PARF NEWS
Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities
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PARF and PCPA Members to Vote on Merger Plan

On April 24 PARF and the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA) will hold separate meetings in Harrisburg to vote on the approval of a plan of merger. A special meeting of the PARF members is to be held April 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dixon University Center, 2986 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110 to consider and vote on the merger agreement. Both PARF and PCPA directors have recommended that their respective members approve the merger. Representatives of the member organizations have been encouraged to review the transaction statement, merger agreement, disclosure schedules, and proposed articles and bylaws all of which have been circulated. At each of the membership meetings the merger will be reviewed by legal counsel. FMI: Contact PARF at parfmail@parf.org.

2013 Annual Conference in Seven Springs on October 8-11

PARF and the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA) are planning a joint annual conference in 2013 – October 8 through October 11 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Seven Springs, PA. The conference committee has released exhibit, advertising, and sponsor information for the conference: A New CommonWealth. The conference is a highlight for the Pennsylvania mental health, intellectual disability, medical rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation, children’s, and drug and alcohol provider community. Opportunities for exhibiting, advertising, and sponsor are now available. Exhibit activities take place on October 9 and 10. Events within Exhibit Hall include welcome refreshments, coffee breaks, lunch, a snack break, and prize giveaways. Information on conference sponsorship materials is available by contacting Kris Ericson at kris@paproviders.org. See also www.paproviders.org.

LBFC Reports on PA Human Service Organizations

On April 16 the PA Legislative Budget and Finance Committee released its report entitled Financial and Compensation Information Concerning Nonprofit and For-profit Human Service Providers: A Report in Response to House Resolutions 2012-798 and 2012-888. The report was officially accepted by the Committee. House Resolution 2012-798 directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to collect and compile the expenditures for each nonprofit service provider for intellectual disability community waiver and community base programs, community-based mental health, child welfare, and drug and alcohol services. House Resolution 2012-888 directed the committee to provide the same information for for-profit service providers. Included in the scope of the study are data and information on compensation of executives and the 20 highest paid employees, association dues, debts, assets, lobbying expenses, administrative expenses, operating costs, indirect and direct costs of delivering care or services, and any other information deemed necessary. In addition, the study was to include recommendations to address the unmet service needs of individuals and increase the efficiency and quality of the direct delivery system. However, LBFC concluded that it could not offer any such recommendations. LBFC said that the information it was asked to compile for the report was not sufficient to lead to recommendations to address the unmet service needs of individuals or to increasing the efficiency and quality of the direct delivery system. The report, therefore, contains no recommendations. For a copy see http://lbfc.legis.state.pa.us/ under Health & Welfare in the Reports Released section. A hard copy is available by calling (717) 783-1600 or by email at info@lbfc.legis.state.pa.us.
PA Senate Passes Legislation on Lobbying, Voter Registration

On April 17 the Pennsylvania State Senate approved unanimously bills to improve the electoral process. Legislation allowing Pennsylvanians to register to vote online (Senate Bill 37) that was introduced by Senator Lloyd Smucker (R-Lancaster) was approved in a 49-0 vote. SB 37 will allow residents to register to vote online through a system developed by the Department of State. About 16 other states now provide online voter registration as an option. The Department of State has spent more than a year preparing to implement the online voter registration system by working on technical and security-related issues. The legislation has now been referred to the PA House of Representatives. The PA Senate also approved unanimously bills improving access to lobbying disclosure and campaign finance data. Senate Bill 308 sponsored by President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati (R-25) will require lobbyists and principals to register and report expenditures electronically. Many reports are still filed on paper; those reports must be entered manually. SB 308 also requires the Department of State to post the information on its public website within a week. Under Senate Bill 120 sponsored by Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi (R-9) all campaign finance reports filed with the Department of State must be submitted electronically. Only about 35 percent of reports are currently filed electronically. SB 120 also requires any candidate committee or PAC which raises or spends $10,000 or more in a calendar year to file additional reports. Fees for late filing are increased from a maximum of $250 to a maximum of $500. The bills now move to the House for consideration. See www.legis.state.pa.us.

PA House Approves Mandate for Training of Child-Abuse Reporters

On April 17 the PA House of Representatives passed by a unanimous vote legislation requiring training of mandated child abuse reporters. HB 431 and HB 432 both require ongoing training for mandated reporters of child abuse. House Bill 431 requires that licensing boards with jurisdiction over mandated reporters require at least three hours of approved child abuse recognition and reporting training when applying for a license and proof of such training every five years when renewing a license. The bill also appropriately requires the training curriculum be approved by the Department of Public Welfare as the state agency with jurisdiction over the child welfare system. House Bill 432 requires that DPW adopt regulations to require operators of child care centers and their employees to receive three hours of initial child abuse awareness and reporting training and a three-hour refresher course every five years. Operators of child care centers would be required by the legislation to have the training prior to obtaining a license. The measure would also require that employees be trained within 90 days of being hired. The regulations include all employees of such entities who have direct contact with children and foster parents. In the week prior to passing HB 431 and HB 432 PA House of Representatives unanimously approved legislation (HB 429) providing protection against employment discrimination for employees who make a good faith report of suspected child abuse. FMI: See www.legis.state.pa.us and enter bill numbers.

PA House Committee Postpones Action on Human Services Block Grant Expansion

In response to the requests by PARF members and others asking the PA House Health Committee to reject House Bill 461 (legislation proposing to expand the block grant pilot counties to 30 PA counties), the committee delayed action on the bill. HB 461 was not debated and is being held over to be scheduled at a future Health Committee meeting. A proposed amendment to the bill that expands the block grant to any willing county was shared with the committee. It is expected that the reprieve will be brief and further action will be required. PARF members will be calling on the House Health Committee to oppose HB 461. FMI: Contact PARF at parfmail@parf.org.
PA Senate Approves Special Education Funding Reform

On April 15 the PA Senate-approved legislation reforming the manner in which special education is funded was signed in the Senate. The legislation (House Bill 2) now goes to the governor for his signature and enactment into law. The measure, which is the companion bill to Senate Bill 470, sponsored by Senator Pat Browne (R-Lehigh), allocates any new state special education funding in a manner that recognizes the actual number of physically and mentally challenged students in a school and the various levels of their need for services. It does not reduce the current level of special education funding received by local school districts. The legislation does not establish a new funding formula. HB 2 creates a 15-member legislative commission to develop a new formula for distributing any increases in special education funding over the levels allocated in the 2010-11 school year. The formula must include the establishment of three cost categories for students receiving special education services, ranging from least intensive to most intensive. The commission must obtain a student count for each school district, averaged for the three most recent school years, for each cost category established. The commission will assign a weight to each category of disability. The commission must develop a fair system for distributing the increase among the school districts. The commission will issue a report of its findings by September 30, but the new special education funding formula will not go into effect until approved by the General Assembly. FMI: See www.legis.state.pa.us and enter HB 2. See also http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20130&cspontId=11159.

Court Approves Settlement of PA Lawsuit in behalf of Deaf Participants in Consolidated Waiver

This week U.S. Middle District Chief Judge Yvette Kane offered tentative approval to a settlement of a class-action lawsuit against DPW (Harry M. v Department of Public Welfare) on behalf of Consolidated Waiver participants who are deaf. The suit alleges that DPW denies the class members effective communication in violation of the ADA and Rehabilitation Act because staff and peers do not use sign language to communicate and that the lack of effective communication in their Waiver services violates the Social Security Act. Under the settlement agreement DPW will hire sign language interpreters and other experts for those receiving services in the Pennsylvania human services system. DPW will also be required to pay $450,000 to the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania, which filed suit in 2010 on behalf of Harry M. At least 250 DPW clients statewide are affected. FMI: See http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/02/us_judge_eyesing_deal_to_aid_st.html. See also http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2013/04/judge_oks_deal_to_aid_deaf_int.html

PA Commonwealth Court Hears Arguments on Changes in PA Welfare Programs

On April 18 attorneys representing three (3) individuals from the Philadelphia area who lost General Assistance as a result of the passage of Act 80 and seven (7) statewide organizations who were affected by Act 80 which established the human services block grant and eliminated the General Assistance cash assistance program argued before a panel of judges of the Commonwealth Court that Act 80 should be rescinded. Attorneys for the plaintiffs said Act 80 violates the state Constitution and denied the public the good government to which they are entitled. Attorneys for the PA Department of Public Welfare said that the legislature acted properly and practically. The judges will rule at some point in the future. http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/court-hears-pennsylvania-welfare-change-arguments-683911/.
IRRC Approves Regulations


State Boards Publish Regulations on Athletic Trainers

In the April 20, 2013 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin the PA State Board of Medicine and the Board and the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine published its regulations regarding athletic trainers. The final-omitted rulemaking tracks the amendments in Act 124, which was passed on December 22, 2011 and replaced references to "certified" athletic trainers with references to "licensed" athletic trainers. The Board amends its regulations to conform to the act. FMI: For regulations published by the Boards see http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol43/43-16/706.html and http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol43/43-16/704.html.

State Board of Medicine Rescinds CRNP Regulations

In the April 20, 2013 edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin the PA State Board of Medicine has published notice that it is rescinding the regulations related to certified registered nurse practitioner (CRNP) practice. The Board of Medicine and the State Board of Nursing jointly promulgated regulations regarding CRNP practice in November 2000, but the practice act was repealed in December 2002 by Act 206 to provide that the State Board of Nursing would have exclusive jurisdiction over the regulation of CRNPs. The nursing act was further amended in July 2007 and the State Board of Nursing's final-form rulemaking was published in December 2009. Because the statutory authority under which the Board regulated the practice of CRNPs was repealed and the State Board of Nursing has adopted regulations which take the place of the jointly promulgated regulations, the Board is rescinding the regulations related to CRNPs. See http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol43/43-16/705.html.

DiDomenico and Remillard to Serve as OMHSAS Bureau Directors

On April 17 the PA Department of Public Welfare (DPW) Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) announced that Ellen DiDomenico is transitioning from her current position as Executive Director of the Governor’s Commission for Children and Families for DPW to serve as Acting Director of the OMHSAS Bureau of Policy, Planning & Program Development. OMHSAS also announced that Dr. Steve Remillard will be serving as of April 15 as Director of the OMHSAS Bureau of Quality Management and Data Review (QMDR). Dr. Remillard is a Doctor of Chiropractic Medicine with a Master’s Degree in Clinical Psychology from Morehead State University. He was a family therapist/psychologist at Altoona and York Hospitals from 1990 through 1993. Dr. Remillard is an adjunct Professor at Harrisburg Area Community College. FMI: Contact PARF at parfmail@parf.org.
OVR Revises Policy and Procedures on Work and Home Site Modifications

On April 16 the U.S. Department of Labor and Industry Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has released draft program policies (#13-200.03) changing its policy and procedures on Work and Home Site Modifications. The changes are effective April 16, 2013. The draft of the revised policy includes the federal law, minor language updates, the approval process, and clarification on use of the prevailing wage. OVR says that further work on the policy and procedure needs to be done. However, OVR says, it was important to release the revision at this time in order to demonstrate compliance with the lead based paint law. (See Environmental Protection Agency 2008 Lead-Based Paint Renovation, Repair and Painting Program Rule as amended in 2010 and 2011.) OVR says that the important changes in the revised policy are specifically that contractors must have the EPA Renovation, Repair and Paint Certification when making modifications to a house built prior to 1978 and customers must sign the Home Modification Customer Agreement. OVR says that the OVR Central Office will request from the District Office the EPA Renovation, Repair and Paint Certificate if the contractor has it. Also, OVR will discontinue approval process guidance on the T drive and discontinue using Home Modification Approval Checklist on the T drive. FMI: Contact Karen Orchard at 717-783-3882.

ODP Clarifies Rules on Background Checks

On April 17 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) issued ODP Informational Memo 030-13 on Background Check Requirements under 55 Pa Code Chapter 51. The ODP memo clarifies the rules on background checks indicating that providers are required to obtain background checks in accordance with 55 Pa. Code Chapter 51 “Office of Developmental Programs Home and Community-Based Services”. ODP says that the requirement applies to all Waiver providers - with some exceptions. ODP notes that all transportation mile providers (including family members of participants who only provide transportation mile) are considered providers under 55 Pa. Code Chapter 51 and are thus required to obtain these background checks as well. A person who has been providing Waiver services prior to May 1, 2013, and did not fall under CPSL, OAPSA and licensing regulations, are also strongly encouraged to obtain background checks in accordance with the requirements under Sections 51.20 – 51.21. FMI: See www.odpconsulting.net.

Networks for Training and Development Hosts Employment Supports Symposium

On May 21 and 22 Networks for Training and Development, Inc. will be hosting the 14th Employment Supports Symposium at Hyatt Regency Philadelphia at Penn’s Landing, Philadelphia, PA. This year’s symposium will explore local, statewide, and national employment directions and initiatives, as well as highlight Employment 1st. Sessions will be offered in four tracks: (a) Assistive Technology and Employment, (b) Building Community and Employment Opportunities, (c) Contemporary Supported Employment Practices and (d) Employment 1st Systems and Policy Directions. The symposium brochure is available in several formats on the Networks’ website, www.networksfortraining.org. FMI: Contact Julie Sozio (julies@networksfortraining.org) at phone 610.482.4926. If you have questions about hotel accommodations, contact Doris Kalina at phone 610-935-6624.
PARF NEWS
Dateline: April 19, 2013

Training on Rehab Nursing Documentation & Nurse’s Role in Interdisciplinary Teams on June 6

On Thursday, June 6 PARF in collaboration with the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation is hosting a training session on Rehab Nursing Documentation: Supporting the Nurse’s Role in the Interdisciplinary Team. The one-day training session will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Dixon University, 2986 North 2nd Street, Harrisburg, PA. This full-day workshop analyzes the difficulties rehabilitation nurses face in providing accurate functional documentation that supports their expertise and importance as members of the interdisciplinary team. The workshop emphasizes how to capture the nursing staff’s burden of care during the admission assessment time frame, which is crucial to identifying the correct CMG for each patient. The presenter will examine many factors that can limit nursing’s integration into the interdisciplinary team’s daily documentation, including internal policies and procedures, inefficient documentation tools, and a lack of documentation that illustrates interdisciplinary communication. Learn how to illustrate the value of rehab nurses as members of the interdisciplinary team and how to help them document their expertise from admission to discharge. FMI: For a copy of the flyer and registration form for the workshop, see http://www.parf.org/site2/?page_id=7. FMI: For more information, please contact PARF at parfeduaction@parf.org.

Webinar on Creating Jobs through Housing Incentives on April 24

On Wednesday, April 24 from 11:00 am to 12 noon the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania will host an interactive webinar on Creating Jobs through Housing Incentives: Funding the State Housing Trust Fund. The Housing Trust Fund, also known as the PA Housing Affordability and Rehabilitation Enhancement (PHARE) Fund, will be discussed. Participants will learn how the State Housing Trust Fund works to increase jobs and tax revenue through housing rehabilitation and repair and revitalizes older communities by addressing blighted properties. Cost-efficient, proven solutions to reduce and prevent homelessness will be discussed. Participants will hear about the current status of the Fund and plans to expand funding and obtain details about Home Matters Day on June 5. To register see http://www.housingalliancepa.org/events?dburl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Ethedatabank%2Fecom%2Fdpg%2F419%2Fmgtlistproc%2Fasp%3Fformid%26EventsCalendar%26calendarid%26D19551.

Webcast on Supplemental Habilitation and SH/AIS User Guide Available

On April 17 the PA DPW Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) released ODP Announcement 029-13 indicating that an updated SH/AIS Overview webcast and updated SH/AIS User Guide, version 5.0 is now available. ODP Announcement 029-13 announces the availability and location of the updated version of the Supplemental Habilitation and Additional Individualized Staffing Services Overview webcast. ODP says that supports coordinators (SCs) and SC supervisors who view the webcast may apply the credit toward one (1) hour of the professional development portion of the 40 hours of required calendar year 2013 SC Curriculum (SCC) training. An updated version of the “SH/AIS User Guide” version 5.0 is also available. FMI: See www.odpconsulting.net.
FY 2014 Federal Budget Process Continues

Last month the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate each adopted a budget resolution for fiscal 2014, and last week President Obama released his fiscal 2014 budget proposal. Now, House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan (R-WI) and Senate Budget Committee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-WA) have begun negotiations regarding the potential to establish a conference committee to reconcile the two budget resolutions (S Con Res 8 and H Con Res 25) and adopt a joint resolution for federal fiscal year 2014. Both House and Senate appropriations committees have begun holding hearings to inform fiscal 2014 spending bills though committees are not expected to start drafting these bills until the outcome of a possible joint budget resolution is clearer. At this time, prospects for reconciliation are dim given the vast differences between the budget resolutions of the two chambers. However, some see potential for a conference committee to facilitate budget talks on a broader compromise on deficit reduction in the coming months. Source: NASBO Washington Report – April 15, 2013.

CMS Issues FAQs on Manual Medical Review of Therapy Services over $3,700 Threshold


CMS Outlines Plan to Implement Agreement on Jimmo v. Sebelius

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has released a fact sheet on the settlement agreement that was approved on January 24, 2013 by the U. S. District Court for the District of Vermont in the case of Jimmo v. Sebelius. In that case the plaintiffs alleged that Medicare contractors were inappropriately applying an “Improvement Standard” in making claims determinations for Medicare coverage involving skilled care (e.g., the skilled nursing facility (SNF), home health (HH), and outpatient therapy (OPT) benefits). CMS insists that the settlement agreement did not expand coverage but instead requires only a clarification of its current policy “that when skilled services are required in order to provide care that is reasonable and necessary to prevent or slow further deterioration, coverage cannot be denied based on the absence of potential for improvement or restoration.” In its fact sheet, CMS outlines its plan to implement the terms of the settlement agreement. CMS says that its plan includes: (1) Updating program manuals to clarify that coverage of therapy “…does not turn on the presence or absence of a beneficiary’s potential for improvement from the therapy, but rather on the beneficiary’s need for skilled care…”; (2) Informing stakeholders through an educational campaign; and (3) Engaging in accountability measures. CMS says that it will complete the manual revisions and educational campaign by January 23, 2014, which is within one year of the approval date of the settlement agreement. FMI: See http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Jimmo-FactSheet.pdf. See also http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/medicare-info/improvement-standard-2/.
Medicare Outpatient Therapy Services Functional Reporting Testing Period Now in Effect

As required by section 3005(g) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act (MCTRJCA) of 2012, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has implemented a new claims-based data collection system for outpatient therapy services by requiring reporting of functional limitations with 42 new non-payable G-codes and 7 new modifiers on specified claims for physical therapy (PT), occupational therapy (OT) and speech-language pathology (SLP) services. The claims-based data collection system is effective for outpatient therapy services with dates of service on and after January 1, 2013. CMS says that for functional reporting, a testing period is now in effect until June 30, 2013. During the testing period, claims without the required G-codes and severity/complexity modifiers will continue to be processed and adjudicated by your carrier or Part B Medicare Administrative Contractor. However, beginning April 1, a new Remittance Advice message alerts providers about missing information on select therapy claims. Please note: Institutional claims will not receive alert messages. Please see the following MLN Matters® articles for more information: MM8166 – “Outpatient Therapy Functional Reporting Non-Compliance Alerts” and MM8005 – “Implementing the Claims-Based Data Collection Requirement for Outpatient Therapy Services — Section 3005(g) of the Middle Class Tax Relief and Jobs Creation Act (MCTRJCA) of 2012.” FMI: SeeMM8166 at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8166.pdf. See MM8005 at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/MM8005.pdf. See also www.cms.gov.

CMS Offers Information on New Health Insurance Marketplace

Starting in October, 2013, individuals, families, and small-business owners in every state will be able to shop in the new Health Insurance Marketplace (also known as the Exchanges) for private insurance coverage that begins January 1, 2014. A recent article in JAMA (The Journal of the American Medical Association), “Connecting to Health Insurance Coverage” by HHS Assistant Secretary for Health Dr. Howard Koh and CMS Acting Administrator Marilyn Tavenner provides key information about the new healthcare landscape. CMS says that many patients will need the guidance from their most trusted health sources to make appropriate choices. FMI: For a copy of the JAMA article see http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1678610.

CMS National Provider Call on Medicare Shared Savings Program

On Tuesday, April 23 from 1:30 pm to 3pm ET Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is hosting a national provider call on the Medicare Shared Savings Program application process. CMS will offer tips on completing a successful application. The Medicare Shared Savings Program is designed to help providers participate in Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs). This is one of two National Provider Calls to be held in April on the Shared Savings Program application process. On Tuesday, April 23, CMS will advise on completing a successful application and provide information on how to submit an acceptable ACO Participant List, Participation Agreement Sample, Executed Participant Agreement pages, and Governing Body Template for the Shared Savings Program application. A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Registration will close at 12pm on the day of the call or when available space has been filled; no exceptions will be made. To receive call-in information, individuals must register for the call at http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Outreach/NPC/National-Provider-Calls-and-Events-Items/2013-04-23-MSSP-Completing-Successful-Application.html.
CMS Open Door Forum for Physicians, Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

The next CMS Physicians, Nurses & Allied Health Professionals Open Door Forum is scheduled for: Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). Dial-in at least 15 minutes before call start time. To participate by phone: Dial: 1-800-837-1935 & Reference Conference ID: 78874311. Persons participating by phone do not need to RSVP. TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880. A Relay Communications Assistant will help. Encore: 1-855-859-2056; Conference ID: 78874311. Encore is an audio recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-855-859-2056 and entering the Conference ID. This recording will be accessible beginning 2 hours after the ODF and expires after 2 business days. For ODF schedule updates & E-Mailing List registration, visit our website at http://www.cms.gov/OpenDoorForums/.

National Work Incentives Seminar

On Wednesday, April 24, 2013 at 3:00 PM, EDT Social Security's Ticket to Work Program will host Part 2 of its two-part National Work Incentives Seminar Event (WISE) Webinar on the Ticket-to-Work Program. National WISE Webinar (Part 2): Support for People with Disabilities on the Journey to Financial Independence will (a) provide a recap of the information shared in Part I of Social Security’s Financial Independence webinar; (b) help individuals understand tax credits and other benefits that may apply to them; and (c) offer a basic understanding of personal budgeting and expense tracking. Access the archive of Ticket to Work webinars online at http://www.ilr.cornell.edu/edi/m-wise-webinars.cfm to learn Ticket to Work and Work Incentive basics before participating in this webinar. Register online at www.choosework.net/wise or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY). Immediately following this webinar, join the Facebook Question and Answer Session at www.facebook.com/choosework and receive expert answers to questions about Ticket to Work, Social Security work incentives, and employment options. Those registering for the webinar will receive a registration confirmation message with instructions on how to log in to the webinar. Registration information will also be available online at www.choosework.net/wise the day of the webinar. FMI: Email support@chooseworkttw.net or call 1-866-968-7842 (V) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY). Watch Ticket to Work Success Stories on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/choosework.

MH Webinar on Support for Connecting to the Religious/Spiritual Congregations of Choice

On May 16, 2013 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm The National Mental Health Consumers Self-Help Clearinghouse, in cooperation with the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion of Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities, will host the fourth free webinar in its series on the roles of peer specialists. The May 16 webinar is entitled “Helping the People You Serve to Connect to the Religious/Spiritual Congregations of Their Choice.” The collaborative invites your participation on May 16 in discussing the importance of religious/spiritual connection for many people who are served, reviewing the controversies surrounding peer specialists engaging in these issues, and recommendations for defining your role and developing effective strategies. A discussion among the participants on the call will focus on (a) experiences with organized religious and/or spiritual organizations, (b) the response of religious and/or spiritual groups to the people served, the roles in promoting congregational connections; and recommendations for action. To register for the seminar, see https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5060552094570644224.