



An informational newsletter compiled by the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association for the MH, IDD, D&A, and rehabilitation communities

REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2014

RCPA NEWS



Lynn Cooper (fourth from left) is joined by members of CAP following completion of its September meeting.

Cooper Attends First CAP Meeting as Allegheny Resident

The development of the RCPA Western Region position is well underway. Numerous meetings and site visits have been held across the region. One important meeting was the recent gathering of the Conference of Allegheny Providers (CAP). Lynn Cooper, western region representative, met with the Behavioral Health Subcommittee and then reported on behalf of RCPA at the CAP meeting. Ms. Cooper reported briefly on issues regarding intellectual and developmental disabilities, CPT code problems, collaborative documentation issues, Healthy PA webinar plans, drug and alcohol regulations, and plans for a November 19 southwest region meeting.

Yarzibinski Named FSWP COO

Kathy Yarzibinski, RCPA Mental Health Committee co-chair, has been promoted to chief operating officer (COO) at Family Services of Western Pennsylvania (FSWP). Ms. Yarzibinski has been with FSWP for 35 years and is instrumental in implementing evidence-based practices that have improved the quality of services delivered by the agency. Please join RCPA in congratulating Ms. Yarzebinski in her new role.

NEW MEMBERS

PROVIDERS

Cerebral Palsy Association of Chester County, Inc.

Margaret Rybinski, Executive Director
Exton, PA

UCP of Philadelphia & Vicinity

Paula Czyzewski, CEO
Philadelphia, PA

United Disabilities Services

Nancy McCormick, Vice President of Business Development
Lancaster, PA

Column Will Return in November.

Richard S. Edley, PhD, President/CEO
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Western Region
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Special Assistant
Anne Leisure, MHA

Director of Legislative Affairs
Jack Phillips, JD

Technical & Conference
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Attending Conference? Prepare Ahead!

October 7 marks the opening of the 2014 RCPA Conference *TOGETHER...ONE*. Guests attending should start planning their conference experience now! Comprehensive materials will be provided on site at registration, but a packed schedule and dozens of options make it beneficial to peruse offerings ahead of time.

The conference [schedule](#) is a good starting point, followed by information about [plenary events](#), the [keynote](#), and [workshops](#). Educational presenters have provided [handouts](#), which are posted in one easy location for those who like to print copies and bring them along. (*The association does not provide printed copies of workshop handouts.*) Wireless Internet access will be provided throughout the Conference Center so handouts may also be accessed during sessions. New events have been added this year that bring even more excitement to the conference.

The Conference Committee and staff look forward to seeing all our guests on the mountain October 7. Travel safely!



One Mission • One Agency
One Provider • One Person

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For additional information on legislative issues, contact RCPA at 717-364-3280. For copies of bills, call your local legislator, the House Document Room 717-787-5320, or visit the General Assembly's Electronic Bill Room at www.legis.state.pa.us.



Political Action Committee Needs You!

While individual voices are very important in the legislative arena, sometimes people are most effective when working in collaboration. The RCPA Political Action Committee (PAC) is a wonderful opportunity for those concerned with mental health, substance abuse, intellectual disability, autism, developmental disability, vocational, residential, medical rehabilitation, brain trauma, and other related human services to come together and have their voices heard.

The PAC is a separate entity from RCPA. Member dues are not a part of PAC funds; rather, PAC donations are solicited independently from individual employees of association members. What might be accomplished with PAC contributions? They create the opportunity to:

- ★ meet with legislators to create necessary programs, improve current systems, and develop new funding methods;
- ★ influence administrative policy and actions;
- ★ secure additional recruitment and retention funds; and
- ★ put health and human service issues at the top of Pennsylvania's list of priorities.

To accomplish these goals, the association needs members to contribute to RCPA PAC however possible. Members may participate in the upcoming [PAC golfing outing](#) on October 6 at Seven Springs or make a direct monetary contribution. For more information, contact [Jack Phillips](#), director of legislative affairs.

Selected Pennsylvania Legislation Impacting Members

Bill Number	Prime Sponsor	Brief Description	Action History
SB 77 HB 550	Sen. Greenleaf Rep. Scavello	Amends the Mental Health Procedures Act providing for assisted outpatient treatment programs.	Senate – Referred to Public Health and Welfare Committee January 9, 2013 House – Referred to Human Services Committee February 6, 2013
HB 281	Rep. Bishop	Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) providing for failure to report sexual offenses against children.	Referred to Judiciary Committee January 23, 2013
HB 993	Rep. Murt	Amends the Public Welfare Code changing the name of the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Human Services (DHS); providing for a transition period; and establishing a toll-free DHS Fraud Tip Line.	Senate – Passed 49-0 July 8 House – Passed 155-35 September 17
HB 1114	Rep. Murt	Act establishing a bill of rights for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; and conferring powers and duties on the Department of Public Welfare.	Referred to Human Services Committee April 3, 2013 Discussed at hearing on Intellectual Disabilities Waiting List May 8, 2013
HB 1298	Rep. Ferry	Amends the Administrative Code, further providing for powers and duties of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs.	House – Passed 201-0 March 18 Senate – Referred to Appropriations June 30
HB 1559	Rep. Farina	Amends the Public School Code providing for youth suicide awareness and prevention and for child exploitation awareness education.	Signed by the Governor June 24 as Act 71
SB 770 HB 2424	Sen. Leach Rep. Gainey	Act providing for the medical use of marijuana and repealing provisions of law that prohibit and penalize marijuana use.	Senate – Introduced to Public Health and Welfare Committee April 3, 2013 House – Introduced to Health Committee July 29, 2014
HR 962	Rep. Murt	Resolution designating the month of October as “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania.	Introduced as noncontroversial resolution August 28
SB 21	Sen. Ward	Resolution designating the month of October as “National Disability Employment Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania.	Signed by the Governor on April 15 as Act 33
SB 1104	Sen. Greenleaf	Act providing for duties of Departments of Corrections and Drug and Alcohol Programs for educating government-funded professionals and physicians, developing assessment instruments for addictive substances, treatment programs, and insurance coverage.	Referred to Judiciary Committee September 20, 2013 Public hearing held September 24, 2013

RCPA is currently tracking approximately 90 pieces of legislation (bills and resolutions). Members that would like a list of the additional bills or further information should contact [Jack Phillips](#), director of legislative affairs.

■ FEDERAL NEWS BRIEFS

CMS Commits to Effective Communication for Individuals With Disabilities

In a recent US Department of Health and Human Services [bulletin](#), the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) entered into an agreement to ensure that individuals with disabilities can access information provided by CMS and its contractors. The agreement resolves two complaints filed with OCR by a national disability rights advocacy organization, the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, on behalf of two named complainants participating in the Medicare Program and other Medicare consumers who are blind or have low vision and need accessible information in Medicare communications. The complaints were filed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in federally assisted and conducted programs.

ACOs Improved Patient Care and Lowered Costs

On September 16, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) [announced](#) that models authorized under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) are achieving savings and exceeding quality and patient experience benchmarks. Included in a [fact sheet](#) is preliminary quality and financial performance data that shows Medicare Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) participating in the Medicare Shared Savings Program and Pioneer ACO have saved Medicare more than \$372 million. Quality of care has improved by fostering greater collaboration between doctors, hospitals, and health care providers and keeping patients healthy rather than treating them when they were sick. Currently, there are one Pioneer ACO and 12 Medicare Shared Savings Program ACOs in Pennsylvania.

Final Rule Increases Flexibility for EHR Certification

On September 10, the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) for Health Information Technology (IT), Department of Health and Human Services, issued a [final rule](#) that adds flexibility, clarity, and improvements to the current 2014 edition electronic health record (EHR) certification criteria. It also codifies a few revisions and updates to the ONC Health IT Certification Program through a new release of optional and revised criteria (*2014 Edition Release 2*).

National Provider Call Focused on Transitioning to ICD-10

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will conduct a national provider call November 5, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., that will focus on transitioning to ICD-10. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) published the [final rule](#) in the August 4, *Federal Register* that finalizes October 1, 2015 as the new compliance date for health care providers, health plans, and health care clearinghouses to transition to ICD-10. During this call, subject matter experts will discuss ICD-10 implementation issues, opportunities for testing, and resources. Specific agenda topics include final rule and national implementation, Medicare Fee-for-Service testing, Medicare Severity Diagnosis Related Grouper Conversion Project, partial code freeze and annual code updates, plans for national and local coverage determinations, home health conversions, and claims that span the implementation date. A question and answer session will follow the presentations. Interested participants are encouraged to [register](#) early.

■ STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Your Voice Matters Forum

Your Voice Matters, a program of the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL) and sponsored by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDC), will offer a [Your Voice Matters forum](#) October 20, 12:30 – 3:00 p.m., Giant Community Center, Camp Hill. This interactive forum will include a variety of topics that involve the disability community on a regular basis.

Pennsylvania Awarded National Violent Death Reporting System Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) Violence and Injury Prevention Program was notified that it was awarded the [National Violent Death Reporting System \(NVDRS\)](#) grant (\$1.5 million) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The grant will be used to gather critical data on homicide and suicide using the NVDRS for five years. NVDRS helps state and local officials understand when and how violent deaths occur by linking data from law enforcement, coroners and medical examiners, vital statistics, and crime laboratories. Using these data, public health practitioners and violence prevention professionals can develop tailored prevention and intervention efforts to reduce violent deaths. NVDRS provides details on demographics (age, income, education), method of injury, the relationship between the victim and the suspect, and information about circumstances such as depression, financial stressors, or relationship problems. In the pilot first year, the focus will be on the top six counties for violent deaths: Philadelphia, Allegheny, Delaware, Montgomery, Berks, and Bucks. These counties will account for 50 percent of violent deaths in 2015 based upon previous years and potentially represent 70 percent of homicides and 38 percent of suicides for the state. The pilot year will afford the opportunity to refine protocols yet collect data for a significant amount of violent deaths. In years two – five, the PA-VDRS will expand to York, Chester, Lancaster, Erie, Westmoreland, Luzerne, Lehigh, Northampton, Dauphin, Lackawanna, Washington, Beaver, Cumberland, Cambria, Franklin, and Schuylkill counties to collect data on 80 percent of violent deaths in the commonwealth.

OLTL Issues Claims Processing Timeline Message

On September 23, the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) issued a message that updates information on changes to the claims processing timeline for the waiver rate change process for Service Coordination, Personal Assistance Service, and Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Service. The message indicates that due to unforeseen system issues to the OLTL Waiver rate change process for September, the timeline for the release date for the reprocessing of claims previously paid at the old rate will be changed. Claims that were suspended on ESC 5160 from September 10 and scheduled to be released on September 17 were released on September 19. These claims were recycled and should appear on the September 29 Remittance Advice (RA). Claims for the Attendant Care, COMMCARE, Independence, and OBRA waivers and the ACT 150 program that were voided and resubmitted to pay at the new rate should appear on the October 13 RA. The credits for the voided claims and the debits for the resubmitted claims will appear on this RA – this should reduce any negative impacts to payment.

As explained in a rate change notice dated August 5, any claims where the “billed amount” on the claim was calculated using the old rate will be priced and paid at the old rate during the rate change process. Providers will be responsible for adjusting these claims to the new rate. All Aging Waiver claims for this fiscal year that were previously paid at the old rate have been identified and will be run through a mass adjustment process. OLTL anticipated releasing these claims for the October 13 RA processing date, but due to unforeseen system issues the date will be rescheduled. OLTL will inform Aging Waiver providers of the new date. Providers have the option to immediately begin adjusting these claims if they feel they cannot wait until the mass adjustment is scheduled and run. The new rates for Service Coordination (W1011), Personal Assistance Service (W1793), and Consumer-Directed Personal Assistance Service (W1792) were published in Volume 44, Number 37 of the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) September 13. The new [fee schedule chart](#) is also available.

VOICe Seeks Art Celebrating Domestic Violence Survivors

In observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Victim Outreach Intervention Center (VOICe), a partner to the Pennsylvania Link to Aging and Disability Resources, is seeking original artwork for inclusion in an art show celebrating the strength of domestic violence survivors and their families.

Artwork will be on display at the Art Center for the Associated Artists of Butler County (Rittelmann Gallery, 334 Main St, Butler) October 22 – 25 and October 29 – November 1. An artist’s reception and candlelight vigil is October 24, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the art center. Artwork from all ages and levels of experience is welcome and it

should reflect the journey and healing experience of survivors of domestic violence and/or their children. Submission of artwork is free and entries can be dropped off October 18, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the art center. VOICe reserves the right to not accept all entries. For more information, contact Gloria (724-283-8700).

■ MEDICAL REHABILITATION

CMS Error; HOPD Claim Adjustments for Therapy Services

On August 7, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued its *Provider eNews* that included a small paragraph regarding the adjustment of some hospital claims for therapy services. It read "Certain hospital claims for therapy services processed between April 7 and July 28, 2014 may have been paid in error because Medicare claims processing systems did not apply the services to the therapy cap appropriately. The claims affected had one or more lines with revenue code 042x, 043x, or 044x with modifier GN, GO, or GP. The system problem was corrected on July 28 and the affected claims will be adjusted. No provider action is needed."

This error led to inappropriate payment of therapy claims to hospital outpatient departments (HOPDs) that exceeded the \$1,920 therapy cap from April – July. RCPA was contacted by the American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association (AMRPA) to assist regarding this issue. In a September *Info* members were requested to provide feedback to assist AMRPA in providing a response to CMS to quantify the impact of its decision to adjust HOPD claims that exceeded the therapy cap due to its error. Feedback was requested to the following questions: What is the approximate number of claims that have been impacted? What is the approximate dollar impact for these claims? Additional feedback on the financial and administrative burden this will have on your facility (resubmission of claims)?

IMPACT Act Heading to White House

On September 18, the US Senate passed *Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation (IMPACT) Act of 2014 (H.R. 4994)*, which passed the US House of Representatives two days prior. This bipartisan legislation will help strengthen and improve post-acute care for Medicare beneficiaries while bringing accountable, quality-driven benefits to patients. The IMPACT Act has a long-standing policy goal of collecting standardized data from Medicare post-acute care (PAC) providers, which can now be pursued. Specifically, the act requires data standardization that enables Medicare to compare quality across different PAC settings, improve hospital and PAC discharge planning, and use this information to reform PAC payments (via site neutral, bundled payments, or some other reform) while ensuring continued beneficiary access to the most appropriate setting of care. The act is based on policy and legislative recommendations received from more than 70 stakeholders in the health care community. The legislation now moves to President Obama.

■ BRAIN INJURY

Webinar Series: Students With Concussion

The BrainSTEPS (Strategies Teaching Educators, Parents and Students) Injury School Re-entry Consulting Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education announced a comprehensive webinar series that will bring experts in the field of concussion together. *Return to Learn Fall 2014 Webinar Series: Students (K-12) With Concussion* will provide the latest research-based information to educational professionals and is intended to highlight the importance of an interdisciplinary team approach to concussion management in the classroom. The series began in September and includes six sessions through December. Webinars will be archived and available online. Questions should be directed to Brenda Eagan Brown (eaganbrown@biapa.org).

TBI Reauthorization Act Passes

On September 16, the US Senate passed the *Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Reauthorization Act of 2014 (S. 2539)*, which reauthorizes appropriations through fiscal year (FY) 2019 for TBI prevention and surveillance or registry programs. The act was originally passed in 1996, reauthorized in 2000 and 2008, and represents a foundation for coordinated and balanced public policy in prevention, education, research, and community living for people with TBI. The act allocates federal funds for programs supporting individuals with brain injury to federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institute for Health, and the Health Resources Services Administration.

Brain Injury Training Planned

The MossRehab Traumatic Brain Injury Model System will present a day-long program, *New Roads, New Directions: Finding Your Way After Brain Injury*, on November 8. This special program will offer lectures and discussion groups, hands-on workshops, networking, and resource sharing for survivors of brain injury and their families and friends. The registration deadline is November 3. Enrollment is limited so register early.



Executive Director

The HART Center, a private, non-profit vocation training facility located in New Oxford, PA, has an immediate opening for an Executive Director. This position has overall responsibility for services for 160 consumers and oversees an annual budget of approximately \$2,000,000 and a staff of 25. The agency provides long-term sheltered employment, supported employment programs, and operates a thrift store.

Other key responsibilities include ensuring that the agency continues to meet requirements established by Department of Public Welfare for licensing, as well as all other applicable local, state, and federal regulations, the oversight of fundraising activities, and coordination of long-term planning. The position is responsible for maintaining positive working relationships with funding sources and other agencies, state and local representatives and community groups, and requires occasional public speaking. The qualified candidate will possess a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum of 30 credits in human services, public administration or business, and have a minimum of five years of related work experience. Previous experience working with individuals with disabilities is preferred.

Salary for this position is commensurate with experience. Benefits include health insurance, dental and vision, vacation time, sick time, and a simple IRA plan. The HART Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer committed to workforce diversity. To apply, please send confidential résumé and cover letter to mmkheart-center@yahoo.com or HART Center Attn: M. Krumrine, 450 Golden Ln, New Oxford, PA 17350.

Vocational Service Delivery Practices

The Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Evidence Based Practice in Vocational Rehabilitation has published results from recent research, *Multiple Case Studies on Effective Vocational Rehabilitation Service Delivery Practices*. The report provides an analysis of policies and procedures related to the provision of effective best practices to assist individuals with disabilities be successful with employment outcomes.

The National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) is one of three components of the US Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services. Its mission is to generate new knowledge and promote effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities. Located at NIDRR is the National Rehabilitation Information Center library that includes reports, articles, guides, and information on the 250 research projects NIDRR funds annually. These projects address many issues including health, independent living, technology, and capacity building.

Employment and Vocational Webinars

The [Job Accommodation Network](#) is providing a variety of free webcasts focused on accommodations for persons with disabilities to assist employers and others on workplace trends, assistive technology, and employment provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Sessions include:

- October 14: Low-cost Worksite Adaptations in Minutes,
- December 9: Workplace Trends,
- January 13, 2015: Inclusive Workplaces/Disclosure, and
- February 10, 2015: Current Events in Job Accommodation.

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) is offering a webinar, "[National Core Indicators: Employment Trends, Outcomes and Policy](#)," on October 27. The cost is \$69 for ANCOR members and \$99 for non-members. The session will focus on employment status and outcomes for individuals supported by state intellectual and developmental disabilities agencies with discussion on system performance and policy development to improve employment status.

OMHSAS Continues Focus Groups

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) announced the schedule of regional focus groups to be held this fall. The meetings are designed to gather stakeholder input to inform the OMHSAS strategic plan. New stakeholders and past participants are encouraged to participate in the meetings. Information about [registration](#) is available.

CPT Coding for Psychiatric EM Codes

On June 25, a policy clarification was issued by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) regarding the use of Evaluation and Management (EM) coding for psychiatry. The question surrounded the department attaching the following units of time to the following codes:

- 99212 – 10 minutes,
- 99213 – 15 minutes,
- 99214 – 25 minutes, and
- 99215 – 40 minutes.

OMHSAS, through this policy clarification, indicated it has taken a more restrictive approach to billing than the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), meaning that both the time and documentation of severity must be met to bill for the service. This is more restrictive than the CMS policy that indicated either time OR documentation of the severity of visit must be proven. In addition, OMHSAS clarified that behavioral health managed care organizations (MCOs) do not have to allow provider billing of all four codes.

What does this mean? There are ramifications for providers who serve people dually eligible for Medicaid and Medicare payments. The clarification limits the psychiatrist's ability to treat people to his/her training and judgment. It also requires more of the psychiatrist's time when a severe shortage of psychiatric time is a critical issue. What about parity? OMHSAS is holding psychiatrists to a higher standard than their physician counterparts. Additionally, billing varies from one behavioral health MCO to another and billing integrity comes into question as providers must "downcode" their billing. CMS is not supportive of this in the audit process. RCPA will work through these issues with OMHSAS and needs member input. The complete [policy clarification](#) is available. Please direct comments and concerns to [Sarah Eyster](#).

Recruiting Woes: Don't Get Caught in Degree Scams

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has made RCPA and its Mental Health Committee members aware of degree mill and foreign degree scams taking place, primarily with Internet-based degrees or colleges outside of the country. OMHSAS staff has been trained to look closely at transcripts during licensing visits and urges providers to be vigilant about obtaining transcripts when hiring staff. There are online resources to help confirm a university or college accreditation, but these are often neglected when hiring. OMHSAS has found college and university names being slightly changed from the real one, making people believe they are the same institution. OMHSAS did note that if a staff member has a current license issued by Pennsylvania, that individual's education requirements have been met.

Outpatient Regulation Update and Clarification

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) indicated that new outpatient regulations should be available by year end. In the meantime, OMHSAS issued a letter dated August 14 stating that as a result of a Bureau of Financial Operations audit, program funding of outpatient services is not permitted. OMHSAS indicated that counties may request waivers to enable payment for non-Medical Assistance eligible clients on a fee-for-service basis up to the behavioral health managed care organization rate. This brings several issues into play for providers, including those who treat Medicare-only recipients, those dually eligible clients, and those providers in very rural areas struggling to keep outpatient offices operational to meet community needs. Member input is welcome and may be sent to [Sarah Eyster](#).



DDAP attends the final IRRC hearing where changes to state drug and alcohol regulations were passed unanimously.

IRRC Passes First Set of D&A Regulation Revisions

On September 4, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) passed the first set of regulations advanced by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). RCPA is pleased to report that all of the recommendations from the association were accepted by DDAP and, after a long process, the Drug and Alcohol Facilities and Services regulations and companion Standards for Licensure of Free Standing Treatment Facilities were approved unanimously by IRRC.

The staffing regulations previously submitted by RCPA are on hold, but individual items are being addressed by the department. RCPA recommendations for changes to the Standards for Inpatient Nonhospital Activities - Residential Treatment and Rehabilitation were submitted to DDAP in late August. Questions should be addressed to [Lynn Cooper](#).

RCPA Celebrates First Set of D&A Regs Passing IRRC



Members and DDAP staff celebrate the passing of drug and alcohol regulations by IRRC at the September RCPA Drug and Alcohol Committee meeting.

At the September Drug and Alcohol Committee meeting RCPA members and several staff from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) celebrated the momentous passing of the first set of drug and alcohol regulations by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). Ron Young and Wenona Wake reported the details of the regulation revisions along with plans for the next set of revisions. It has been more than 40 years since the regulations were written. A group of dedicated RCPA members worked hard for months going through the regulations line-by-line. All RCPA recommendations for the first set of regulations were accepted by the department. The committee celebrated with a cake that read "Congratulations DDAP and RCPA on the Passing of the First Set of Regulations!" Secretary Gary Tennis will receive a special award at the October RCPA conference in honor of his extraordinary leadership.

DDAP Joins Recovery House Task Force

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) joined with the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance, Inc. (PRO-A) for a meeting of the newly-formed Certification of Drug and Alcohol Recovery Houses Task Force. The task force will provide recommendations to address appropriate safety standards for Pennsylvania's recovery houses.

"Individuals with a substance use disorder require an appropriate level of care while receiving drug and alcohol treatment," said DDAP Secretary Gary Tennis. "When individuals transition, from treatment services to a recovery house for continued support, they should also have peace of mind that they are provided with safe housing and quality of care needed to sustain them on their path to recovery."

Recovery houses are not licensed treatment providers because they do not provide detoxification services or drug and alcohol counseling. Recovery houses provide individuals with a safe environment to focus on continued recovery from their disease, with a goal toward maintaining sobriety and increasing self-sufficiency. The task force is led by PRO-A and will consider the stigma of addiction and community concerns about the lack of oversight at some recovery houses. Goals are to identify recommendations for minimum safety standards for all recovery houses. The chair is PRO-A Executive Director William Stauffer. For more information on DDAP, access www.ddap.pa.gov or call 717-783-8200.

DDAP STAR Update

RCPA received the following update from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) regarding the STAR data system.

[The weekend of September 8], STAR was updated to resolve several bugs, to improve the upload utilities, to address a few performance issues, and to begin the process of reanalyzing all reports for accuracy. As we announced on August 1...all reports have been removed from the application except for the following five reports:

- Message Log Report (on both payer and provider),
- Active Client Listing (on payer),
- Current Clients by Case Manager (on provider),
- Current Clients by Program (on provider), and
- Encounters by Location Clinician (on provider).

These five reports have been reviewed and approved for re-release. The [STAR Reports page](#) on the web site includes definitions for these reports and a listing of reports to be released during the next two rounds of upgrades. Please let us know of any reports that you particularly need so that we can line it up for re-release. Request for re-release of reports should be emailed to us at ra-daStarSupprt@pa.gov.

Performance fixes included the automatic archiving of messages from the message log. Processed messages more than 90-days old will be archived and only viewable from the Message Log Report.

Our next tentative upgrade date is set for late September/early October. Please refer to the STAR Known Bugs page and the STAR Reports page for items to be included in the next upgrade.

There is a great difference between worry and concern. A worried person sees a problem, and a concerned person solves a problem.

– Harold Stephen

ReDCo DSP Recognition

On September 4, in preparation for Direct Support Professionals (DSP) recognition week, the Carbon County commissioners signed a proclamation recognizing the extraordinary work completed by DSPs. Several DSPs and managers of The ReDCo Group intellectual disabilities programs were invited to attend the public signing ceremony. In addition to the proclamation presentation, The ReDCo Group recognized the value of its DSPs with events throughout the week, concluding with naming the organization's DSP of the year, Anecy Joseph. Ms. Joseph works in the organization's Wyomissing Adult Training Facility.



Seated (l to r) Tara King, Melissa Arieta, and Nicole Habel. Standing (l to r) Commissioner Thomas J. Gerhard, Caroline Nannay, Heidi Zacharias, Jacqueline Walck, Koriena Berger, Commissioner Wayne Nothstein, Joanne Schaeffer, and Commissioner William O'Gurek

UCP Starts Innovative Pilots

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Central Pennsylvania is proud to offer two innovative pilot programs to the organization: Pathways Academy day and residential programs and Independent Living Technology.

The Pathways programs enable people with intellectual disabilities to live independently and be competitively employed. These time-limited programs focus on a curriculum-based teaching method that provides necessary skill training to empower each person to achieve goals of independent living and employment. Pathways familiarizes participants with the concepts of self-awareness and self-advocacy, providing them the opportunity to identify and discuss strengths and needs. Self-direction includes independence and meaningful employment. Participants develop independence skills to increase the opportunity for successful outcomes.



(l to r) Lisa Butler, ILT program coordinator; Diana Steele, regional manager, Community Career Connections and Pathways; Barry Claypool, director, adult services; and Jamar Tyler, information technology specialist.

Independent Living Technology (ILT) is the means of using technology to support people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, physical disabilities, or older adults. ILT is designed to increase and support a person's independence, safety, dignity, and minimize barriers to

independent living, allowing people to live in their preferred setting for the longest period. These pilot programs are funded through base dollars. UCP is working with the Office of Developmental Programs and counties on developing service definitions and rates.

CMS Transition Plan Toolkit

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has developed a [Transition Plan Toolkit](#) to assist states in developing plans for meeting the Home and Community Based Services Waivers final regulations. The toolkit is available to assist states with 1915(c) and 1915(i) waivers that must have transition plans submitted by March 17, 2015. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, that has 10 of these federal waivers, conducted public forums across the state. All comments received from stakeholders will be reviewed and the final transition plan will be posted on the department web site in the near future.

Employment Webinars

The National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities (LEAD Center), funded by the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy, has archived recent webinars. [Best Practices in Employee Retention and Return-to-Work: Lessons Learned from Employers](#) addressed how to identify employers with policies that support customized employment, employer retention and return-to-work best practices, and how workforce professionals partner with employers to promote retention. [Customized Employment: Moving Beyond the Basics](#) addresses ways to explore information gathered during the discovery process to look at employment opportunities for job placement. This information is relevant to a variety of job seekers with disabilities.

Integrated Employment Toolkit

The US Office of Disability Employment Policy has developed an [Integrated Employment Toolkit](#), with resources applicable to six stakeholder groups: employers, community employment agencies, families and individuals, policymakers, and researchers. Integrated employment addresses employment by individuals with the most significant disabilities working in competitive work settings with non-disabled peers.

Elder Justice Web Site

The US Department of Justice has developed a web site, [Elder Justice](#), to address and prevent elder abuse and financial exploitation. Information is provided regarding victim and family supports, prosecutor, and research resources, including law enforcement agencies.

Report Reflects Research on Employment

The Employer Assistance and Resource Network (EARN) has released [Opening the Doors of Small Business to Employees with Disabilities: Critical Concerns and Strategies for Success](#). The report's research shows that hiring individuals with disabilities can improve a business' productivity, work quality, and improve the workplace for all employees.

ODP UPDATES

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Budget Presentation for FY 2014/15. A [PowerPoint](#) and [recording](#) of the September 5 discussion is available.

[Announcement #064-14](#): ISP Monitoring 2014 Course Now Available. This is for supports coordination required training and professional development for AE and provider staff.

[Announcement #065-14](#): ODP is Seeking Input from Direct Services Intellectual Disability Providers. ODP is designating a mailbox to assist providers in being up-to-date on the latest changes in policies and best practices. The mailbox will remain open until October 6 for stakeholders to submit recommendations that will assist in developing trainings. The mailbox is RA-PWODP_PROV-DRTRNG@pa.gov.

[Announcement #066-14](#): Required 2014 SC State-wide Training Face to Face, Instructor-Led. ODP required trainings in October and November at 13 locations across the state. Participants will receive six hours of training credit.

[Announcement #067-14](#): ODP and OCDEL in Planning Phase to Modify TCM/TSM Functionality. A decision was made to remove the current case management billing functionality in HCSIS. Providers will be required to submit claims for services directly to PROMISE. Supports Coordination Organizations will continue to record service notes and manage timely Targeted Case Management and Targeted Service Management directly into HCSIS.

[Announcement #068-14](#): PA Department of Public Welfare Medication Administration Program Planned Interruption of Service. Beginning October 10 through October 14 at 8:00 a.m., the student course will be unavailable in order to complete updates to the online examinations that must be completed as part of the course.

[Announcement #069-14](#): Free SELN Employment Trainings for SCs. The State Employment Leadership Network (SELN) is offering three webinars on employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. This series is available at no cost to Supports Coordinators. The first webinar was in September. Additional webinars are October 30 and December 2.

Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Plan

The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Forum has been established to continue the initiative from Governor Corbett's executive order to address needs of the state's aging population. The forum provides opportunity for individuals and organizations to focus on seven recommendations, with goals and strategies to assist state systems and service components to serve those dealing with Alzheimer's and dementia-related disorders. Policy Specialist Linda Drummond has been asked to serve on this forum due to her expertise in the intellectual disability system and previous testimony to the state regarding the needs for specialized training and services for citizens served by the Office of Developmental Programs.

RCPA members serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are asked to share recommendations with [Ms. Drummond](#). The seven focus topics include:

- Awareness, knowledge, and sense of urgency about medical, social, and financial implications;
- Collaboration to pursue financial opportunities and resources;
- Promoting brain health and cognitive fitness;
- Providing a comprehensive continuum of ethical care and support;
- Family and caregiver support;
- Building and retaining a competent, knowledgeable, ethical, and caring workforce; and
- Research, treatment, cure, and prevention strategies.

Aging and IDD Issues

The September Aging/Intellectual Disability Cross-Systems Conference, "Building Bridges," provided numerous sessions to assist stakeholders in the aging and intellectual disability systems to:

- Identify programs and models of care to improve the quality of life for older persons with intellectual disability,
- Recognize alternative programs and models of care,
- Utilize resources and ideas for direct care staff serving this population, and
- Recognize various aspects of physical changes with aging.

As a member of the state's Joint Aging/Intellectual Disability Committee, RCPA Policy Specialist Linda Drummond coordinated several sessions, many delivered by RCPA members:

- Creating a Forever Home (Alzheimer's/Dementia Initiative in a Residential Group Home), The Arc of Centre County;
- Dual Diagnosis Curriculum, Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care;
- Estate Planning, Guardianship, and/or Special Needs Trusts, Rhoads and Sinon, LLP;
- Person Directed Framework: Reducing Micro-violence in Everyday Lives, Supportive Concepts for Families, Inc.;
- Talking about Sex is Like Rolling the Dice!, Temple University Institute on Disabilities; and
- Specialized Alzheimer/Dementia Program for IDD Programs, NHS Human Services.

The presentation handouts will be available on the web site of the [Long Term Living Training Institute](#).

Direct Care Workers Should Be Trained in Dementia Care

Direct Care Workers Should Be Trained in Dementia Care was developed by the RAND Corporation in cooperation with the Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute. This report addresses the need for health care workers and direct care staff to be trained to address the recognition and support needed for individuals aging with dementia. The report has five policy objectives:

- Increase public awareness of dementia and promote earlier detection,
- Improve access and use of long-term supports and services,
- Promote high-quality care to meet individual and family caregiver needs,
- Provide better support for family caregivers, and
- Reduce the financial burden on individuals and families paying for long-term supports and services for those with dementia.

Disability Employment Day

In recognition of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission is partnering with the Governor's Cabinet for People with Disabilities and the Office of Administration to provide a "Disability Employment Outreach Day" to guide individuals with disabilities in their search for commonwealth employment. The event is October 31, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission Headquarters, 1601 Elmerton Ave, Harrisburg. All individuals with disabilities are encouraged to participate. American Sign Language services will be provided. Please contact the Pennsylvania State Civil Service Commission (717-787-6127) by October 10 to request other accommodations for this event.

■ ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM

Regulatory and Legal Pressure for ABA Services

It has been several months since federal officials ordered states to include coverage of treatments such as Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) for children with autism in Medicaid programs. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a [bulletin](#) in July clarifying that Medicaid programs nationwide must offer “medically necessary diagnostic and treatment services” to children with autism, including behavior therapy, speech and occupational therapy, personal care services, and medical equipment. Under the CMS directive, states were told that services for children with autism must be part of the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment program. A menu of offerings each state is required to offer children under age 21 who qualify for Medicaid is to be provided to CMS. In addition to the action by federal regulators of Medicaid services, a lawsuit has been filed in Pennsylvania and another in Hawaii over that state’s failure to provide Medicaid coverage of ABA therapy. In Pennsylvania, the vast majority of Medicaid-funded autism services are viewed as behavioral health interventions, managed under the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and based on behavioral health medical necessity criteria.

National Support for ASD Research Across Lifespan

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) is making available \$7.9 million in first-year funding for 12 research projects that will assess various models of service delivery for individuals with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at three key stages of life. For children on the autism spectrum, grants will fund efforts to determine how best to identify a child with autism as early as possible and ensure that such children connect with intervention services. For transition age youth and young adults, a separate set of projects will focus on individuals preparing to leave high school. Researchers plan to test methods to improve school-based service coordination for students during transition, enhance parent advocacy skills, and teach self-regulation and self-determination to those on the spectrum. A third group of studies will look at techniques to assist adults with autism obtain employment and learn social skills along with other aspects of independent living. Thomas Insel, NIMH director, noted that “despite the significant number of people of all ages identified with ASD, access to effective services remains inconsistent at best. Parents are often left to navigate what is available as best they can and worry for the future as their affected children grow into adulthood.”

Efforts Build to Study Adult ASD Services

Reps. Daniel Miller and Tomas Murt are preparing to introduce a resolution that will direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study of current programs for adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The study will examine consumer ability to receive assistance with housing, employment, transportation, financial management, and health care. Currently, there are two programs for which adults with autism spectrum disorders may qualify – Adult Community Autism Program and Adult Autism Waiver. Data from the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) indicates that these programs are not adequate to serve the large and growing numbers of adults with ASD across the commonwealth. The process to qualify and receive services through these waivers differs substantially from the process to qualify and receive services through intellectual disability waivers, creating confusion and a lack of fair and consistent rules. The proposed resolution would call for an evaluation of data from the Department of Education on current students with ASD and for DPW to assess its data on current and future numbers of adults with ASD. This process would lead to a report on the plan to provide home- and community-based support and services to these individuals.

■ CONFERENCES/TRAININGS

October 7 – 10. RCPA Conference 2014: [TOGETHER...ONE](#). Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Seven Springs, PA. [Registration](#).

October 11. [Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania Conference](#). Liberty Resources. Philadelphia, PA.

October 15 – 16. Pennsylvania Suicide Prevention Conference, [Making a Difference Together](#). Ramada Inn. State College, PA.

October 17. Cognitive Rehab Therapy in the Home and Community: Evidence-based Practices and Functional Application. Bear Creek Conference

Center and Resort. Sponsored by Main Line Rehab Associates. For additional information, contact Mark Cola (610-280-0180, x128 or mcola@mainline-rehab.com).

October 24, [Staunton Farm Foundation Rural Behavioral Health Conference](#). Washington County, PA

Substance Use Evaluation for Youth and Caregivers

Secretary Gary Tennis, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, sent a letter to provider agencies clearly indicating that a drug and alcohol assessment for youth or their family and caregivers should indicate the level of care the evaluator believes is necessary to address the treatment needs. This medically necessary level of care should be reported without consideration of the willingness of the client to participate or the availability of such a level of care due to funding. There have been issues in past dependency proceedings where evaluators have been unwilling to recommend a level of care in which the client was unwilling to participate. This created a situation where the courts would order services at the level recommended, not the level needed. This guidance from Secretary Tennis will be beneficial in allowing child welfare agencies to request services be ordered for parents with substance abuse issues that will be more effective. The letter was also sent to county administrators.

Rate Methodology Task Force

The Department of Public Welfare Rate Methodology Task force continues its work to develop recommendations for determining reasonable and allowable costs for in-home services. The group continues to gather information and work toward the development of a report this fall. A key point of discussion has been the clarification of the question of "cost to whom." The group recognizes that the cost to counties, most frequently the fiscal information shared with the General Assembly, is often an agency-subsided rate that does not fully reflect the "reasonable and allowable cost" to the provider.

Child Mental and Developmental Disorders on the Rise

The number of children with disabilities is on the rise. Researchers report this change is largely due to growth in incidence of mental and developmental disorders. An analysis of national survey data published in *Pediatrics* finds that between 2001 – 2011, there was a 16 percent increase in the number of children with disabilities. Though children living in poverty remain more likely to have disabilities, the study found that the greatest increase in diagnoses was seen among children from wealthier families. Researchers looked at data on nearly 200,000 children and youth from the National Health Interview Survey. The government survey is of parents with children up to age 17. Parents were asked if their child had various limitations or disabilities. Deficits were then divided into three groups – physical disabilities, neurodevelopmental, and mental health conditions and other. The study found that nearly eight percent of American children, or about six million, have a disability. While the prevalence of physical disabilities declined over the study period, significantly more parents said that their children had neurodevelopmental or mental health issues in 2011 as compared to a decade earlier.

Pennsylvania's Special Kids Network

With the passage of the Social Security Act in 1935 came Title V and the commitment to improving the health and well-being of mothers, children, and their families. Each state in the country applies for a block of funds to provide programming to its maternal and child health population. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) is currently developing the plan for conducting the 2015 needs assessment. During the assessment of 1995, DOH learned that families of children with special needs often faced difficulty when attempting to locate services. Based on this finding, DOH created the Special Kids Network Program (SKN). SKN began as an information and referral helpline through its toll-free number. It now offers three primary components that focus on children and youth with special health care needs and their families:

- A toll-free helpline (800-986-4550),
- In-home service coordination provided at no cost to families, and
- A system of community and regional support.

The helpline is available Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and is answered by trained staff. In-home service coordination is provided by the Pennsylvania Elks Home Service Program, a statewide non-profit organization with over 50 years' experience. Community and regional support is provided by six regional coordinators, each of whom has a child or children with special health care needs and has experienced caring and advocating for their children. Now, in addition to helping their own children, regional coordinators are able to help other families. Coordinators set up meetings for families, providers, and communities to work together to address service issues of children and youth with special health care needs. For assistance and more information about SKN call the helpline.

CPSL Implementation Updates

At a meeting of the Child Protective Service Law (CPSL) Implementation Team, the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) reviewed plans for its CPSL public awareness and media campaign and preliminary plans for required training.

- **Public Awareness and Media Campaign.** DPW is working to launch a state-wide child abuse reporting awareness campaign. While still in the early stages of development, the goal is to brand a campaign using television, radio, and social media outlets to inform the public about the importance of child abuse reporting, who is a mandated reporter, and where to find available training and resources. DPW will also establish a dedicated web site to facilitate reporting of suspected child abuse, training information for mandated reporters, and other informational resources and links. The launch goal is early 2015.
- **Training for Mandated Reporters.** Act 31 requires that individuals who hold a professional license complete three hours of initial CPSL training and two hours of subsequent training to obtain and maintain licensure. By July 2015, staff and operators of organizations licensed by DPW will be required to receive three hours of initial CPSL training by a DPW-approved trainer and three additional hours of training every five years.
- **RCPA Participation in Online Training Pilot.** Licensed professionals working at RCPA member organizations are invited to pilot the state's online training. Training is designed to meet the new requirements. Individuals applying for a professional license or license renewal in social work, nursing, medicine, psychiatry, psychology, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling, occupational, physical and speech therapy and other categories of professional health and human services licensing are required to complete an approved training. Members who wish to participate must email Kathy Williams (kaw35@pitt.edu) by October 14 and note "Pilot Mandated Reporting Online Training" in the subject. Individuals will be contacted with information allowing them to participate from November 3 – 7. Participation in the pilot testing will be accepted by professional licensing boards as meeting the training requirements for licensure and license renewal.

RCPA is working with DPW and other state organizations to clarify the initial and post-licensure training requirements and develop or identify training options for members.

Child Welfare Emergency Planning Group

The Child Welfare Emergency Planning Group is made up of representatives from providers; county children and youth agencies; the Office of Children, Youth and Families; and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The work group has come together to design and develop essential guidance and resources for planning for disasters and other emergencies. Having completed materials for residential and foster care settings the group is now working on the development of guidance for in-home and community-based services. A recent communication from the County Commissioners Association's Children and Youth Administrators (CYA) has been proactive in supporting the efforts of its members in planning and preparing for natural and manmade disasters. On a lighter note, CYA is also keeping county leaders informed about the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control planning page for the [Zombie Apocalypse](#).

Tips and Information on Student Mental Health

A new school year has begun and with it comes an array of challenges for many students, especially for those served by RCPA providers. [Mental Health America](#) (MHA) is providing an array of resources on student mental health. MHA President and CEO Paul Gionfriddo notes that "a student's mental health is just as important as their general health. We know the start of a new school year can be a stressful time for students all ages. These resources are designed to help parents, teachers, and other caregivers talk to kids about what's going on at school and help students of all ages."

In addition to a list of important steps parents and others can take to support children as the school year develops, MHA has developed fact sheets that address challenges and issues that students confront in schools and their communities. These materials are available for download from the link and include:

- Healthy mental and emotional development,
- Parent/Advocate back to school checklist,
- Promoting children's mental health, and
- Tips for parents and students about bullying. Parents and students can also participate in an anonymous survey on bullying by going to the site.

With college bound transition age students in mind, MHA has also developed [Back to Campus](#) materials and an accompanying toolkit that provide helpful information and resources. The materials address the difference between stress and depression; boosting school performance by taking care of one's self; dealing with freshman year issues; and alcohol, substance use, and depression. RCPA encourages members to share these resources.

Children's Committee

The September Children's Committee meeting included more than 70 participants in Harrisburg and via webcast. The committee heard updates from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), and the Office of Children, Youth and Families. Updates included the planning for Child Protective Service Law mandated reporter training and implementation, school and early childhood mental health grants, and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder awareness events. A key feature of the meeting was the continued panel discussion focused on the range of outpatient behavioral health services that have been developed in collaboration with other child-serving systems. Committee discussion also focused on reports of growing barriers and challenges in the development of school-based services and regulator and managed care issues of increasing concern to providers. A plan was developed by RCPA and OMHSAS to conduct a series of provider-OMHSAS conference calls to more fully identify issues and continue discussions. RCPA provided plans for regional member meetings, legislative, and policy updates. [Handouts](#) are available. The next meeting is December 3.

Criminal Justice Committee

The September Criminal Justice Committee began with a detailed report about Healthy PA from Leesa Allen, Department of Public Welfare. Mary Finck provided an update from the Department of Corrections that included the latest information about transitional housing units and new housing projects being supported by the department. Helene Placey, Sentencing Commission, shared information about the sentencing risk assessment tool. Jason Stauffer, Board of Probation and Parole, reported the work being done to increase effective interventions to help reduce the prison population. Steve Seichek, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, reported on the successful county jail pilot program strongly supported by the department.

Drug and Alcohol Committee

The Drug and Alcohol Committee met September 16. The meeting included reports from the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) regarding major regulatory revision efforts underway and an update on the STAR data system. Members shared concerns about access problems to required training and discussed possible solutions with DDAP staff. Dennis Marion, deputy secretary, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, provided an overview of Healthy PA. The meeting included a celebration of the first set of drug and alcohol regulations being approved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission.

Mental Health Committee

The September Mental Health Committee was attended by more than 60 people in person and webcast. Jack Goga was introduced as the new committee co-chair, assisting Kathy Yarzebinski. The committee reviewed information related to CPT evaluation and management coding which has a significant impact on outpatient providers offering psychiatric services (see related article in this issue). The committee received updates on the collaborative documentation work group convened by the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) that has submitted written guidelines for OMHSAS to review and approve. It is expected that the new outpatient regulations will be approved by the end of the year. The vocational work group will continue to meet and invite additional members to work on vital issues facing people receiving services. Rebecca May-Cole, Pennsylvania Behavioral Health and Aging Coalition, will work with RCPA to form a geriatric work group to address serious issues facing seniors. There was a presence from OMHSAS Eastern region, a presentation on how to use Affordable Care Act navigators to help people enroll in the exchange, and an update on adult protective services reporting requirements.

CALENDAR

OCTOBER		
Monday, October 6		RCPA PAC Golf Outing <i>Seven Springs Mountain Resort</i>
Tuesday – Friday, October 7 – 10		2014 RCPA Conference: TOGETHER...ONE <i>Seven Springs Mountain Resort</i>
Thursday, October 9	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Explore Factors and Learn Strategies to Provide Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Rehabilitation <i>IPRC Webinar</i>
NOVEMBER		
Wednesday, November 5	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Brain Injury Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, November 6	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Outpatient Rehabilitation Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Monday, November 10	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Legislative Affairs Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Wednesday, November 12	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Human Resources Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, November 13	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Southeast Regional Meeting <i>Horizon House, Philadelphia</i>
Friday, November 14	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Northeast Regional Meeting Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley, Inc., <i>Wilkes-Barre</i>
Tuesday, November 18	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Northwest Regional Meeting <i>Clarion</i>
Wednesday, November 19	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Southwest Regional Meeting <i>Pittsburgh</i>