



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

REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2013

■ **IDD FOCUS**



Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week is September 8–14. Governor Corbett has issued a [Pennsylvania proclamation](#) in recognition of these individuals. Members who employ direct support professionals (DSPs) in the intellectual, developmental, and physical disabilities systems are asked to contact local media outlets and county governments to generate coverage. It is crucial that providers remind the public of the important work these staff provide. RCPA developed several templates which may be customized by an agency to reach the public and media.

■ A [request letter for counties](#) – This letter requests that a county or locality designate September 8–14 as DSP Week.

■ A [sample proclamation](#) and [sample resolution](#) similar to the one RCPA sent to the governor's office and that the American Network of Community Options

and Resources sent to the US Congress. It should be sent with the request letter to county or local officials. The resolution can also be used by boards of directors.

■ A [reporter/editor pitch email](#) to alert the media that DSP Week is approaching and asking them to consider writing a story. If information is needed about local media sources, please contact [Steve Neidlinger](#), membership and marketing coordinator.

■ A [sample press release](#) aimed at smaller publications that cannot assign a reporter to write a story. This includes community newspapers, radio stations, and any other local media outlet.

RCPA is also interested in featuring agency recognition activities about DSP staff in future issues of *RCPA News*. Please share your stories and photos with [Linda Drummond](#).

Alzheimer's Committee Hosts Public Hearing

The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease Planning Committee held a public hearing in State College to allow stakeholders to share recommendations to address the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Presenting regarding the needs of those with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) with Alzheimer's or dementia were Linda Drummond, RCPA; and Cindy Mayes and Amy Bennett, The Arc of Centre County. Drummond shared information regarding individuals with IDD currently served by providers and experiences related to Alzheimer's and dementia in this population. Staff from The Arc of Centre County shared how their agency has begun to address the issues of dementia and IDD in residential settings, including planning for its "Forever Home," a residential program serving individuals with IDD and Alzheimer's. Details about the recommendations and presentation from Drummond, Mayes, and Bennett are available of the [RCPA web site](#).

Providers interested in sharing experiences or recommendations to be included in the Alzheimer's Planning Committee's information to the governor may do so in person September 16 in Clarion or September 17 in Pittsburgh. To reserve a time or to submit written comments submit email to alzstateplan@pa.gov.

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■ **RCPA NEWS**

Melissa Dehoff Joins RCPA

RCPA is pleased that Melissa Dehoff, medical rehabilitation policy specialist, began employment on August 16. Ms. Dehoff comes to the association with more than 20 years experience in the health care industry. Since 2005, she has served as director, post-acute care services for The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), responsible for assessing the impact of proposed federal and state regulation and legislation on providers across the health care continuum. In that role, Ms. Dehoff provided technical assistance, advocacy, research, information, and communication to rehabilitation, home health, hospice, and long-term care providers regarding payment and policy development issues. She is proficient in federal and state regulations and requirements including Medicare, customer service functions, provider relations, budgeting, management, and internal control development. Prior to her work at HAP, she was employed with Highmark Blue Shield Veritus Medicare Services, HGS Administrators, and Integrated Health Services in Maryland. Ms. Dehoff can be reached at 717-364-3280 and mdehoff@paproviders.org. Please join the association in welcoming her as a valuable addition to staff.



Melissa Dehoff

■ **NEW MEMBERS**

PROVIDER MEMBER

Adelphoi Village

Latrobe
Theresa Matson, Vice President

BUSINESS MEMBERS

Prescription Corporation of America

Denville
Dennis Kotopoulos,
Business Development Manager

Hawkins Point Partners

Tynesboro, MA
Steve Mersky, Principal

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The Next 100 Days



We
need
some
wins.

As I complete my second month as CEO, I have been creating an agenda for the coming months and year. It is critical that we maintain priorities while at the same time be proactive in our approach. Note that these are not listed in order of priority; *they are all priorities.*

- 1 Develop and implement a new coordinated government affairs strategy.
 - Influence the state budget to ensure much needed funding for RCPA members.
 - Fight for restoration of past program cuts.
 - Educate state and federal legislators to ensure they and their staffs understand the services that RCPA members provide and the issues that we collectively face.
 - Meet with the governor's staff and staff of key departments to ensure that they understand these essential issues.
 - Educate gubernatorial candidates on the issues impacting members.
 - Develop a strong political action committee.
- 2 Continue to track the impact of health care reform to best position members.
- 3 Continue to fight for Medicaid expansion in Pennsylvania.
- 4 Oversee the implementation of Human Services Block Grant, including working with the Department of Public Welfare on the development of key reporting and outcome measures for current county participants.
- 5 Provide opportunities for members to share and learn about innovation in their field and explore ways to support this innovation.

- 6 Explore and develop managed care models for intellectual and developmental disabilities to influence state development of a model.
- 7 Impact division-specific issues, such as:
 - Sub-minimum wage and vocational work centers,
 - Opposing reinstatement of the 75 percent compliance rule, as was proposed by the President in his FY 2013 budget proposal,
 - Stabilization of funding for outpatient mental health, and
 - Continue review and revision of drug and alcohol program regulations.

And most importantly...

- 8 Listen to what members want from the association.

I recently interviewed several lobbying firms as part of my overall analysis of RCPA. One lobbyist asked me pointedly, "How many 'wins' did you have last year?" An interesting question. I know that 'wins' can't be guaranteed, but we have to be engaged and influence legislators, government staff, and other key decision-makers. RCPA members help millions of people in need every year. Our community and rehabilitative services are critical to these individuals, yet we are the ones typically under attack of potential state and federal funding cuts or threatening regulations and legislation. We need some wins.

Richard S. Edley, PhD, President/CEO
redley@paproviders.org

This column represents my opinion, not necessarily that of the association.

Insight comes, more often than not, from looking at what's been on the table all along.

— David McCullough

Support the PAC at Conference – Bowling Teams Needed!

Celebrate the first RCPA conference and the goals of increasing presence, leverage, power, and value by entering a bowling team in the RCPA Political Action Committee (PAC) bowling tournament! The tournament is a great way to get together with friends and colleagues while supporting the work of the PAC. The minimum entry fee is \$45 for an individual or \$120 for a team registration. Teams are composed of three people. Individual registrants are placed in teams, so those who want to bowl but don't have a team can register and a team will be created. Teams may pay the registration fee as individuals (which counts as a PAC contribution), but are encouraged to obtain sponsorships from staff, colleagues, and friends. A sponsorship donation can be any amount and can be accepted via personal check or credit card by the PAC. The bowling tournament is a one-hour winner-takes-all event and takes place on Thursday of conference week beginning at 5:00 p.m. The format is designed to maximize the fun and competition. Everyone is welcome to cheer on the bowlers. Come join the fun as a bowler or in the audience and support the RCPA PAC! Email [Anne Leisure](#) for more information or to register.



Conference
Early Bird Rates
Expire September 6

2013 RCPA Conference
A New Commonwealth

A New Commonwealth – the inaugural RCPA Conference – is fast approaching. September 6 marks the deadline to obtain the early bird discount for registration. Significant savings are available; don't miss the opportunity to experience the event at the best possible price. Registration may be completed online (with payment by credit card) or in print. Registrations must be accompanied by payment.

Conference activities and workshops are varied and cross all service lines offered by association members. Detailed information about workshops, keynote speakers, networking events, and Exhibit Hall are available from the [conference web site](#). Questions related to registration or conference events may be directed to [Kris Ericson](#) or [Tieanna Lloyd](#).

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.



WIA/Rehab Bill Passes Senate HELP Committee

The Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee voted to reauthorize the *Work Investment Act* (WIA) on July 31. It will now be considered by the full US Senate. According to the Committee's [press release](#), the reauthorized bill contains changes to legislation that reflects the global economy as well as input from business, education, and labor groups. Title V of WIA reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act, including vocational rehabilitation (VR) programs. The updates are focused on ensuring that young people with disabilities have increased preparation and opportunities

for competitive, integrated employment. The bill requires state VR agencies, in conjunction with local educational agencies, to make "pre-employment transition services" available to students with disabilities. The bill will also require individuals under the age of 24 with a significant disability to make a serious attempt at competitive, integrated employment – including getting pre-employment transition services and utilizing VR services – before he or she can consider working at a segregated workshop or sheltered employment setting. For individuals currently in sheltered employment settings,

the bill will increase opportunities to move into competitive, integrated employment by requiring ongoing career counseling, information, and referrals about programs that offer employment-related services and supports. Updates also focus on creating better alignment of government programs at the national level that are focused on employment and independent living for people with disabilities. More details may be found in an August 1 [Legislative Info](#). RCPA will keep members informed as this legislation moves to the floor of the US Senate.

Behavioral Health IT Act Introduced in US House

Congressman Tim Murphy has introduced the *Behavioral Health Information Technology Act* (HR 2957), legislation that offers eligibility for health information technology (HIT) incentive payments to specified mental health and addiction treatment providers and facilities that were left out of the 2009 HITECH Act. The act includes the following important provisions:

- The extension of Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for meaningful use of electronic health records (EHRs) to psychologists and mental health professionals who provide clinical care at psychiatric hospitals, mental

health treatment facilities, and addiction treatment facilities.

- The eligibility of mental health and addiction treatment providers for HITECH Act technical assistance, which will enhance HIT infrastructure, facilitate medical staff training, and improve the exchange of health information between behavioral health providers and other health care providers.

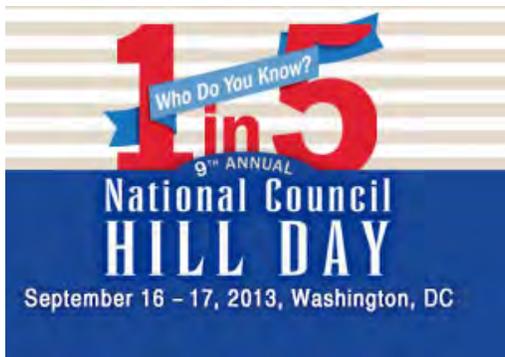
HR 2957, currently with 10 co-sponsors, will be a key legislative "ask" at National Council Hill Day September 16–17.



Last Call

National Council Hill Day

Join RCPA for the 9th Annual National Council Public Policy Institute and Hill Day September 16–17 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Washington, DC. Hill Day is a wonderful opportunity to ensure that federal lawmakers understand the importance of high quality and accessible behavioral health services to their communities. Participants attend a full day of sessions on federal behavioral health care policy followed by visits with elected officials on Capitol Hill to advocate for better resources for mental health and addictions treatment. Face-to-face interactions between legislators and constituents are one of the most powerful ways to impact public policy. Hill Day will be held in partnership with other national behavioral health organizations. At the public policy institute on September 16, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from key congressional and administration staff and policy experts, who provide an update on important federal policy initiatives. There will also be breakout sessions on advocacy techniques, federal grant funding, and social media marketing. On September 17, attendees will meet with elected officials on Capitol Hill. Hill Day includes two receptions — one on Capitol Hill to honor legislators of the year and the other at the Hyatt Regency to recognize attendees' achievements and advocacy efforts. [Details and registration information](#) is available. The Pennsylvania presence at Hill Day continues to grow and RCPA hopes that this year is no exception. Questions and comments may be shared with [Richard Edley](#) or [Anne Leisure](#).



FEDERAL NEWS BRIEFS

SAMHSA Monitoring Visit Scheduled

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will conduct a monitoring site visit with the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) for the Community Mental Health Services Block Grant September 10–12. Co-chairs of the Mental Health Planning Council committees will participate. The OMHSAS Quality Management Committee meeting scheduled September 11 was cancelled to accommodate the monitoring visit.

Medicare Service Impact Due to Planned Network Transition

Novitas Solutions was acquired by Diversified Service Options, Inc., a subsidiary of Florida Blue, in 2012. During September, providers may experience system outages as the transition is completed from the Highmark network to the Florida network. Service delays are anticipated September 7–8 as simulation testing for network transition is completed and September 28–29 with final network transition. Testing will begin as late as possible on September 7 to minimize service disruption. On September 7 Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Part A Direct Data Entry (DDE) access, and Part B Professional Provider Telecommunication Network (PPTN) access will not be available. The same impacts are expected September 28–29. If additional downtime is required, Novitas will issue alerts via its [web site](#) and listserv. Address questions about service interruptions due to this transition to [Debra Fulfer](#).

AHRQ Health Information Available

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has developed information about treatment options related to a variety of conditions. This information is intended to help individuals to better understand their illnesses and options available that may best suit their treatment and health care needs. Topics addressed include mental health, diabetes, heart conditions, and other information. See the AHRQ [web site](#) for more information.

Apply to Be a Certified Application Counselor

Certified application counselors (CACs) are needed for outreach to individuals and to provide education assistance about selecting and enrolling in insurance plans through the Health Insurance Marketplace that will be operational in January 2014. Enrollment begins October 1. Many individuals do not know about the changes and others are misinformed. Organizations are encouraged to become CACs whose staff or volunteers receive training and assist individuals with enrollment. [Frequently asked questions](#) about CAC and the [application form](#) are available on the Health Insurance Marketplace web site.

SAMHSA Handbook on Medicaid and Behavioral Health

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) published a [handbook](#) to provide information on basic Medicaid policy, particularly related to services for mental health and substance use disorders. The handbook is intended primarily for those involved in state policy development, but is useful for anyone interested in the impact of Medicaid on behavioral health services. It is presented in modules, is intended to be revised over time, and can be downloaded in its entirety or as individual modules. Modules include:

- Medicaid's Importance to Mental Health and Substance Use Services,
- Medicaid Overview,
- The Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Benefit Package,
- Providers of Behavioral Health Services,
- Structure and Reimbursement Methodologies,
- Care Coordination Initiatives,
- Recent Federal Legislation and Medicaid and Medicare,
- The Relationship Between Medicare and Medicaid,
- Practical Guides to Medicaid State Plans and Waivers, and
- Basic Information and Tools.

Serving the Commonwealth's Mental Health and Justice Needs

By The Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence

The Pennsylvania Mental Health and Justice Center of Excellence (MHJCoE) will take part in the RCPA Conference on October 9. The MHJCoE will be a part of a panel entitled *Serving the Commonwealth's Mental Health and Justice Needs: MHJAC, PCCD, OMHSAS, and MHJCoE*.

This presentation will describe the collaboration between the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), the Mental Health and Justice Advisory Committee (MHJAC), and the MHJCoE. The primary focus of this collaboration is on reducing the justice involvement of individuals with behavioral health needs. A representative from each organization will describe their major purposes and activities in these efforts, highlighting the work that is overseen by MHJAC. Panelists include Linda Rosenberg, PCCD director; the Honorable John Zottola, MHJAC chair; Lynn Patrone, executive assistant to the deputy secretary, OMHSAS; Deborah Ann Shoemaker, executive director, Pennsylvania Psychiatric Society; and Dr. Ed Mulvey, MHJCoE co-director.

The session will provide information about the future plans and activities of the MHJAC and the MHJCoE. The collaboration of OMHSAS and PCCD on this joint venture provides an opportunity to address longstanding problems that contribute to the inappropriate processing of many mentally ill individuals into the criminal justice system. By reviewing what has been learned, presenters will share ideas about future efforts to better integrate mental health services and the criminal justice system statewide.

Free Personal Care Home and Intellectual Disability Training Available

Northampton Community College offers personal care home and assisted living administrator training at no charge to participants in Pennsylvania. Sessions are open to staff of personal care homes, assisted living residences, community homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities, family living homes, adult training facilities, and vocational facilities for persons with intellectual disabilities. Training is sponsored by the Bureau of Human Services Licensing. Participants in each continuing education class may accrue three annual training hours. Classes begin September 11 and are offered through December. [Registration and information](#) about the classes is available.

Personal Care Home Survey

The Bureau of Human Services Licensing is surveying personal care homes to gather information about services available for persons with low-to-moderate income. They have noted an overall decline in the number of personal care homes, particularly those that have served individuals with low-to-moderate incomes. Personal care home administrators are encouraged to complete the survey [online](#). Information gleaned will be used to develop policy and allocate resources. Responses are confidential and will be collected through October 1. Address questions regarding the survey to the Operator Support Center at ra-pwarlheadquarters@state.pa.us or 866-503-3926.

Survey Reviews Role of Rehabilitation Providers in Employment

The August 2013 *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Journal* provides [information about employment trends](#) of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Based on the 2010/11 National Survey of Community Rehabilitation Providers, findings are presented on people with all disabilities and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who are served in employment and non-work settings by community rehabilitation providers. Findings suggest little change over the past eight years in participation in integrated employment. Overall, 19 percent of individuals with IDD were reported to receive individual integrated employment services. The results suggest that 15 percent of individuals with IDD work in individual integrated jobs for pay. Group supported employment continues to play a smaller, but significant, role in employment supports. Data reflects a decline in participation in facility-based work for individuals and a concurrent growth in participation in non-work services. The [research report](#) is available. It is estimated there are over 5,000 community rehabilitation providers nationally, with 456 in Pennsylvania.

Adult Protective Services Transition Process

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) announced implementation of a transition process for managing protective services investigations for adults with disabilities aged 18 – 59 until the required procurement process for a vendor for investigations can be completed. The anticipated implementation date for a vendor is July 2014. DPW will establish a toll-free hotline for reports of individuals in need of protective services and is developing regulations, which will be distributed for comment prior to initiation of the formal regulatory review process (see related article in *IDD Focus*). In the interim, investigations for adults not enrolled in a DPW service or residents of a DPW-licensed facility will be conducted by the Older Adult Protective Services Agency, DPW staff and contractors, or the Pennsylvania Department of Aging. Priority investigations will begin immediately and, to the extent feasible, face-to-face interviews will be conducted within 24 hours. Law enforcement will be contacted when there is reason to suspect sexual abuse, serious injury, serious bodily injury, or suspicious death. Non-priority investigations will begin within 72 hours of referral of the report. Existing incident management protocols will be used for investigations. The program office may contact the Adult Protective Services Division for assistance with complex incidents. Employees alleged to have committed abuse or neglect must be suspended or, where appropriate and with approval, a plan of supervision may be implemented. Investigations are to be coordinated to the greatest extent possible between facilities, agencies, and law enforcement. The “Dear Colleague” letter and [Adult Protective Services Transition Process](#) is available on the RCPA web site. Address questions to ra-pwarlheadquarters@pa.gov.

PPSC Establishes Non-Profit Organization

The Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PPSC) is a statewide network of people who use their experiences with mental health to support other mental health consumers. Since its creation, PPSC has relied on the support and resources of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers’ Association (PMHCA) for its operational and management guidance and activity. During the past several months, PPSC leadership has been engaged in a strategic planning process leading to the decision to establish PPSC as a non-profit 501(c)3. The group explored various options and opportunities that would allow it to operate and grow under the leadership of its own board of directors with a continued commitment to sustain and expand peer support practices and recovery-focused action. PPSC has assumed the board and operational leadership of a small non-profit corporation, Recovery Connections, and will use that organization’s resource, history, and mission of promoting mental health recovery as the foundation for its new home effective July 1. PPSC will continue to collaborate with PMHCA and other state and local organizations committed to the goals of advancing the quality and quantity of peer-to-peer supports and the services of certified peer support specialists. More information is available from the PPSC web site.

Veteran’s Forum Planned

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) has planned *Community and Connections*, a two-day forum focused on the behavioral health needs of Pennsylvania’s service members, veterans, and their families. Providers and other stakeholders are invited to participate November 6–7 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Harrisburg. Registration information will be distributed by OMHSAS.

■ MEDICAL REHABILITATION

Feedback Needed on IRF Quality Reporting Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is requesting voluntary assistance and input from inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs) related to implementation of the new IRF Quality Reporting Program (QRP) as established in the Affordable Care Act, Section 3004. Input will be obtained via participation in a brief interview from Health Care Innovation Services on behalf of CMS. The interview questions will assist CMS to better understand burdens imposed on providers, how providers ensure accuracy of data, how the QRP has impacted patient services and outcomes, and what CMS can do to improve the program and processes. This valuable information is essential to guiding development of the QRP. Interviews will be conducted by telephone and any reports or supplemental documents submitted to CMS will not link answers to specific individuals or providers. Members interested in participating should contact [Pat Hanson](#).

Chart Describes Therapy Functional Reporting G-Codes

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently released an [educational tool](#) that provides short and long descriptors for each of the 42 non-payable functional G-codes. The tool, *Quick Reference Chart: Short & Long Descriptors for Therapy Functional Reporting G-codes*, also includes severity/complexity modifiers that are used to report functional limitation.

Specialty Guide Developed for CORFs

Novitas Solutions has developed a [specialty guide](#) for Comprehensive Outpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (CORFs). The guide was developed to assist providers in locating the most current policies, procedures, regulations, and billing information to ensure accurate Medicare claims are submitted.

■ CONFERENCES / TRAININGS

September 17 – 18. Aging and Intellectual Disability Cross-systems Conference, [Building Bridges](#). Radisson Hotel. Camp Hill, PA.

October 8 – 11. [A New Commonwealth](#). The 2013 RCPA Conference. Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Champion, PA.

October 23 – 25. [Pennsylvania Disability Employment and Empowerment Summit](#). Radisson Hotel. Camp Hill, PA.

■ MENTAL HEALTH HEADLINES

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Rules Published

Psychiatric rehabilitation services [rules](#) were published in the Pennsylvania Code and effective August 9.

Sponsor the Suicide Prevention Coalition Conference

The 2013 Suicide Prevention Conference is October 16–17 in State College. The conference is presented by the Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative and the Pennsylvania Adult/Older Adult Suicide Prevention Coalition. Sessions will address issues related to youth, adults, and older adults, survivors, family members, and veterans. Keynote speakers include Bobby Smith, retired Louisiana state trooper, who will share his story of courage and resilience after facing traumatic life events and Jordan Burnham, a Pennsylvania young adult, who will share the story of his miraculous survival from a suicide attempt during his senior year of high school. [More information](#) about the conference and sponsorship opportunities is available. Sponsorship agreements must be submitted by September 6.



DDAP Regulatory Review Update

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) licensure policy team reviewed oral comments from the June 24 stakeholder meeting and of all subsequent written comments. DDAP then made additional refinements to general standards regulations responsive to the comments. Before DDAP begins the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) process in September, it offered one final review with comments due August 30. RCPA appreciates DDAP efforts to obtain stakeholder input. The IRRC process is known to move more quickly when all parties have provided input prior to submission. While the general standards reforms are proceeding through the IRRC process, the DDAP licensure policy team will begin reviewing staffing and physical plant sections of the licensing regulations. They intend to follow the same procedure of input and review. RCPA has submitted extensive comments on staffing regulations for DDAP and additional comments have been requested. A RCPA/DDAP meeting will be held in the near future to discuss work group recommendations.

DDAP Secretary Gary Tennis noted, "Please accept my genuine appreciation for the thoughtful (and in some instances, quite demanding) work that you did in ensuring that this round of reforms is of the highest quality—providing robust protections for treatment quality and client safety, while eliminating provisions that have long ceased to serve any useful purpose. I am inspired every day by the level of dedication, experience, and wisdom that characterizes those who have chosen to undertake what I believe to be sacred work."

DDAP Provides TIP Information

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs recently provided information about how to report apparently rogue doctors who are believed to be prescribing addictive controlled substances at grossly inappropriate levels. To report prescription fraud or diversion anonymously text "TIP 411 (847411)." Include the keyword RXTIP in your message or call 215-238-5164.

DDAP STAR Training

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) provider "in person" classroom STAR training continues. More information about the STAR system and state reporting requirements is available [online](#). Reported data in the system includes processes related to referral and screening, assessment and treatment, intervention and continued stay, recovery, and discharge and reporting for all clients funded by the single county authorities. Providers are an integral partner in substance abuse treatment and reporting. Training and materials have been updated and address workflow business processes during an interactive workshop discussion and lab day.

DATES AND LOCATIONS

October 9–11

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(STAR Provider: 9–10; STAR Lab: 11)

Luzerne County Community College Conference Center
1333 S Prospect St
Nanticoke

October 23–25

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(STAR Provider: 23–24; STAR Lab: 25)

Riverview IU #6
270 Mayfield Rd
Clarion

December 11–13

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(STAR Provider: 11–12; STAR Lab: 13)

Fort Indiantown Gap, Bldg 863
Annville

Those interested in attending are required to have a [profile](#) in the Training Management System (TMS). [Seat availability](#) and other information is also available. Those wanting to register must contact Robert Burhannan in the DDAP Training Section to be registered. All requests must be submitted by email (rburhannan@pa.gov). Registration will be open first to providers who have not attended any STAR training. Pennsylvania Certification Board credits will be offered. Questions may be directed to Robert Burhannan (717-783-8200).

IM4Q Management

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Independent Monitoring for Quality (IM4Q) Management Committee reviewed *The Importance of Independent Monitoring for Quality for Pennsylvania's DPW, in particular ODP*. Once finalized this paper will be shared with counties, providers, supports coordinators, and others to address the importance of IM4Q. This is one component of the federal waiver requirement regarding assurances with health and safety. Survey results can be used to improve services and supports for individuals.

Adult Protective Services

The Department of Public Welfare (DPW) has released information regarding the [Adult Protective Services Transition Process](#) for handling protective services investigations for adults with disabilities. The process will be in effect until regulations (which are under development) are finalized and an adult protective services vendor is selected. Linda Drummond participates on the regulations work group. The Adult Protective Services Act (Act 70 of 2010) created this program for those with disabilities between the ages of 18–59 with DPW as the designated administrative component. The act covers individuals who are adult residents with physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities. Questions on the current process may be directed to ra-pwarlheadquarters@pa.gov.

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has released the following information.

- [Announcement #055-13](#): SC Curriculum 2013 Required Training: Understanding Trauma-Informed Care and Stressful Life Events.
- [Informational Memo #056-13](#): Incident Management Point Persons HCSIS Incident Management Demographic Issue. HCSIS point persons have reported the system is failing to pre-populate demographic information on incident reports. Procedures are provided.
- [Informational Memo #057-13](#): Updating Provider and AE Contact Information for Provider Monitoring for Fiscal Year 2013–14.
- [Announcement #058-13](#): SCO Monitoring Tool for FY 13/14. Must be completed by September 27.
- [Informational Memo #059-13](#): PA Secondary Transition Website.
- [Intensive System Therapy Training](#): Five-day series in Philadelphia scheduled September, October, and November. Offered in collaboration with the ODP Dual Diagnosis Initiative.
- [Announcement #060-13](#): Reserved Capacity 2013 Update Webcasts Now Available. New information on reserved capacity for hospital/rehabilitation care per amendments to the Person and Family Directed Supports waiver and clarification of fair hearing timelines and procedures for administrative entity (AE) staff.
- [Announcement #061-13](#): ODP Year 6 Cost Report Instructions and Excel Template for Waiver Direct Service Provider Staff. The cost report will collect data from 2012/13 and will be due to ODP in October 2013. Year 6 cost report instructions and a template have been posted to the ODP Consulting web site and web-based training sessions on completion of these reports will be held September 11 and 17.
- [Announcement #063-13](#): Futures Planning: It's Your Turn! How and When People Can Share Their Thoughts and Ideas about Action Plans. RCPA members providing comments to ODP are requested to also share a copy with [Linda Drummond](#).
- [Announcement #064-13](#): Vacancy Exception Request Form Training. Held on August 26: recorded and available for future reference in the [Provider Information Center](#).

Building Bridges Conference

The 2013 Aging/Intellectual Disability Cross-Systems Conference, *Building Bridges*, is September 17–18, Radisson Hotel, Camp Hill. The agenda and registration details are available [online](#) and in the [conference brochure](#). Several sessions were coordinated by RCPA Policy Specialist Linda Drummond. Examples of session topics include Intellectual Disability and Mental Health Recovery Across the Lifespan: Current Best Practices in Dual Diagnosis, Beyond Barriers: Assistive Technology Solutions for the Home, and Reducing Microviolence in Everyday Lives.

AFP Activities Continue

The Pennsylvania state team of the Alliance for Full Participation (AFP) has a vision for “people with an intellectual disability to obtain employment that includes integration, productivity, independence and quality of life.” The steering committee is focused on being a clearing house for and disseminating information and coordination of projects. Subcommittees include focus on individuals, successful transition, supports coordination outreach, and system change. In 2012, AFP awarded a two-year national agreement to the [Association of People Supporting Employment First](#) to focus on doubling, by 2015, the number of people with developmental disabilities placed in integrated employment. Future regional discussions and webinars will address the employment first movement, policy and legislation, funding restructuring, and transportation benefits counseling.

ODP Futures Planning

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Future’s Planning Workgroup is developing short-term action plans based on eight objectives. RCPA members include Jeff Wilush, Horizon House; Rocco Cambria, AHEDD; and Linda Drummond. The [ODP Consulting web site](#) provides a link to the current recommendations and public comments being requested until September 6. The short-term work groups are crafting action plans to address the following.

1. Each person’s budget is based upon assessed needs and the individual will know and be able to control the services within their budget.
2. Review and revise qualifications so that people will be supported by professionals who are appropriately qualified and trained to their individual needs, including the focus on people with special physical and behavioral health needs.
3. Define a process to support creation of and funding for newer, better, reduced-cost ways to provide services.
4. Identify flexible models of service that can support people’s changing needs in their home communities, including supporting people through a physical or behavioral health crisis.
5. Determine the best and simplest system to manage services to improve outcomes.
6. Gather, examine, and share data to drive changes to systems and ensure quality, including standards for how we describe, present, and use data.
7. Develop design options for a pilot program for managed care for developmental disability services.

Dual Diagnoses Focus Group

RCPA, in cooperation with the Offices of Developmental Programs and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services initiative for those dually diagnosed with intellectual or developmental disabilities and mental illness, convened a focus group to determine next steps. The Health Care Quality Units have started piloting the [current curricula](#) developed over the past year. RCPA members have been asked to share recommendations regarding what providers need to better serve this population such as increased funding, financial incentives for staff to complete training, additional staffing, or regulation changes. These recommendations will be developed into talking points for members and RCPA.

Workforce Toolkit Released

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the National Direct Service Workforce Resources Center have released [Coverage of Direct Service Workforce Continuing Education and Training within Medicaid Policy and Rate Setting: A Toolkit for State Medicaid Agencies](#). The toolkit is designed to present strategies and methods for covering the cost of continuing education and training for the direct service workforce. Information is provided regarding Medicaid payments and offers four potential fee-for-service rate setting models to build training into the state’s rate setting structure.

Comparing ASD Intervention Models

Researchers at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, compared two comprehensive treatment models for autism spectrum disorders (ASD) – *Learning Experiences Alternative Program for Preschoolers and their Parents* (LEAP), which focuses on interactions between children with autism and their typically developing peers and *Treatment and Education of Autistic and Communication-Handicapped Children* (TEACCH), which focuses on structured and predictable activities for students and understanding the “culture of autism.” The comparison of two well-known interventions for young children with autism found that both produce gains among students during the school year. The study also found that high-quality classroom instruction that is not tied to any particular model produces the same gains. Findings suggest that common elements of good classroom instruction including an orderly classroom environment, well-trained teachers, and positive interactions between children and adults may be more important for children with autism than using any particular treatment model. The study was published in the June edition of the *Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*. Among the common features were some form of assessment, progress monitoring, and family involvement.

Many Young Children Won't Have ASD Under DSM-V

A recent study found that over 46 percent of toddlers diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) under the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) will no longer meet criteria under the DSM-V. The new manual imposes a rigorous set of criteria for diagnosis, requiring more total symptoms to be met in the areas of social/communication deficits and repetitive/restrictive behaviors. “The definition of autism has evolved over the years, with previous modifications of the DSM criteria resulting in marked effects on prevalence rates,” wrote author Lindsey W. Williams, Louisiana State University. He observed that “this change is important...because DSM-based diagnoses are widely used by insurance and service providers to qualify individuals for services.” This study evaluated challenging behaviors in 3,339 toddlers aged 17–37 months. Children with the most severe symptoms and challenging behaviors probably will retain ASD diagnoses under the new manual, but investigators expressed concern about the decreased sensitivity of the new requirements stating that “individuals who no longer qualify for an ASD diagnosis will nonetheless continue to have significant behavioral issues warranting behavioral intervention.”

Licensing Update

Pennsylvania is less than six months from the critical date set by the Department of Public Welfare for behavior specialist consultants (BSCs) working with children on the autism spectrum to obtain an independent practice license. In addition to clinical professionals with a current practice license, many BSCs are working to obtain a behavior specialist license from the Board of Medicine. As of July 8, the Department of State reports that it has received 2,078 applications with 403 licenses issued. At that time there were 956 applications with discrepancies requiring additional documents, information, or clarifications. Provider agencies also await release of a bulletin that would confirm that behavior specialist licensing standards will supersede prior Medicaid requirements for a mental health graduate degree.

After Summer Transitions

The Pennsylvania Autism Service, Education, Resource and Training Centers and the Autism Speaks School [Community Toolkit](#) has suggestions, as summer winds down, for children and adults with autism who will most likely experience a change in routine. Whether it's heading back to school, starting college, or returning to work after a vacation, the tips below can help the transition go more smoothly.

- 1. Get organized.** Creating a visual schedule of dates, deadlines, and upcoming events you or your loved one will experience can help make the transition smoother. For some, a social story might be the best option. For others a day planner or other organizer might work best.
- 2. Plan ahead.** Take time to think about what the day will look like and make a plan in advance. Set out clothes; fill book bags, purses, and briefcase with the items needed for the day; and pack snacks or lunch the night before. Try to start this routine in advance of the actual school or work start date.
- 3. Create a space.** Find a spot to keep all of the items needed for the school or work day. Having everything together will help with organization and make step two simpler. A school shelf might contain a book bag, school books, homework, permission slips, lunch money, and a bus pass. A work shelf might contain a work bag, planner, work papers, ID badge or keys, and money for lunch.

Students Championing Youth Suicide Prevention

Pennsylvania's Suicide Prevention Conference is October 16–17 in State College. At the event, the state will honor winners of the public service announcement contest for high school students sponsored by the Pennsylvania Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative. Forty-two entries were submitted in four categories: 60-second video, 30-second video, 15 or 30-second audio, or poster. A Department of Health grant funded the production and printing of professional-quality copies of winning posters. The powerful and impressive student produced videos and posters, with information for ordering, is available [online](#).

Behavioral Health in Primary Care: Models for Working with High-risk Youth

The call for behavioral health integration into primary care has been renewed. Barriers to integration include lack of physician training, inadequate screening tools, reimbursement for behavioral health assessment and treatment, and difficulty accessing behavioral health services. A conference to address these barriers and challenges will provide specific clinical skills for medical staff to help identify, assess, treat, and refer high-risk youth. The conference is September 12 at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and will be available by live webcast at participating locations. [Information and registration](#) is available.

Help Design the "Children's Domain" Focus

The September 4 meeting of the RCPA Children's Committee is the opportunity for child-serving members to participate in the design and development of a member-driven structure for the promotion of practice, policy, and planning for children's services across the association. The meeting is in Harrisburg, but will allow for web-conference participation providing a broad array of core and connected services addressing the needs of special populations. Members will be joined by representatives of state agencies and advocacy groups that collaborate in the work of RCPA members. More information is available from the RCPA [web site](#).

ADHD Medication Impact Study

Increasingly common are stories of children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and other students taking ADHD medicine to boost performance in school. A recent study suggests that there is little evidence that the drugs actually improve academic outcomes. Stimulants such as Ritalin and Adderall are sometimes called "cognitive enhancers" because they have been shown to improve attention, concentration, and certain types of memory in the short-term. A growing body of research finds achievement scores, grade-point averages, or the likelihood of repeating a grade generally aren't any different in children with ADHD who take medication compared with those who don't. Research from the University of Pennsylvania found no cognitive benefit from Adderall taken by students. The study looked at medication usage and educational outcomes of nearly 4,000 students in Quebec over an average of 11 years and found that boys who took ADHD drugs actually performed worse in school than those with a similar number of symptoms who did not. Girls taking the medicine reported more emotional problems, according to a working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research. Janet Currie, an author of the study and director, Center for Health and Wellbeing, noted that "kids may not get the right dose to see sustained benefits, or they may stop taking the medication because side effects or other drawbacks outweigh the benefits." A central question puzzles those researching ADHD: If its drugs demonstrably improve attention, focus, and self-control, why wouldn't grades improve as well?

PCIT Expansion Continues

Pennsylvania is home to a five-year grant-funded project using Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) to compare training models for implementing evidence-based treatment expanding to more counties. Training in Berks and Erie counties is in progress; agencies in Allegheny, Bedford/Somerset, Bucks, Carbon/Monroe/Pike, Chester, Clearfield/Jefferson, Cumberland, Franklin/Fulton, Huntingdon/Mifflin/Juniata, Lackawanna/Susquehanna, Luzerne/Wyoming, Northumberland, and Schuylkill counties begin in September. This initiative, PCIT Across PA, is based at the University of Pittsburgh. The goal is for all 67 counties to have received one of three models of PCIT training. A growing number of RCPA members have adopted PCIT as part of outpatient clinical repertoires, but many report continuing challenges to program sustainability. While funding for some programs have helped offset training and facility development costs, there continues to be significant disparities between operational costs and reimbursement rates along with program underutilization in some communities.

Students and Schools Rely on SAP

Pennsylvania's Student Assistance Program (SAP) is designed and proven to assist schools in ensuring the health, safety, and success of high school and an increasing number of middle and elementary school students. SAP teams are trained to identify issues including alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, and mental health issues which pose a barrier to student success. The primary goal of SAP is to help students overcome these barriers so they can achieve, remain in school, and advance. The structure and operation of the program in Pennsylvania is a unique expression of an integrated model serving the needs of families and their students. Since its creation in 1988 the program has managed 1,218,154 student referrals. These referrals have come from every part of the school community including:

- Teacher/ Instructional staff referrals (475,105),
- School counselor referrals – (234,861),
- Parents/caregivers – (122, 349), and
- Student self-referrals – (77,667).

More than half of the referrals have been for behavior concerns. SAP teams have also been called upon to intervene with academic concerns, attendance problems, and student suicide prevention.

FASD Awareness Month

Pennsylvania observes Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Day on September 9; the ninth day of the ninth month. The formal recognition in 2013 is September 9 at Butler Memorial Hospital. The event is conducted by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs in partnership with the Southwest Pennsylvania FASD Planning Committee. FASD awareness month is an ongoing effort to increase knowledge about the importance of FASD prevention and intervention. The effects of FASD can include physical problems and problems with behavior and learning. Often, a person with a FASD has a mix of these conditions, which can affect each person differently and range from mild to severe. FASDs are caused by a woman drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

- Each year in the US, an estimated 40,000 babies are born with an FASD, making these disorders more common than autism spectrum disorders and a leading preventable cause of intellectual disabilities.
- The cost factor of raising a child with an FASD is significant. A 2011 study found that incurred health costs were nine times higher for children with a FASD. Researchers have estimated the lifetime cost of caring for a person with a FASD to be at least \$2 million.

RCPA members working with adults can play a critical role in prevention efforts. Women in substance use disorder treatment are a high-risk population and, in fact, all women, staff and clients, play a key role in prevention. Members working with children and adolescents are positioned in behavioral health, early intervention, education, child welfare, and other settings to identify children with an FASD, understand the implications, and lead in the design and delivery of interventions.

Health Care Work Group Forms

The Department of Public Welfare will increase its focus on improving health outcomes for children in the state's foster care system. The department has formed a Health Care Work Group to ensure children in the foster care system have access to comprehensive, quality health care through the development of interagency and cross-systems policies and strategies, including the use of emerging technologies. RCPA will be represented. The first meeting is September 11.

UPMC Conducts Study of TBI Treatment

Severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the leading cause of death for children in the US. Children who suffer severe TBI generally receive injuries in motor vehicle and bicycle accidents, falls, sports mishaps, and from child abuse. There is no standard approach for treating TBI. To evaluate various treatments available, researchers from Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health have been chosen by the National Institutes of Health to lead a five-year international study of treatment approaches. The researchers will enroll 1,000 children from as many as 40 medical facilities in the US, United Kingdom, France, Spain, and elsewhere to compare the effectiveness of immediate treatments for TBI, specifically on strategies to lower intracranial pressure, treat secondary injuries, and the delivery of nutrients. The goal is to provide "compelling evidence that can change clinical practices, provide evidence for recommendations for future guidelines, and improved TBI research protocols.

“Fair Share” Premiums for Families With Disabled Children

The 2013/14 Pennsylvania budget includes a new Medicaid premium charge for families of children with disabilities (PH-95 or “MA loop-hole” category) with incomes above \$100,000 per year. In the past, the Department of Public Welfare did not believe implementing the premium was permitted under the Affordable Care Act maintenance of effort protections in place. Prior to passage of the budget, it was anticipated that the department planned to work with advocates to explore federally acceptable approaches to implementing a “fair share” premium that would not create an unreasonable burden for families or health and behavioral health care providers.

Eligibility Will Shift From CHIP to MA

Children’s eligibility for Medicaid will change under the Affordable Care Act. Beginning January 1, 2014 income eligibility for children ages 6–19 will increase to income levels of 133 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). Currently, when a child applies for Medicaid, but the family’s income is over 100 percent of FPL, the child is enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Once the income limits for Medicaid increase, children whose family income meets the new limits will transition from CHIP to Medicaid. To assure that children moving between programs do not experience unnecessary disruptions in health care the Pennsylvania Health Law Project, Community Legal Services, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, and Public Citizens for Children and Youth have submitted [recommendations](#) to the Departments of Insurance and Public Welfare. Recommendations stress the importance of allowing families to choose a health plan that includes their child’s current primary and specialty care providers and encourages the two departments to work together to inform and assist families in that process.

CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER		
Tuesday, September 3	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Drug and Alcohol Committee <i>Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center</i>
Wednesday, September 4	9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Mental Health Committee
	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Children’s Committee <i>Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center</i>
Thursday, September 5	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee
	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Supports Coordination Organizations Subcommittee <i>Best Western Premier Central Hotel & Conference Center</i>
Wednesday, September 11	10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Human Resources Committee <i>RCPA Office</i>
Thursday, September 12	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	IPRC Webinar – Conversion Disorder <i>Webinar</i>
Tuesday, September 17	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Brain Injury Committee <i>RCPA Office</i>
Thursday, September 19	9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bouncebacks: Identifying Acute Readmissions From Inpatient Rehabilitation <i>RCPA Office</i>
Tuesday, September 24	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Criminal Justice <i>RCPA Office</i>
OCTOBER		
Tuesday–Friday, October 8–11		A New Commonwealth: 2013 RCPA Conference <i>Seven Springs, Champion, PA</i>