



RCPA
2017
CONFERENCE

The RCPA Annual Conference: Connections will be held at the Hershey Lodge, October 10–13, 2017. The call for proposals has been released and **proposals are due to RCPA by Friday, March 24**. Special attention will be focused on a series for executive leadership, finance/quality – moving from volume to value, and innovations across membership. The sponsor/exhibitor/advertiser brochure will be available in early March and includes new sponsorship opportunities. Please contact [Sarah Eyster](#) with any questions. ◀

Government Affairs

RCPA Capitol Day

RCPA will be hosting its **2017 Capitol Day** on **Tuesday, April 25**. During the day, RCPA will hold a press conference with administration officials and legislators in the Main Rotunda and members will be asked to visit key legislators to discuss the state budget, legislation, and regulations that affect the day-to-day activities of our members.

We request members to make appointments with their legislators. Once members have made an appointment with their legislator, please contact RCPA to inform us of your appointment time, so we can try to avoid duplicate visits. You can register, as well as find your legislator's contact info, hotel information, and directions on RCPA's [Capitol Day website](#). For questions or suggestions regarding Capitol Day, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀



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©2017. This monthly newsletter is written by the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) for the health and human services communities. Deadline for publication is the 20th of every month or the Friday before.

Governor Wolf Proposes Consolidation of Agencies Over Broad-Based Tax Increases

On February 7, Governor Wolf proposed his third budget to the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In his 2017/18 budget proposal, the Governor offered consolidation of agencies over proposing broad-based tax increases or funding cuts.

The Governor's budget proposal includes the consolidation of four agencies (Department of Aging, Department of Health, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, and the Department of Human Services) into one new and unified Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The Governor also proposed consolidating the Board of Probation and Parole and Department of Corrections into a new Department of Criminal Justice (DCJ); a new DCJ will not produce huge savings but it will streamline criminal justice services.

The Governor's budget proposal estimates by creating a new DHHS it will save the Commonwealth approximately \$90 million in the upcoming fiscal year. By combining agencies, the Governor anticipates savings of:

- ▶ \$45 million by creating a uniform program related to purchasing, dispensing, and monitoring prescription drugs;
- ▶ \$15 million from reducing the number of state health centers;

- ▶ \$7 million through reorganizing and making county assistance offices more efficient;
- ▶ \$8 million by meeting employee complement levels through the consolidation; and
- ▶ \$18 million from improving/streamlining administration, IT, and other efficiency efforts.

According to many, one of the best things to come out of consolidating agencies will be creating a single state agency for Medicaid services, which would help the state maximize federal dollars.

After the Governor's budget address, RCPA released a [statement](#) applauding the Governor's commitment to restructuring state government and how the Commonwealth delivers services to Pennsylvania's aging population, as well as Pennsylvanians with intellectual and physical disabilities, mental health, and substance use disorders. RCPA is generally supportive of the governor's proposal to create a new Department of Health and Human Services, and has offered to partner with the Governor, his staff, and members of the General Assembly on this monumental transformation of state government.

Additional highlights of the Governor's budget proposal include:

- ▶ An increase of the state's minimum wage from the current \$7.25 hourly rate to \$12/hour;
- ▶ A 6.5 percent tax on natural gas drilling, which could produce revenues of approximately \$293 million;
- ▶ Consolidation of the investment offices of the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Employees' Retirement System. Each board will still have decision-making abilities and the consolidation could save as much as \$200 million annually within three years, with a total of \$3 billion by 2050;
- ▶ Increase of \$100 million for public schools (\$65 million in additional funding for the state's Pre-K Counts program and an additional \$10 million for the Head Start Supplemental).

For the most part, members of the General Assembly were cautiously optimistic about the Governor's proposal, and various legislators have contacted RCPA asking for comments and/or recommendations. RCPA is asking members to provide any feedback that they may have on this issue by contacting RCPA policy staff or [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀



RCPA is tracking these [legislative co-sponsorship memos and bills](#). If you have any questions, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), Director of Government Affairs.

New Members

FULL PROVIDERS

Handi-Crafters, Inc.

215 Barley Sheaf Rd
PO Box 72646
Thorndale, PA 19372
Amy Rice, Executive Director

Human Resources Center, Inc.

294 Bethel School Rd
Honesdale, PA 18431
Darlene Glynn, CEO

Keystone Community Resources, Inc.

100 Abington Executive Park, Ste B
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
Laura Brown-Yadlosky, President/CEO

Keystone Independent Living, Inc.

100 Abington Executive Park, Ste B
Clarks Summit, PA 18411
Laura Brown-Yadlosky, President/CEO

As the largest state association of its kind, RCPA continues to look for ways to strengthen its voice. One way to facilitate this is by the recruitment of new members. For new provider members, there are financial incentives for the first two years of membership. If you have questions about membership or know of an organization that would benefit from membership with RCPA, please contact [Tieanna Lloyd](#), Accounts Receivable/Membership Services Manager.

Members in the News

RCPA Member Skills of Central PA Partners for Pre-Employment Training

Skills, Restek Program [Takes Career Training Out of the Classroom](#) (Centre Daily Times).



RCPA-PAC Golf Outing

RCPA will be holding its fourth annual golf outing on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at the beautiful Hershey Country Club. Lunch will start at 11:00 am in the Picard Grand Pavilion. There will be a putting contest at 12:15 pm, followed by a 12:30 pm shotgun start. Every year it is getting bigger and better. There will be representatives from Dixon Golf at the event, and they will offer golfers the opportunity to participate in 'closest to the pin' and 'longest drive challenge' holes. RCPA will again give away prizes for the winning team as well as men's and women's awards for longest drive and closest to the pin. [Registration](#) is now open and RCPA is also looking for various [sponsors](#), ranging from tournament sponsor to gift sponsors. These opportunities are a great way for your organization to get its name out and to help a good cause. Further questions may be directed to [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀

National Council for Behavioral Health
NATCON
CONFERENCE

RCPA Reception at the National Council Conference

RCPA, through the generous sponsorships of our partners, will be hosting a Pennsylvania reception in Seattle on Monday, April 3, 2017, at the Washington State Convention Center. In addition to the opportunity to network with your Pennsylvania colleagues, several national leaders will be attending as well. ◀

Joint Informational Bulletin Provides Guidance on Supporting DMEPOS Access

On January 13, 2017, the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office (MMCO) and the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) issued guidance in a joint informational bulletin, [Strategies to Support Dual Eligible Beneficiaries' Access to Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies](#) (DMEPOS), to state Medicaid agencies on strategies to support dual-eligible beneficiaries' access to DMEPOS. ◀

OMHA Releases New Forms for Requesting ALJ Hearings or Review of Dismissals

The Office of Medicare Hearings and Appeals (OMHA) recently released a new unified Request for Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Hearing or Review of Dismissal (Form OMHA-100) to replace the current Request for ALJ Hearing form (CMS-20034A/B) and Request for Review for Dismissal form (HHS-725). An accompanying Multiple Claim Attachment (OMHA-100A) can be used to identify multiple beneficiaries or enrollees associated with a single request. The OMHA-100 form can be used to request an ALJ hearing or a review of dismissal for all actions that are appealable to OMHA, including appeals of Medicare Part A and Part B claim reconsiderations issued by a Qualified Independent Contractor (QIC) or Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), and Part D coverage reconsiderations issued by an Independent Review Entity (for example, the "Part D QIC"). However, parties or their representatives must follow the appeal instructions that come with a notice of reconsideration or dismissal for specific instructions on how to appeal and where to send a request for an ALJ hearing or review of dismissal. All of the forms are available on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [web page](#). ◀

Regulatory Freeze Delays Bundled Payment Final Rule

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published a final rule; delay of effective date notice in the February 17, 2017 [Federal Register](#) that delays the effective date of the rule, "Advancing Care Coordination Through Episode Payment Models (EPMs); Cardiac Rehabilitation Incentive Payment Model; and Changes to the Comprehensive Care for Joint Replacement (CJR) model." This notice clarifies that, in accordance with the White House's regulatory freeze, provisions of CMS' bundled payment final rule that were to become effective on February 18, 2017, are now delayed until March 21, 2017. ◀

State News

BHSL Redeployed to Offices They Serve

The Department of Human Services is beginning the process of redeploying staff who are currently working in the Bureau of Human Service Licensing (BHSL) to the program offices they serve. For example, BHSL staff that currently license child residential facilities will move to the Office of Children Youth and Families. This move will assist in the coordination of monitoring licensed sites and will reduce duplication and confusion. There will

be one exception: staff who licensed personal care homes and assisted living facilities will remain in BHSL.

The current licensing process created significant problems for RCPA members. RCPA President and CEO Richard Edley, along with several provider members, were part of a small statewide work group organized by Secretary Ted Dallas to discuss the future of BHSL. RCPA is pleased

to report that Secretary Dallas has listened to the feedback of the stakeholders and has decided to make this major change. The announcement was sent out February 10, 2017.

RCPA members are grateful to Secretary Dallas for helping to remove unnecessary burdens on providers and helping to assure that efforts are directed where they should be – to the citizens served. ◀

NHSN Data Submission Deadline Extended for IRF QRP

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently [announced](#) that due to system issues, the February submission deadline for the inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) quality reporting program (QRP) data submitted via the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Health and Safety Network (NHSN) has been extended to May 15, 2017.

The deadline has been extended for the following IRF quality reporting programs, measures, and reporting programs:

May 15, 2017 IRF QRP for Quarter 3 2016

CDC NHSN Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) Measures for quarter 3 2016

- ▶ Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)
- ▶ Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
- ▶ *Clostridium difficile* Infection (CDI)

CMS is granting this extension to provide facilities additional time to submit quality reporting data and run applicable reports to ensure accurate submission. For further assistance regarding the IRF & long-term care hospitals (LTCH) quality reporting programs and policy information, visit the [IRF Quality Reporting Data Submission Deadlines](#) web page. ◀

Complex Rehabilitation Technology Bill Introduced

Representatives Frank James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) and Joe Crowley (D-NY) recently introduced HR 750, "[Ensuring Access to Quality Complex Rehabilitation Technology Act of 2017](#)," to expand and revise the classification of and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items used for neurological conditions or diseases under the Medicare program. These rehabilitation items address conditions relating to traumatic brain injury (TBI), spinal cord injury, and degenerative neuromuscular diseases, among other conditions. Complex rehabilitation technology items include products such as certain power wheelchairs, highly configurable manual wheelchairs, adaptive seating and positioning systems, and other specialized equipment, such as standing frames and gait trainers, which enable individuals to maximize their function and minimize the extent and costs of their medical care. Current Medicare policies often fail to adequately address the needs of individuals with disabilities with regard to the range of services furnished by complex rehabilitation technology suppliers or to recognize and account for the complexity and unique nature of the equipment itself. ◀



CMS Releases Updated IRF PPS Fact Sheet

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released an updated inpatient rehabilitation facility prospective payment system (IRF PPS) [fact sheet](#). The fact sheet provides an update to the IRF quality reporting program (QRP) section. ◀

House Resolution Introduced Recognizing Brain Injury Awareness Month

Representatives Peter Schweyer and Thomas Murt introduced [HCO1343](#), designating March 2017 as “Brain Injury Awareness Month” in Pennsylvania. The co-sponsorship memorandum was issued to all House members, encouraging their support. ◀



Approved OBRA Waiver Amendments

The Department of Human Services (DHS) has announced the recent changes to the OBRA Waiver that have been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Some of the waiver amendments include:

- ▶ Adds five new employment-related service definitions that are replacing two existing employment service definitions. Five employment services have been added (benefits counseling, career assessment, employment skills development, job coaching, and job finding) (C-1/C-3).
- ▶ Corrects the regulatory citation for an Outpatient or Community-Based Rehabilitation Agency provider type in the Occupational Therapy (OT), Physical Therapy (PT), Speech and Language Therapy (SLP) service definitions (C-1/C-3).
- ▶ Clarifies that Personal Assistance Services (PAS) are only available to individuals in the waiver 21 years of age and over. All medically necessary Personal Assistance Services for children under age 21 are covered in the state plan pursuant to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit (C-1/C-3).

The complete service definitions and requirements are now included in an updated [OBRA Waiver document](#). The effective date of these changes was February 1, 2017. The OBRA Waiver [PROPOSED rates](#) for the new Employment Services have also been released. Questions regarding these rates should be directed to 717-783-8412. ◀

Clarification Information for IEB Communication

The Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) recently issued updated information for contacting and submitting documentation to the Independent Enrollment Broker (IEB). All correspondence should be sent to the IEB [via email](#). A team of IEB staff are assigned to respond to inquiries submitted to this resource account. The IEB will review and respond to inquiries within two business days. Referral forms are to be submitted [via email](#) and LCD Alert forms are to be [submitted here](#). For questions regarding this information, please call 717-787-8091. ◀

Free Training Programs Offered by Northampton Community College

Northampton Community College is offering free statewide [training](#) for personal care home staff and administrators, as well as staff licensed agencies serving individuals with intellectual disabilities. The classes will be held in four regions throughout the state: Northeast, West, Southeast, and Central PA. The training is funded by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and each continuing education class is equal to three annual training hours. The [course descriptions and registration information](#) are available on the Northampton Community College website. Registration is required for attendance and can be completed online or by calling 877-543-0998. ◀

CoBI Brain Injury Conference Coming up in March

The Council on Brain Injury (CoBI) “[New Advances in Brain Rehabilitation Conference](#)” is planned for Wednesday, March 22, 2017, in Pittsburgh. CoBI is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to research, advocacy, and prevention of brain injury. Visit the [CoBI website](#) to learn more about the conference and sessions. ◀

Upcoming Webinars Announced by BIAA

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) recently announced their schedule for upcoming [live webinars](#) during the months of March through October 2017. Registration is required to participate and ends two days prior to the date of the live webinar. ◀

Memorial Service and Luncheon Planned in Memory of Barb Dively, ABIN-PA

Barbara “Barb” Anne (Bryan) Dively, 75, of Worcester passed away peacefully at her residence on January 17, 2017. Barb was a founding member, coordinator, and President of the Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania (ABIN-PA). She acquired a brain injury, and after several years of rehabilitating herself to a remarkable recovery, she went on to help others and become one of the most significant advocates of brain injury in the state of Pennsylvania. As the President of the ABIN she was an invaluable resource to the community, by helping individuals and families navigate through the complexities of care and service. Barb’s focus was always “what’s best for the person with the brain injury.” ◀

She recently received a citation from Governor Wolf and was recognized by the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) for her work for the brain injury community. Relatives and friends are invited to attend her memorial service at 11:00 am on Saturday, March 25, at the R.L. Williams, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc., Skippack Pike at Cedars Rd., Skippack, where the family will greet friends from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. The family will also be greeting friends at Trinity Episcopal Church, 708 S Bethlehem Pike, Ambler, PA 19002, immediately following the service. In lieu of flowers [contributions](#) may be made in her memory to ABIN-PA. [Online condolences](#) may be made to the family as well. Additionally, ABIN-PA will be holding their 10th Annual Luncheon, “A Life With Purpose: Tribute to Barbara Dively,” on Saturday, May 6, from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Doubletree Suites, 640 Fountain Road, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. ◀

Physical Disabilities & Aging

Resource for Physical Disability and Aging Providers

The Federal government has organized programs that serve individuals with disabilities and seniors into the Administration for Community Living (ACL) within the US Department of Health and Human Services. Information on the various programs is available at [this link](#).

Now grouped together in ACL are the Administration on Aging, the Administration on Disabilities (including Traumatic Brain Injury), the Center for Integrated Programs, the Center for Policy and Evaluation, the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Information available in the program areas includes descriptions of the funded programs and grant announcements, pilots and demonstrations, reports, research, statistics, and links to relevant legislation. ◀



DOH Issues Guidance for Expanded Services by Home Care Agencies

On February 23, 2017, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) released [guidance](#) to Home Care Agencies and Registries in follow-up to a [policy clarification](#) issued on November 23, 2016, regarding Direct Care Workers Non-Skilled Services in Home and Community-Based Services Settings.

The guidance includes a tool for organizations to use to comply with the Department of Health's Home Care Agency and Registry regulations. The tool describes the consumer characteristics of individuals who can receive non-skilled activities/services, defined as Specialized Care. In addition, it describes the Home Care Agency/Registry responsibility for training and documentation of the direct care worker's competency prior to delivering the Specialized Care. The guidance also establishes guidelines for the inclusion of Specialized Care into an individual's care or service plan. RCPA's policy statement in support of this clarification and guidance for expanded service options is [available here](#). ◀



Wolf Budget Proposes Expansion for Physical Disability and Aging Programs

On February 7, 2017, Governor Wolf unveiled his proposed state budget for Fiscal Year 2017/18. According to the Governor's [Budget-in-Brief](#), "the 2017/18 Budget proposes the consolidation of the Departments of Human Services (DHS), Health (DOH), Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and Aging (PDA) into a new, unified Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to encourage more effective collaboration and service delivery, enhance program effectiveness, reduce administrative costs, and eliminate duplicate positions." For additional information about the proposed unified Department, see the [HHS PowerPoint](#). RCPA has come out in support of this consolidation; see the public statement [here](#).

On pages E23–24 through 26 of the [Governor's Executive Budget 2017/2018](#), the appropriations formerly in the Departments of Aging and DHS Office of Long-Term Living are described. None of these programs are slated for rate increases. In summary, the proposed program expansions are as follows:

Aging and Adult Community Living

- ▶ Overall General Fund growth for Aging and Adult Community Living lines is 8.64%
- ▶ Reflects implementation of Community Health Choices (CHC) effective 1/1/2018 in the Southwest Region

- ▶ The Long Term Care appropriation includes nursing facility, operational contracts, and CHC funding moved from affected OLTJ waivers and related health care appropriations
- ▶ HCBS (Aging waiver) appropriation includes \$12.931 million to fund 1,428 additional participants
- ▶ Long-Term Care Managed Care (LIFE program) appropriation includes \$7.003 million to fund 600 additional participants and \$7.119 million to expand to nine additional counties
- ▶ Services to Persons with Disabilities (OBRA, CommCare, and Independence waivers) appropriation includes \$21.182 million to fund 1,470 additional participants
- ▶ Attendant Care (waiver and Act 150) appropriation includes \$7.961 million to fund 840 additional participants
- ▶ PENNCARE (senior services) appropriation includes \$4.015 million to fund 420 additional participants

A full RCPA budget analysis for all health and human services is pending and will be distributed upon completion. ◀

RCPA Seeking Co-Chair for the Mental Health Committee

RCPA would like to extend its appreciation to Kathy Yarzebinski of Family Services of Western PA, for her decade-long commitment to serving as a Mental Health Committee Co-Chair. With her announced semi-retirement beginning in June, it is timely to identify new co-chairs. Mark Wendell of CenClear has volunteered as a co-chair beginning in April. The committee is in need of another co-chair from the central/eastern regions of the state. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact [Sarah Eyster](#). ◀

Update on OMHSAS Initiatives

RCPA staff continue to meet with OMHSAS leadership about key state initiatives such as:

- ▶ Outpatient regulations being promulgated – at the February Mental Health Committee meeting it was reported that the regulations were returned to OMHSAS for “formatting” issues and were set to return to the governor’s office.
- ▶ CCBHCs – RCPC offered to be the training conduit to the CCBHC agencies, regardless of RCPC membership.
- ▶ Through the Older Adult Work Group, RCPC has been asked to assist with coordinating and hosting training for OLTL – more information to follow on this new request.
- ▶ RCPC will be re-engineering the Rural Work Group in the next months. It will be open to all member types, and will be facilitated by Sarah Eyster and volunteer co-chairs. ◀

Drug & Alcohol

HR 590 Increases Efforts to Assure a Timely Report to the Legislature

The implementation and rollout of the WITS data system will be clearly communicated with all stakeholders. DDAP is working with FEi Systems to develop a timeline for implementation and will provide updates as soon as they are available. As reported earlier, the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) has organized a task force called for by House Resolution 590 of 2016. DDAP held numerous public hearings across the Commonwealth and RCPC had representatives testify at all but one of the seven hearings. The information from these hearings, along with the regulatory review and analytical work of the task force, is being used to create the legislative report which is due to the General Assembly one year from the date of HR 590 passage, which would be May 16, 2017. The first meeting of the task force was held on August 18 and now the task force is meeting weekly. One highlight to mention is that RCPC’s rate setting position paper will be included

with the final report. More information will follow; all questions should be directed to [Lynn Cooper](#), RCPC Director, Drug & Alcohol Division/Western Region Representative. ◀



FROM DDAP**DDAP Moves Forward With New Data System**

The Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) has been lacking a data solution to gather and report Treatment Episode Data System (TEDS) information to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) since September of 2015. DDAP also recognized the need to secure a system to replace its legacy prevention data collection system. DDAP announced that the agency, along with its partners – in the Department of Health, Bureau of Informatics and Information Technology, and the Department of Administration, Office of Information Technology – has completed its evaluation of data systems and awarded the new contract to FEi Systems, Inc. to provide their proven Web Infrastructure for Treatment Services (WITS) solution. FEi is a leading health IT, services, and analysis organization, specializing in health care solutions for federal, state, and local governments. For the past decade, FEi has been at the forefront of the industry in its primary areas of expertise – behavioral health data systems and IT solutions, long term services and supports software solutions, and health IT for federal and state clients.

The data system selected, WITS, is a web-based application that has been in production since 2003, when the pilot customers Iowa, Alaska, and Salt Lake County, Utah, began using the system to collect clinical and TEDS data for reporting. Since that time, the solution is currently in use by 30 states and counties for a wide variety of clinical, contract, billing, and case management services. DDAP will join the WITS User Group (WUG) that will enable coordination, collaboration, and cost sharing among the other states using the WITS solution. The WITS solution will provide SCAs, providers, and DDAP with a single integrated system to collect treatment and prevention data that satisfies mandatory government reporting requirements for the planning, administration, and monitoring of behavioral health treatment programs, prevention programs, and federal grant management programs. ◀

FROM NAADAC**Meet the New Drug Czar: Kemp Chester**

On the 20th of January, Kemp Chester became the new Acting Director of the [Office of National Drug Control Policy \(ONDCP\)](#), replacing Michael Botticelli. Acting Director Chester has been the Associate Director for the National Heroin Coordination Group at ONDCP since October 2015. Before moving to the ONDCP, Chester was the Senior Director for National Security and Intelligence at a private sector consulting firm in Washington, DC. Acting Director Chester also served in the US Army for 27 years, including service as the Deputy Director for Intelligence of the Americas Regional Center and Chief of the Office of Counternarcotics Worldwide at the Defense Intelligence Agency. ◀

IDD

Vocational Facility Group Counseling Underway

The state Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) has started to provide group counseling at vocational facilities that hold 14(c) certificates. The federal Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) requires all individuals being paid subminimum wage after July 22, 2016, to receive employment counseling every six months during the first year of employment and annually thereafter. Group employment counseling from OVR at the program site will satisfy this WIOA requirement. If counseling is not provided, individuals may be entitled to receive minimum wage “back pay.” If a vocational provider has not yet been visited by OVR and needs the mandatory group counseling at its site, they are encouraged to contact OVR’s Dana Baccanti via [email](#) or by calling 717-772-1656. ◀





Governor Wolf Includes New IDD Funding in Proposed Budget

Even though a bleak fiscal picture exists in Harrisburg, the state budget proposed by Governor Wolf included \$196 million in new state funds to support people with intellectual disabilities and autism. This is about an 11% increase over last year. Most of ODP's state funds draw a federal one-to-one match, which means ODP's overall budget could near \$4 billion if the budget is approved as proposed. The following represents additional detail included in the Governor's Executive Budget:

- ▶ \$109.8 million for increases in utilization and cost to serve individuals already in service.
- ▶ \$54.8 million for rate increases – this is said to include both “rebasement of rates” and includes the cost of moving residential services from a cost-based system to a fee schedule.
- ▶ \$9.4 million for the added costs connected to the Community Participation Support service definition proposed in ODP's waiver renewal application.
- ▶ New initiative: 1,000 individuals currently on the waiting list will be served in a new “intermediate waiver” (also known as “supporting families” waiver). If approved, there would be a \$70,000 cap, and no residential services would be included.
- ▶ New initiative: 820 high school graduates with intellectual disabilities or autism to be served in the Person/Family-Directed Services (P/FDS) waiver (close to full-year funding so there is no gap between graduation and adult services).
- ▶ New initiative: 2,000 individuals would get Targeted Support Management (TSM).
- ▶ New initiative: 50 individuals from the interest list will be served in the adult autism waiver.
- ▶ New initiative: The P/FDS waiver cap will go up by \$15,000 for any individual who is engaged in competitive-integrated employment.

Now that the governor has proposed his budget, House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings will be held during which members of Governor Wolf's cabinet will answer questions about their respective agency budget proposals. ODP's funding is included in the Department of Human Services (DHS) budget. The House will hold its appropriations hearing for DHS on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at 10:00 am in Room 140 of the Main Capitol Building. The Senate will hold a single hearing for the Departments of Human Services, Aging, Health, and Drug and Alcohol Programs on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 10:00 am in Hearing Room 1 of the North Office Building (the joint hearing is due to Governor Wolf's proposal to merge the four agencies, creating a new Health and Human Services Department). After the appropriations hearings are completed, the full Pennsylvania General Assembly will then debate Governor Wolf's proposed budget and pass a budget for the governor's signature before the new state fiscal year starts on July 1, 2017. ◀

Changes Made to Community Participation Definition

In response to the serious concerns raised by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and providers of services about the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) proposal to limit the amount of time a person could receive in-facility community services, ODP has decided to move forward with an alternative set of requirements for its new Community Participation Support service definition. A summary of ODP's new proposal can be found [here](#). Key changes include:

- ▶ The 50% and 75% requirements are gone (25% remains – must be met by September 2018).
- ▶ Applies to individuals who spend three or more days per week at a service location.
- ▶ In addition to other exception criteria, an individual's choice would be allowable exception,

"after demonstration of direct experience/opportunities."

- ▶ Clarifies that the new facility size limit of 25 and the existing facility limit of 150 would be based on daily attendance. The existing facility limit must be met by March 2019.
- ▶ Changes from 18 months to 24 months to secure a Certified Employment Support Professional credential (CESP) or an Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators (ACRE) approved training.

In December, ODP unveiled its waiver renewal proposal for its Consolidated and Person/Family-Directed Supports waivers. In that proposal, ODP included a new service definition that would in effect collapse prevocational and day habilitation services into a single definition. In addition, that new

service would include new out-of-facility versions of the in-facility services, as well as introduce a new "hub" concept where individuals would meet to decide their plans for the day. While there was support for the concept of offering flexibility and greater opportunities to engage in community activities, opposition was expressed to the provisions that forced a person to spend 75% of their time during the week outside a licensed vocational facility or licensed adult training facility. RCPA agreed with those who opposed these arbitrary and unnecessary limitations (see RCPA [position paper](#)), and is pleased that ODP has decided to move forward with an alternative set of requirements.

The Chairman of the House Human Services Committee, Representative Gene DiGirolamo, has scheduled a legislative hearing on this issue for Monday, March 13, 2017. RCPA is expected to testify. ◀



Children's Steering Committee

The Children's Division consists of over 125 RCPA members who provide an array of children's services. Priority setting for the division is done through a Steering Committee. The Children's Steering Committee is a group of 12–15 individuals from child-serving member agencies/organizations. The committee is responsible for guiding the actions and establishing goals and objectives to move priorities forward. The committee is co-chaired by Tammy Marsico from The Children's Institute and Garrett Trout from TrueNorth Wellness. The committee members represent services across the continuum of care for children, youth, and their families. It is imperative that members also represent various regions across the state. Presently, the committee is assessing the current membership to determine the need to fill open slots and the potential for additional member participation. There are a number of providers who have expressed an interest. A formal invitation for participation will be sent in a separate correspondence. ◀

"Reboot" of the School-Based Behavioral Health Services Work Group

A co-chair for a school-based work group is being sought. We are looking for an individual who has experience with implementation of school-based behavioral health (SBBH) services, an individual who does NOT provide services in southwest PA (our current co-chair, Barb Saunders, is from that region), and who is an active participant with RCPA-related activities, particularly attendance/participation with Children's Division meetings. Interested individuals can email [Robena Spangler](#); please copy [Barb Saunders](#) as well. Thank you! ◀

Intensive Behavioral Health Services Regulations

The newly proposed Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) regulations will significantly change the way that services formerly called Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services are provided. The newly proposed regulations will also provide regulatory standards and best practices for ABA (applied behavioral analysis), as well as regulatory standards for evidence-based practices, group therapeutic programs, and individual/family services and programs. OMHSAS created two work groups: IBHS Regulations and IBHS Payment Regulations. Reportedly, 70–75 individuals from the provider community, clinicians, family members, and mental health advocates worked with state leadership to collectively influence the development of the final draft regulations. Kudos to DHS and the Children's Bureau for truly engaging stakeholders throughout the process! ◀



Events subject to change; members will be notified of any developments

March

Wednesday, March 1	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Finance Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, March 2	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Outpatient Rehabilitation Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Monday, March 6	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	BHECON Forum <i>Pittsburgh Marriott North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive Cranberry Township, PA</i>
Monday, March 6	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Developing System-Wide Autism Competence <i>Penn Grant Centre and Webcast</i>
Thursday, March 9	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Medical Rehabilitation Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, March 14	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, March 15	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Brain Injury Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, March 16	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, March 21	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, March 28	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	SE Regional Meeting <i>NHS, 350 Sentry Parkway, Building 640; 2nd Floor. Blue Bell, PA</i>
Tuesday, March 28	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EDT	IPRC Annual Membership <i>Webcast</i>
Wednesday, March 29	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Children's Steering Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, March 30	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	NE Regional Meeting <i>Children's Behavioral Health Services, Inc., 104 Woodward Hill Road, Edwardsville, PA</i>

April

Tuesday, April 4	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm EDT	IPRC Webinar – Brain Injury and Juvenile Justice: Implications for Pediatric Rehabilitation
Tuesday, April 11	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, April 11	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Drug & Alcohol Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Wednesday, April 12	9:30 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mental Health Committee Criminal Justice Committee Children's Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, April 13	9:30 am – 11:30 am 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Supports Coordination Organization Subcommittee Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Tuesday, April 18	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, April 25		RCPA Capitol Day <i>Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA</i>