Jana Marie Foundation, a non-profit organization founded in memory of his daughter and committed to helping adolescent girls and their families deal with problems related to depression and substance abuse. For more information, contact PARF at parfmail@parf.org.
November 8, 2012
Special Edition

AMRPA ISSUES POST-ELECTION ANALYSES FOR ITS MEMBERS:
WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR REHAB?

Now that the 2012 elections are over, the President, a Democratic Senate, and a Republican House can turn their attention to the variety of issues facing policymakers in the Lame Duck session and the 113th Congress including the impending Medicare physician payment cuts, expiration of certain Medicare provisions, including the therapy caps exceptions process, a variety of expiring tax policies, the looming sequestration cuts, and the debt ceiling. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that tax increases, the reduction in Medicare payments to physicians, and sequestration cuts will result in recession and a 9% unemployment rate by the end of 2013, so anything and everything is on the table to address these issues. Patton Boggs prepared a comprehensive analysis of the election results and the implications for the Lame Duck session and the 113th Congress. The analysis is available online at: http://bit.ly/QoPLnk. AMRPA Legislative Counsel Powers Pyles Sutter & Verville also developed a memo entitled 2012 Election Overview and Implications, which is attached. Additional information will be provided in the December edition of the AMRPA Magazine.

As you know by now, President Obama won reelection with both the Electoral College votes and the popular vote. Although Mitt Romney did not win any of the coveted battle ground states, he did win Indiana and North Carolina, which John McCain was unable to carry in 2008.

Despite the fact that President Obama lacked the top-of-the-ticket pull he had in 2008, Senate Democrats had a net gain of two seats. The Republicans failed to regain the Majority for the second consecutive election cycle. In the 113th Congress, Democrats will have 53 seats, Independents 2, and Republicans 45. A total of 12 new Senators were elected. Sen. Baucus (D-MT) will continue to serve as Chair of the Senate Finance Committee and Sen. Hatch (R-UT) will remain as Ranking Member. In 2014, 20 Democrats and 13 Republicans are up for reelection. These Republicans could face challenges from the right, if they make too many or the wrong compromises with Democrats.
In the House, Republicans have retained their Majority thanks, in part, to a lesser number of retiring Members than Democrats and redistricting that resulted in the lowest number of competitive seats in 40 years. As of November 8, eight races remain undecided including one that will require a run off election in December:

Rep. Dan Lungren (R-CA) trails by 184 votes to Democratic challenger Ami Bera;

Rep. Mike McIntyre (D-NC) has a 378-vote lead;

Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-CA) is 685 votes behind Democrat Scott Peters;

Rep. Allen West (R-FL) trails Democrat Patrick Murphy by less than 3,000 votes;

Rep. Mary Bono Mack (R-CA) is behind Democrat Raul Ruiz by 4,557 votes;

Rep. Ron Barber (D-AZ) trails Martha McSally by approximately 1,000 votes;

Democratic candidate Kyrsten Sinema in Arizona holds a narrow lead over her opponent; and

Reps. Charles Boustany Jr. (R-LA) and Jeff Landry (R-LA) are heading to a runoff after both failed to reach 50% of the vote in their all-party election.

Republicans won 233 seats and Democrats won 193. In total, 74 new Representatives, who have never previously been elected to the House, will serve in the 113th Congress. Reps. Camp (R-MI) and Levin (D-MI) will continue to serve as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Committee. Rep. Stark (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Health Subcommittee, was defeated in his reelection bid. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), a physician, is next in seniority, followed by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

The results of the elections mean that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) survived another threat of repeal or serious modification; however, legal challenges likely will continue to threaten the viability of particular provisions of the law, including the maintenance of effort requirement, coverage of preventive services, employer requirements for coverage, individual mandate, Independent Payment Advisory Board, and subsidies and premium credits for exchanges. The health care policy agenda in the upcoming year will again focus on the continued implementation of the ACA with deadlines for major elements of the law quickly approaching.
In the Lame Duck session, Members are likely to focus on a one-year (or less) sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula fix to allow additional time to address other health care issues (e.g. Medicare extenders) and also to consider a full overhaul of the SGR formula. The GOP Doctors Caucus has identified SGR reform as a key priority for the 113th Congress, but consensus on policy and offsets remains illusive. Discussions about deficit reduction and averting sequestration cuts will continue in the Lame Duck session. Most recently, the National Coalition on Health Care issued its recommendations to policymakers on health care cost containment for deficit reduction (see corresponding attached summary memorandum).

Questions? Call or e-mail Martie Kendrick (mkendrick@pattonboggs.com / 202-457-6520),

Carolyn Zollar (czollar@amrpa.org / 202-223-1920), Sarah Nicholls (snicholls@amrpa.org / 202-223-1920),

or Julie Black (jblack@pattonboggs.com / 202-457-6556).
For election results in PA, go to the Department of State website at:

http://www.electionreturns.state.pa.us/ElectionsInformation.aspx?FunctionID=12&ElectionID=53

Everyone wants to pick winners and losers in an election, and to be sure it is the one time in governing when there really is a clear winner and loser. However, we at S.R. Wojdak & Associates understand that there are many layers to governing, government relations and politics. What you will find below is our thumbnail observations about yesterday’s election, what it might mean for the coming legislative session and certain political fortunes.

Pennsylvania is Still Blue About Presidential Elections. Yesterday, Pennsylvania reaffirmed its status as a blue state in presidential election years. Despite a last minute push by Gov. Romney and numerous Super PAC’s on his behalf, our 20 electoral votes remained solidly in the Democrat column. With 99% of precincts reporting, President Obama beat Governor Romney 52-46 percentage points.

Pennsylvania Remains Casey Country

Senator Bob Casey, facing his first reelection since beating Rick Santorum 6 years ago, faced a self-financed, conservative businessman in Tom Smith. Smith, a western PA businessman (former D), beat the Republican Party’s handpicked candidate, Southeastern candidate Steve Welch in the primary. Smith ran a vigorous campaign and spent millions of his own money to make the race more interesting than it might have otherwise been. Nonetheless, Senator Casey will return to Washington as he beat Smith handily 53-44 percent. You can expect a lot of calls being made to Casey in the coming months urging him to run for Governor. Those of us who know him think that’s a hard sell.

Democrats Sweep Pennsylvania Row Offices and Make History

The statewide row office victories for Attorney General, Auditor General and Treasurer represented a trifecta for the Democrats last night. For the first time in history, all three row offices will be held by one party. This represents two new additions to the Democratic party “bench” and another obvious potential candidate for governor in 2014, Treasurer Rob McCord.
Statewide, the big news of the night had to be Kathleen Kane. The former Assistant District Attorney from Lackawanna County led ALL vote getters, racking up over three million votes in her solid victory over Cumberland County District Attorney Dave Freed. Kane will be the first female and first democrat Attorney General for PA since that office became an elected one. Look for her to be an immediate celebrity in the Democratic Party and a statewide force to be reckoned with. Kane too, spent a considerable amount of her own money to beat party favorite former Congressman Patrick Murphy in the spring primary election. State Representative Eugene Depasquale beat his State House colleague Representative John Maher in the closest statewide race of the night. By a margin of 3%, Depasquale will continue the Democrats hold on this row office. By its very job description, the Auditor General can be a check and balance on the Governors Administration. Even Auditor Generals of the same party have that propensity. Remember some of the most stinging audits of the Rendell administration came from fellow Democrat Jack Wagner.

Senate Democrats Close the Gap.

The Pennsylvania State Senate was another bright spot for the Democrats as all three open seats, previously held by Republicans, went to the D column. The election of Democrats, Matt Smith, Rob Teplitz and Sean Wiley represent the biggest gain for them since 1970 and the largest swing since the GOP won 4 seats in 1994. The State Senate remains under Republican control and we have no reason to believe that any changes to their leadership structure are in the offing. One observation is worthy of note. The addition of three more moderate Democrats may make the Senate as a whole, an even more moderating influence on the legislative and budgeting process.

Pennsylvania House of Representatives Remains Stronghold for GOP.

In spite of the sweep of Democratic victories across Pennsylvania, from The White House to the State Row Offices down to the State Senate we shouldn’t expect the climate of the State House to be vastly different than we’ve seen in the past two years. This is in the face of the surprise loss of four-term incumbent, Rep. Thomas Quigley (R – Montgomery County) as well as the fate of three State House Republican seats hanging in the balance of provisional ballots and potential recounts. Rep. Rick Saccone (R-Allegheny County) is trailing former democratic legislator, Dave Levdansky by more than 300 votes. Rep. Justin Simmons (R-Lehigh County) leads his democratic challenger by over 500 votes and long-time incumbent Rep. Nick Micozze (RDelaware) has a narrow lead over his democratic challenger. However these races play out, the Democrats are down two seats due to vacancies created by the DePasquale and Matt Smith victories for higher office.
Once the dust settles, the Republicans will maintain control over the State House by margins ranging from 110 to 93 or as low as 108 to 95. Best case scenario it is a net loss of one seat. Worst case, it is a three seat loss. Either scenario is impressive given what some observers are calling the “blue tidal wave that swept Pennsylvania” on Election Day. While there have been grumblings within the Republican caucus about some of the legislative issues their leaders tried to advance – sometimes successfully and others not – a case can be made for the leaders that the results on election day could be viewed as a bell weather that the Pennsylvania electorate supports the agenda they have put forth in the last two years. Even with a few pick-ups by the Democrats, the Republicans enjoy a comfortable margin in the Majority.

What’s next in Harrisburg?

Leadership elections will be held in the last session days of the year. The House will come back November 13th and the Senate will join them on November 14th. We don’t expect any big changes to the leadership of any of the caucuses, Republican or Democrat. Once the caucus elections are settled, the process of appointing committee chairs will begin. This is very important and several changes will be occurring as open chair seats get filled and others are moved around. We will keep you all informed as this process unfolds.
We hope you'll join us

Dear Leader:

With the election behind us we have 4 more years of progress to work together on. However, one of the most important issues we’ll see in the next 4 years is right in front of us: resolving the fiscal cliff with a balanced approach.

As the President has said time and again, we can’t just cut our way to prosperity. If we’re serious about reducing the deficit, we have to combine spending cuts with revenue — and that means asking the wealthiest Americans to pay a little more in taxes. That is how we can reduce the deficit while still making the investments we need to build a strong middle class and a strong economy. That’s the only way we can still afford to train our workers, or help our kids pay for college, or make sure that good jobs in clean energy or high-tech manufacturing don’t end up in countries like China.

We need your energy and leadership to help to engage the American people on this crucial set of issues. We will only be able to achieve the balanced approach the President has pressed for with the engagement of leaders like you making your voice heard.

Please join Jon Carson, Director of the Office of Public Engagement for a national conference call on Wednesday, November 14th at 4:00 PM EST (3PM CST/2PM MST/1PM PST) to hear about how you can get involved.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/white-house-call-jon-carson-tuesday-november-13th

Please RSVP here and you will receive dial in information prior to the call (closed captioning will be available for the hearing impaired).

http://www.whitehouse.gov/webform/white-house-call-jon-carson-tuesday-november-13th
The Department of Education is requesting public input to revitalize its training and technical assistance (TA) activities funded under the Rehabilitation Training Program. The Department will use the information and data gathered in response to this notice to support the design and implementation of future training and TA that is aligned with the current and future economic trends, reflects the needs of vocational rehabilitation (VR) consumers and ensures that VR counselors are equipped with new and emerging skills. The goal of these training and TA activities is to increase the achievement of high-quality integrated employment for individuals with disabilities. Comments are due by January 7, 2013.

Assistive Technology for Employers and Businesses Web Portal Released by RESNA Catalyst Project

The Assistive Technology for Employers and Businesses Web Portal features information on AT solutions in the workplace, finding help to access AT through the AT Act Entities, a consultant data base directory of RESNA Professionals and the services and expertise each offers to employers, publications on AT and Employment, various resources for employers to explore, and the partners who have worked with the RESNA Catalyst Project to create the Portal including the United States Business Leadership Network, Job Accommodation Network, the Council of State Administrators of Vocational Rehabilitation, Southeast TACE, and the U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration.

Visit the Assistive Technology for Employers and Businesses Web Portal
http://atconnects.com/resources/at-for-employers/

Learn more about the RESNA Catalyst Project
http://www.resnaprojects.org/
Republicans Maintain Majority of State House

The Pennsylvania General Assembly will convene the 2013-14 legislative session with Republican majorities in both the House and Senate. The House Republican Caucus will add 10 new members to its ranks as a result of the November 6 election. In the Senate, Republicans will hold 27 of 50 seats. House members will return to Harrisburg next week to nominate their caucus leaders for the next session, which gets under way on January 1 when they are sworn into office.

For election results in PA, go to the Department of State website at:

http://www.electionreturns.state.pa.us/ElectionsInformation.aspx?FunctionID=12& ElectionID=53
The Brain Injury Association of America congratulates President Obama on his successful campaign for re-election. President Obama successfully passed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) otherwise known as "Obamacare" in his first term and BIAA looks forward to continue to work with the Obama Administration to implement PPACA in the states.

BIAA strongly supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act because the mandatory benefit categories and non-discrimination provisions assured all Americans, including individuals who sustain brain injuries, would have access to high quality, comprehensive, affordable health care, regardless of their state of residency.

BIAA sincerely appreciates the work of Obama's administration and that of Mrs. Obama and Dr. Biden on behalf of our wounded warriors. BIAA will continue to work with the Obama administration to ensure the hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan that return with a traumatic brain injury receive the care they deserve.

BIAA looks forward to working with our Champions in the Senate where Democrats remain in the majority. BIAA also looks forward to continue our advocacy efforts in the House of Representatives with the leadership from the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force (CBITF) and Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr, Chair of the CBITF. The House of Representatives majority remains Republican.

Congress reconvenes on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 for the lame duck session.
President Barack Obama won his re-election bid against former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney after a lengthy and expensive campaign which resulted in unprecedented political spending over the past year but only slight changes to the political power structure in Washington. Democrats remain the majority party in the Senate, adding on two seats, and Republicans continue to be the majority party in the House. As Congress returns to confront a long list of unfinished business, questions remain about how or if the results of the election will help to break the budget impasse the two major parties in Congress have faced over the past two years. Over the next seven weeks and into 2013, Congress will attempt to address a number of significant issues commonly referred to as the “fiscal cliff,” including:
- Automatic cuts to spending (i.e., sequestration) included in the Budget Control Act of 2011, scheduled to begin on January 1, 2013;
- The pending 27 percent cut to Medicare physician fees scheduled for January 1st;
- The expiration of favorable tax provisions including the payroll tax, the Bush-era income tax rates, and the current treatment of the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT);
- Expiration of the existing unemployment insurance provisions; and
- The need to again increase the federal debt limit in early 2013.
While Congress may struggle to reach compromise on a number of these issues, it is clear that leadership in the White House will continue to push for a “balanced approach” (revenues and spending cuts) to deficit reduction. Signs of a potential breakthrough emerged today as House Speaker John Boehner made statements opening the door to “new revenue” to help achieve a debt reduction deal. The President’s reelection also signals that the Affordable Care Act, which was the subject of numerous legislative attacks and a legal challenge decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in June, will continue to be implemented over the next four years. While certain provisions may be delayed or adjusted to help achieve deficit reduction targets, the vast majority of the ACA is expected to go into effect. In fact, a flurry of regulations is expected to be issued by the HHS Secretary in the very near future.

OVERVIEW OF ELECTION RESULTS

President: After billions of dollars spent in this election cycle, including through “Super PACs,” only two states, Indiana and North Carolina, which President Obama won in 2008, moved into Governor Romney’s column since the last Presidential election. The President won at least seven of nine battleground states, including Ohio, Virginia, Colorado, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Wisconsin. The President won 303 electoral votes to Governor Romney’s 206, with Florida still too close to call. The popular vote totaled 58,933,000 votes for the President, or 50 percent, while Governor Romney received 56,548,000 votes, or 48 percent.
U.S. Senate: Twelve Senators will leave the chamber due to primary or general election losses or retirement.

Prior to the election, Democrats held a slim majority in the Senate with 51 seats, Republicans held 47 seats, and Independents held two seats but aligned themselves with the Democratic caucus. Thirty three Senate seats were contested in this election, 23 held by Democrats and 10 by Republicans. Current returns show that Democrats lost one seat and gained three, bringing them to 53 seats in the Senate (55 if both independents align with the Democrats). Republicans lost three seats and gained one, with the current tally showing they have 45 seats in the Senate.

After Republican Scott Brown was elected in January 2010 to fill the seat of the late Senator Ted Kennedy, Massachusetts yesterday selected its first female Senator, Elizabeth Warren, a Democrat, to replace Brown. Democrat Heidi Heitkamp defeated Representative Rick Berg in the senate race in South Dakota. In Indiana, Representative Joe Donnelly (D) defeated State Treasurer Richard Mourdock (R) and in Wisconsin, Representative Tammy Baldwin (D) defeated former Governor Tommy Thompson (R), who has been an advocate for patients who need organ transplantation. In a very tight Missouri race, Senator Claire McCaskill (D) defended her seat against Representative Todd Akin (R). Retiring Republican Senator Olympia Snowe’s (ME) seat has gone to Independent Angus King, who is expected to align with the Democrats. Retiring Republican Jon Kyl’s seat went to Republican Representative Jeff Flake in Arizona. Finally, Democrat Tim Kaine defeated Republican George Allen in Virginia.

Election’s Impact on Senate Caucus and Committee Seats

Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND) is retiring, leaving open the Chair of the Senate Committee on Budget and the Chair of the Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight. Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) also is retiring and he was the Chair of the Senate Special Committee on Aging and the Chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies. A notable loss for the disability community is the Senate race in Nebraska, where former Senator Bob Kerrey, a Democrat, Vietnam veteran and lower limb amputee, was not able to overcome his Republican opponent, Deb Fischer. In
addition, Congresswoman Berkley lost her Senate race in Nevada. Senator Berkley was a leader in health care issues including End Stage Renal Disease and orthotic and prosthetic issues.

U.S. House of Representatives: Seventy three (73) members of the House will leave due to primary or general election losses or retirement. Prior to the election, Republicans held 242 seats in the House and Democrats held 193. A number of House races are still too close to call but those races appear to be leaning Republican. Republicans lost 19 seats but gained 18. Democrats gained 23 seats but lost 17, netting them 6 additional seats. Notable races include a win in Illinois by Tammy Duckworth (D), a former Iraq veteran and bilateral amputee, and a loss in New York State by Rep. Ann Marie Buerkle (R), current Chair of the House VA Health Subcommittee.

Election’s Impact on House Caucus and Committee Seats:
Representative Pete Stark (D-CA) lost his re-election bid, opening up the Ranking Member seat for the House Subcommittee on Health. Representative Bob Filner (D-CA) retired from his seat, leaving open the Ranking Member position for the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. David Dreier (R-CA) is retiring and will no longer be the Chair of the House Committee on Rules. Representative Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) won re-election and will remain Chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force and retain his seats on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee and House Budget Committee. Representative Wally Herger (R-CA) is retiring from Congress, leaving open the Chair of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Health. Dale Kildee (D-MI) also retired and was the Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education. Representative Jim Langevin, cochair of the Bipartisan House Disabilities Caucus, successfully defended his seat against Republican Michael Riley and Independent Abel Collins. Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) lost her seat and, consequently, will no longer chair the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity. Representative Russ Carnahan (D-MO) lost his seat and will no longer serve as Ranking Member of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

IMPACT OF ELECTION ON ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT
The results of this election will have far-reaching implications for America’s health care system. Congress will undoubtedly continue to debate entitlement reform to find ways to reduce federal expenditures for these programs. Significantly, momentum will be curtailed to convert the Medicare entitlement into a partially private system (commonly referred to as a “voucher” program) and to block grant Medicaid. However, both
programs will continue to be at risk of additional spending cuts in the context of solving the “fiscal cliff.”

In addition, the programs and spending cuts outlined in the Affordable Care Act will continue to be implemented. Over the next few years, the small group and individual insurance markets will see dramatic reforms and restructuring. Since the administration has given much leeway to states on the pace and scope of these reforms, the election results for gubernatorial and state legislative races will also impact the fate of healthcare reform on a state-by-state basis. It can also be expected that any politically sensitive Affordable Care Act regulations that may have been delayed for the election will be released over the next few weeks and months.

Implementation of the state insurance exchanges and federal subsidies to purchase insurance may be delayed as Congress debates ways to trim federal spending in the coming months. The work of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) will likely continue at its current pace, unless a lack of funding impacts these programs. For example, stakeholders can expect to continue to see movement on the Independence at Home Program and Care Transition program under Medicare; Medicaid medical homes and dual eligible demonstrations; and continued work on the bundling, accountable care organizations and pay for performance efforts.

CONCLUSION

Health care reform—including entitlement reform—could be among the issues most affected by the results of the recent election. While it is extremely unlikely that the Affordable Care Act will be repealed in the next two years, Republican leadership has pledged publicly to try to eliminate or delay funding or measures they do not support while allowing others to go into effect. The Obama Administration has indicated that it plans to implement as many of the reform measures as possible as quickly as possible on the assumption that the public will support health reform once the key provisions begin to take effect.

This likely means that the next two years will see a struggle over funding measures and a series of hearings conducted particularly in the House on the potential adverse effects of health reform. At the same time, there may be some compromise on these issues in order to reach overarching consensus on deficit reduction. The net result is that health reform measures which can be implemented without additional funding or which reduce costs will likely proceed unopposed while more controversial measures that add costs, even in the near term, will face continued opposition.
Obama wins re-election, but with far fewer votes than in 2008. President Barack Obama convinced enough voters he needs another four years to get the nation on the right track. In nearly all the states considered to be key to a victory by his opponent, Republican Mitt Romney, Obama came out on top Tuesday. According to news reports, Romney called Obama to concede around 1 a.m. Wednesday. In Pennsylvania, Obama’s victory wasn’t nearly as large as the one he got in 2008, but it was more than enough to dispatch Romney. With nearly all precincts reporting, Capitolwire last checked at 2 a.m., unofficial results showed Obama had received 2,864,619 votes, or 52 percent, to Romney’s 2,580,543 votes, or 46.8 percent. In 2008, Obama beat U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Arizona, with 3,276,363 votes, or 54.7 percent. McCain pulled 2,655,885 votes, or 44.3 percent, in 2008. Obama’s 2012 vote tally was down by more than 411,000 votes, but Romney also performed below McCain’s overall 2008 vote total, by more than 75,000 votes. That scenario played itself out in many other states believed to be competitive going into Election Day. In many of those states, Obama pulled enough votes to win 50 to 52 percent of the vote, but far fewer votes than he got in 2008. The final popular vote is still coming in, but as of 7:45 a.m., unofficial results showed Obama ahead of Romney 59,416,471 votes to 56,864,653 votes, which is 51 percent of the vote to 48.9 percent. In 2008, Obama received 69,456,897 votes (52.9 percent) to McCain’s 59,934,814 (45.7 percent).

Kane elected first Democrat, woman state attorney general. Kathleen Kane became the first woman and Democrat elected to the office of attorney general on Tuesday, defeating Republican David Freed, according to unofficial election results. Kane, who spent 12 years as an assistant district attorney in Lackawanna County, received 58.6 percent, or about 2.3 million votes, and Freed, the Cumberland County district attorney, had 39.1 percent, or about 1.5 million, with 81 percent reporting, according to unofficial election results. Kane said her victory was not only historic for being the first Democrat elected, but also the first women elected to the office. "We have so much work to do in Pennsylvania and I am very honored and very humbled to be the next attorney general of Pennsylvania," she said. For more about Kane’s victory, CLICK HERE to read a story from Capitolwire’s Kevin Zwick and Peter L. DeCoursey.

Casey wins second U.S. Senate term. In a race where polls were tight in the final days of the campaign, voters gave U.S. Sen. Bob Casey another term in the U.S. Senate on Tuesday, picking him over Republican Tom Smith. Smith called Casey to concede after 10 p.m., the Associated Press reported. For more about the contest and its outcome, CLICK HERE to read a report by Capitolwire Staff Writer Kevin Zwick. Democrats had a 53-47 overall majority in the U.S. Senate going into Election Day, and it appears they have maintained that majority of 52 seats, and likely one new independent who is expected to caucus with the Democrats - and potentially added to it, as three races, as of 2 a.m., had yet to be decided.
State Senate Democrats add three seats, 23-27, despite 3-1 spending deficit. Senate Democrats won three GOP-held open seats, despite being out-spent overall 3-1, and defended a vulnerable incumbent the Senate GOP was sure it would defeat: Sen. John Wozniak, D-Cambria. "Our opponents have conceded in all four races we were contesting tonight, and we are up to 23 seats, which means Democrats will have a voice in policy and legislation," said Senate Democratic Campaign Committee Chairman Daylin Leach, D-Montgomery. For more about the races that gave the Senate Democrats a bit more of a voice in what will be a state Senate controlled by a 27-23 Republican majority — not the 30-20 split that existed this past session — CLICK HERE to read a report from Capitolwire Bureau Chief Peter L. DeCoursey.

House Dems claim two net seats. House GOP ran ahead of rest of ticket, isn't conceding anything. After months of disputing who would win what, House Democrats and Republicans still don't agree on the tally from Tuesday night. On a night where the GOP lost the presidency, a U.S. Senate race and three row offices, all in Pennsylvania, the state House kept a strong majority of 110 to 112 seats, said House Republican Campaign Committee Chairman David Reed, R-Indiana. But House Campaign Committee Chairman Brendan Boyle, D-Philadelphia, says the GOP lost two seats, and their majority is trimmed to 109-94. For more about that disagreement and the results of the more closely-watched state House races, CLICK HERE to read a story from Capitolwire's Peter L. DeCoursey and Kevin Zwick.

Composition of PA's congressional delegation changes, but not by much. Along with U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Scranton, holding onto his U.S. Senate seat for another six years, most of the seats in Pennsylvania U.S. House of Representatives delegation, based on unofficial election results, remained in the hands of the party that had it coming into Election Day. The overall breakdown following Tuesday appears to be 13 Republican-held seats and five Democratic-held seats. Pennsylvania lost two of its congressional districts following a decline in state population measured by the 2010 census. One notable change on Tuesday was Republican Keith J. Rothfus defeating incumbent Democrat Mark Critz in the redrawn 12th Congressional District. For more about that race, which Critz conceded around 11:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and its outcome, click on the following links for stories from the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. The other change in party affiliation comes in the 4th Congressional District, which Jason Altmire, D-Allegheny, had represented before congressional redistricting moved the district to south-central Pennsylvania to encompass York and Adams counties and some of Cumberland and Dauphin counties. State Rep. Scott Perry, R-York, handily won his contest with Democrat Harry Perkinson and two third-party candidates in the 4th Congressional District. CLICK HERE to read a York Daily Record story about Perry's win. The other new face heading to Washington, D.C., is Matthew Cartwright. The Democrat won the redrawn 17th Congressional District, which runs from Schuylkill County through the lower half of Carbon County, and reaches up through Monroe County into Lackawanna County for Scranton and down into Luzerne County for Wilkes-Barre. It also goes through the Stroudsburg area of Monroe County and into Northampton County for Easton. The seat had been held by Democrat Tim Holden, when the district was fairly safe for the moderate Democrat. However, with the newly drawn district encompassing more Democratic strongholds, Cartwright defeated Holden in the
Democratic primary. For more about Cartwright?s General Election victory, CLICK HERE for a story from The Times-Tribune.

PA Democrats win state Treasurer, Auditor General contests. Along with the other more high-profile races, Pennsylvania Democrats made a clean sweep with victories in the contests for state Auditor General and state Treasurer. With nearly all precincts reporting, unofficial results showed state Rep. Eugene DePasquale, D-York, with a more than 168,489-vote lead ? 2,623,291 (49.7 percent) to 2,454,802 (46.5 percent) - over state Rep. John Maher, R-Allegheny, in the state auditor general contest. Libertarian candidate Betsy Elizabeth Summers is shown with 202,372 vote (3.8 percent). For more about that contest, CLICK HERE to read a story from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. And incumbent Democrat Rob McCord appears to have defeated Republican challenger Diana Irey Vaughan for the office of state Treasurer, giving him a second 4-year term. With nearly all precincts reporting, unofficial results showed McCord getting 2,762,278 votes (52.5 percent) to his opponent?s 2,315,845 votes (44 percent). Libertarian candidate Patricia Fryman looks to have gotten 182,229 votes (3.5 percent). For more about McCord?s victory, CLICK HERE to read a story from the Delaware County Daily Times
Pennsylvania’s Serious Mental Illness Innovations Project Evaluation

Launched in 2009, the Serious Mental Illness (SMI) Innovations project was a collaboration between physical and behavioral health managed care organizations and county behavioral health offices in Southeast and Southwest Pennsylvania to integrate physical and behavioral health care services for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with SMI and co-occurring physical health conditions. In the HealthChoices HealthConnections Pilot in Southeast Pennsylvania, emergency department use declined, in particular in one of the three participating counties. A case study on the Connected Care pilot program in Southwest Pennsylvania found that mental health hospitalizations and readmissions improved, potentially because of targeted consumer outreach and education. See http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/SMI_Innovations_PA_ConnectedCare.pdf?spMailingID=5051928&spUserID=MTU3ODMzNDI1MgS2&spJobID=57537639&spReportId=NTc1Mzc2MzkS1

A final evaluation report is also available. See "Paying Wisely: Reforming Incentives to Promote Evidence-Based Decisions at the Point of Care." See http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/PDFs/health/chce_poc_wp.pdf?spMailingID=5051928&spUserID=MTU3ODMzNDI1MgS2&spJobID=57537639&spReportId=NTc1Mzc2MzkS1

This white paper describes how current financial incentives in the fee-for-service (FFS) system can lead to the over- and underuse of services at the point of care by physicians and other clinicians. It explores prominent payment reform models and concludes that no single approach consistently rewards evidence-based care. The paper also suggests that more targeted use of these models—grounded in recalibrated FFS—might be the most effective way to neutralize incentives and facilitate evidence-based decision making at the point of care.
The “Fiscal Cliff”: Key Dates & Possible Scenarios

The outlook for averting or altering the “fiscal cliff” – including scheduled tax increases and automatic federal spending cuts set to take effect at the beginning of next year – remains uncertain and largely contingent on the results of tomorrow’s national election. However, there are some key dates and facts that are known and can lend insight into the possible scenarios surrounding how Congress and the Administration will deal with the fiscal cliff. After the November 6 elections, the current Congress is scheduled to return to session on November 13. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday the following week, Congress is not likely to begin debating the fiscal cliff and other key items on the lame duck agenda until the end of November. Below are some key dates to be aware of, which will help shape fiscal cliff negotiations.

December 31, 2012: Without congressional action, a number of tax provisions are set to expire on December 31, including the Bush-era tax cuts, temporary tax cuts under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the payroll tax cuts enacted in 2010, and many other short-term tax breaks that are regularly renewed. The expiration of these provisions will all serve to increase taxes, as will failure to “patch” the alternative minimum tax (AMT), which had been done routinely every year until the end of 2011. Taxes in 2013 are schedule to rise further as new taxes under the Affordable Care act take effect.

January 2, 2013: On January 2, the automatic, across-the-board cuts to defense and non-defense discretionary spending are scheduled to take effect unless legislation is passed to avoid or postpone sequestration.

Early 2013: Another key item related to the federal budget that could influence fiscal cliff negotiations is the debt ceiling. While the nation is on track to formally reach its borrowing limit this December, the U.S. Treasury can keep borrowing without raising the debt ceiling until sometime in the first quarter of 2013.

March 27, 2013: The six-month continuing resolution that is currently funding the federal government will run out on March 27, 2013.
The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received the following regulations. They are scheduled to be considered on the date noted. The Commission's public meetings are held at 333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA at 10 a.m. To obtain a copy of the regulation, interested parties should first contact the promulgating agency. If a copy cannot be obtained from the promulgating agency, the Commission will provide a copy or a copy can be obtained from www.irrc.state.pa.us.

Final-Form  Public
Reg. No. Agency/Title Received Meeting
125-156 Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board 10/24/12 12/13/12
Practice and Procedure; Server Supported Slot Systems; Compulsive and Problem Gambling

http://www.irrc.state.pa.us/regulation_details.aspx?IRRCNo=2914