



## RCPA Capitol Day 2018 a Success

On Tuesday, April 17, RCPA held its annual Capitol Day in Harrisburg. Over 150 RCPA members and clients rallied inside the Capitol to ensure the 2018/19 budget includes adequate funding for vital, life-changing social services that help millions of Pennsylvanians each year.

"The funding received through the state budget supports vital needs within the Commonwealth and allows providers to care for the health and well-being of our most vulnerable residents," said RCPA President and CEO Richard S. Edley, PhD. "Millions of Pennsylvanians use these programs and services supported by the state budget. It is imperative for legislators to ensure these individuals and families have access to the care they need by allocating adequate funding."

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RCPA congratulated the 2018 Prevent Suicide PA PSA Contest for Youth Suicide Prevention Winners and thanked them for coming to #RCPACapitolDay. Hayley Keys and Alyssa Snook gave insightful, moving speeches about their inspiration for their winning projects.

For more information and a full list of participants, visit the [contest web page](#).



(L to R) RCPA President/CEO Richard Edley, 2018 60-Second Video Winner Hayley Keys (partner Sam Brandt, not pictured), 2018 Poster Winner Alyssa Snook (partner Desiree Spicher, not pictured), Prevent Suicide PA Project Coordinator Rose Milani, and Lenape Valley Foundation CEO Alan Hartl.



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MAY 2018

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©2018. 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.

## Members in the News

[RCPA Member Elwyn Empowers Nationwide Technology Network with Comcast Business Ethernet, Internet and Phone](#)

[RCPA Member Keystone Human Services Strengthens Commitment to Community Services for People with Disability with Acquisition of New Jersey-Based Partnerships for People](#)

[Congratulations to RCPA member My Independence At Home, LLC for Being Awarded the Small Business Administration's Eastern Pennsylvania District Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year!](#)

[Governor Wolf Announces Centene Management Company to Expand into Pennsylvania, Creating Nearly 300 Blair County Jobs](#)

[Second Annual Dance the Night Away with Hope Set for May 4](#)

[Family Services of NW PA Opens New Psychiatric Outpatient Clinic in Erie](#)

[NHS Introduces New Name and Logo as "Merakey"](#)

[Devereux Advanced Behavioral Health Launches Organizational Redesign to Propel the Historic Nonprofit to New Levels of Excellence](#)

[Congratulations to CEO Mike Hopkins and the Children's Service Center for the grand opening of their newest facility on April 20, 2018](#)

[Wolf Administration Visits Community Behavioral Health Clinic – RCPA Member Berks Counseling Center](#)



Visit the [RCPA website](#) for up-to-date information on legislation, meetings, trainings, and other industry developments. ◀



### **INPERIUM, INC.**

120 Prospect St, Reading, PA 19606  
Ryan Smith, President/CEO  
Northeast Region

The Inperium Affiliation includes the following organizations:

- Affinity Forensic Services, LLC, Jay Deppeler, Executive Director
- Alvarium Healthcare, Inc., Justin Hymon, Executive Director
- Children's Home of Reading – Youth & Family Services, Inc., Vincent LaSorsa, Executive Director
- Community Prevention Partnership, Barbara Werner, Executive Director
- Edison Court, Inc., Kristin DeForest, Executive Director
- Harmonycrest Personal Care Services, Justin Hymon, Executive Director
- PDCCS, LLC dba Person Driven Clinical Solutions, Guy Legare, Executive Director
- Supportive Concepts for Families, Inc., Justin Hymon, Executive Director
- Youth Services Agency, Kristin DeForest, Executive Director

### **RECOVERY CENTERS OF AMERICA**

2017 Renaissance Blvd, King of Prussia, PA 19406  
Michael Britcher, Corporate Director – Outpatient  
Southeast Region

### **BUSINESS MEMBER THERAP SERVICES**

562 Watertown Ave, Ste 3, Waterbury, CT 06708  
Michelle Saunders, Business Development Consultant

### **THE RAMSAY GROUP**

2101 Market St, #3306, Philadelphia, PA 19103  
Anne Walton, Managing Partner

*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.*

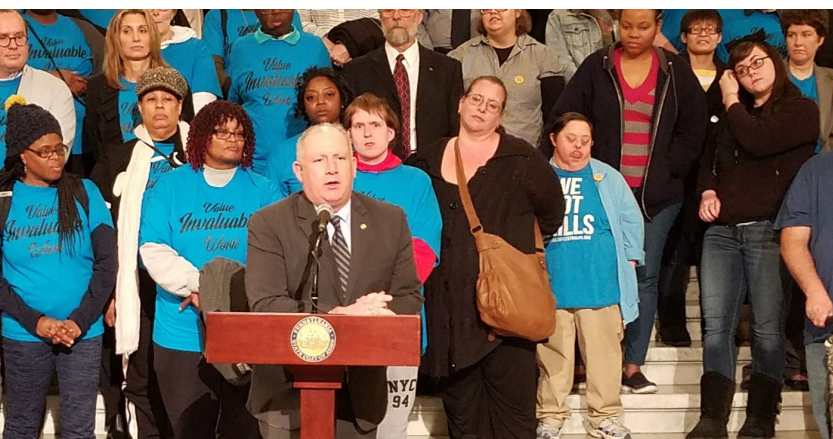


RCPA Capitol Day continued from front page

Other speakers at the rally included:

- ▶ **Alan Hartl**, CEO, Lenape Valley Foundation
- ▶ **Richard S. Edley**, PhD, President/CEO, RCPA
- ▶ **Sen. Bob Mensch** (R-Bucks)
- ▶ **Rep. Gene DiGirolamo** (R-Bucks)
- ▶ **Rep. Dan Miller** (D-Allegheny)
- ▶ **Rep. Kathy Watson** (R-Bucks)

RCPA's key budget concerns center on sufficient funding for health and human service providers, addressing the waiting list for intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) services, minimum wage changes and supporting direct support professionals and providers, and fighting the opioid epidemic. ◀



## RCPA Annual Conference

### Sponsor, Exhibit, and Advertise at 2018 RCPA Conference: Fueling the Future

Join RCPA as it hosts its 2018 conference October 2 – 4 at the Hershey Lodge. The Conference Committee is excited to release this year's [Sponsors, Exhibitors, and Advertisers brochure](#), with new opportunities to get in on the action – from exhibit hall to an awards luncheon and everything in between.

Don't miss your chance to be seen and to support the work of this dynamic organization! The event is a highlight for the Pennsylvania mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children's, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging provider community. ◀

### Sign Up Now

The deadline for inclusion in all digital materials is July 31. Sponsors, exhibitors, and advertisers who wish to be listed on the website, the mobile app, and in the online conference program must adhere to that deadline.

The association looks forward to welcoming you at the conference! Space and opportunities are reserved on a first come, first-served basis and no reservation is considered complete without payment. For additional questions, please contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator. ◀

## RCPA Seeks Nominations for Annual Awards

RCPA will host its annual conference at the Hershey Lodge on October 2 – 4, 2018. At this large-scale, statewide event, the RCPA board of directors wants to continue the important tradition of recognizing individuals and organizations/facilities for their dedication and commitment to service. The following award categories have been created for this event and recognition:

- ▶ **Community Leadership Award:** Presented to an individual in recognition of extending service and knowledge to the community at large, and efforts in helping the community understand the needs of individuals served by RCPA members. This can be for specific or short-term significant acts, or to recognize a career-long body of work.
- ▶ **Exemplary Service to RCPA Award:** Presented to an individual or organization/facility that has shown a strong commitment and dedication in service to the association, its members, and related issues.
- ▶ **Innovation Award:** Presented to an individual or organization in recognition of significant innovation. Examples include cross-systems integration, physical/behavioral health integration, and implementation of new technologies.
- ▶ **Legislative Leadership Award:** Presented to an individual who has shown significant leadership and

commitment to government affairs and legislative issues, on behalf of RCPA and its members.

- ▶ **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Presented to an individual in honor of his/her significant, consistent, and enduring contribution throughout his/her career in support and furthering of the field.

At this time, RCPA is accepting nominations through an open solicitation of members (e.g., designated contact person, CEOs/executive directors, staff) and RCPA committees. Members may nominate one or more individuals/organizations in one or more categories. Nominations will be reviewed by a sub-group of the board of directors to make recommendations for final selection and approval by the full board.

Include the name/organization (if applicable) of the nominee, the award category, and a statement about why you believe the individual/organization should be honored. **Nominations should be made by Friday, June 1, 2018.** Please send nominations to [Cindy Lloyd](#).

Award recipients are not limited to RCPA members and every award may not be presented annually. Please join the association in continuing this tradition and in offering nominations for those who deserve recognition for their significant contributions. ◀



## HB478 – Outpatient Psychiatric Oversight Act Passes Senate

On Wednesday, the State Senate passed HB478 – the Outpatient Psychiatric Oversight Act - unanimously (49 – 0). The Senate made technical amendments to the bill, so the bill will now be sent back to the House for a concurrence vote. Once the House votes to concur with the Senate amendments, the bill will head to the Governor’s desk for his signature. The bill was introduced by Rep. Tina Pickett (R – Bradford) after being contacted by RCPA members in her district. RCPA worked with Rep. Pickett, Garth Shipman, Executive Director of the House Insurance Committee, Senator Lisa Baker (R – Luzerne), and Mike Cortez, Executive Director of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee through the legislative process.

Under this legislation, an outpatient psychiatric clinic is required to have a psychiatrist on site for two (2) hours of psychiatric time per week for each full-time equivalent treatment staff member employed by the outpatient psychiatric clinic. HB478 permits fifty-percent of the required onsite psychiatric time be provided by an advanced practice professional specializing in behavioral health with prescriptive authority in this Commonwealth. Telepsychiatry provided by a psychiatrist that is not on site with prescriptive authority in the Commonwealth may be utilized with a service description approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS) but shall not be included in the required psychiatric time required. DHS is directed to promulgate regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this act.

HB 478 defines the following terms:

“Advanced practice professional.” A registered, licensed or certified health care practitioner who has gained additional specialized knowledge, skills and experience through a program of study in that specialty. A Person who:

- (1) (I) holds a current Pennsylvania license as a certified registered nurse practitioner with a mental health certification; or
- (II) obtains a mental health certification within two years of being hired by a psychiatric outpatient clinic or within two years of the effective date of this section, whichever is later; or

- (2) (I) holds a current pennsylvania license as a physician assistant with a mental health certification; or

- (II) obtains a mental health certification within two years of being hired by a psychiatric outpatient clinic or within two years of the effective date of this section, whichever is later.

“Full-time equivalent.” Thirty-seven and one-half hours per week.

“Interactive Audio and Video”. Real-time two-way or multiple-way communication between a psychiatrist and an individual.

“Outpatient psychiatric clinic.” A nonresidential treatment setting in which psychiatric, psychological, social, educational and other related services are provided under medical supervision. It is designed for the evaluation and treatment of individuals of any age with mental illness or emotional distress. Outpatient services are provided on a planned and regularly scheduled basis.

“Psychiatrist.” A physician who has completed at least three years of a residency in psychiatry and is licensed to practice psychiatry in this Commonwealth.

Questions, contact RCPA Director of Government Affairs [Jack Phillips](#). ◀



## Funding for Health and Human Service Providers

RCPA supports an increase in funding for needed services, both in fee-for-service programs and through managed care programs. Reimbursement rates are fundamental in determining whether providers have the resources they need to support high-quality care — resources for salaries sufficient to attract and retain qualified staff, for equipment and materials to create a quality program and healthy and safe learning environment, and for other expenses. Not adequately addressing funding makes it difficult for providers to maintain high-quality care. Reimbursement rates also have a major impact on high-quality providers' ability to serve low-income families and their children, so increasing funding levels addresses the capacity and availability of critically needed programs. ◀

## Corman Would Like to See Senate Action on Redistricting

Responding to questions from reporters on Monday, Senate Majority Leader Jake Corman (R-Centre) said he would like to see his chamber act this spring on legislation to change how redistricting is done in Pennsylvania. The comments from Corman came ahead of today's hearing in the Senate State Government Committee on redistricting. Sen. Mike Folmer (R-Lebanon) is chairing this second hearing on changing the process by which state legislative and congressional seats are redistricted to reflect the 2020 census. Corman said he hopes a bill "in the spirit of Senate Bill 22" can emerge from Folmer's committee next month so it could win passage before lawmakers wrap up the spring session in June. Creating a new commission requires amending the state Constitution, and the window for doing that this session is rapidly closing: Lawmakers face a July 6 deadline for initial action if they want to meet all the constitutional provisions for altering the Pennsylvania Constitution before the next redistricting in 2020.

Getting something through both chambers of the Legislature by July 6 would give the Department of State three months to draw up a ballot question and properly advertise it before the November 6 general election. However, that ballot question cannot be submitted to Pennsylvania's electorate for an actual vote until the exact same constitutional amendment is approved in the coming 2019–20 legislative. SB 22, sponsored by Sens. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton) and Mario Scavello (R-Monroe), would create an eleven-member commission composed of registered Democrats, registered Republicans, and those having affiliations with neither party to redraw seats. A similar bill had been in the House State Government Committee until recently, when the committee amended it to create a six-member redistricting commission selected by lawmakers. The issue has gained some momentum after the Pennsylvania Supreme Court tossed out the existing congressional district plan and substituted a new plan for the 2018 election. (Source: Capitolwire: UndertheDome™, 4/24/18) ◀

## Legislative Tracking Report

RCPA is constantly tracking various policy initiatives and legislation that may have positive or negative effects on our members and those we serve — so for your convenience, RCPA has created a [legislative tracking report](#). You can review this tracking report to see the legislative initiatives that the General Assembly may undertake during the 2017/18 Legislative Session by clicking on the policy area at the bottom of the spreadsheet. If you have questions on a specific bill or policy, please contact [Jack Phillips](#). ◀

## RCPA/RCPA-PAC Golf Outing

Calling all golfers — we still have room for you to [register](#) for RCPA/RCPA-PAC's annual golf outing at the beautiful Hershey Country Club, 1000 East Derry Road, Hershey, PA 17033 on Thursday, May 17! Registration begins at 10:30 am, lunch begins at 11:00 am, followed by a putting contest (all putting contest proceeds goes to PAC) and 12:30 pm shotgun start. Dixon Golf will also be in attendance running a longest drive and closest to the pin contest, and new this year will be Dixon Golf's \$20,000 Challenge Shootout. Players buy a chance to raise \$10,000 for RCPA-PAC and \$10,000 for yourself!!!

Golf hole and prize sponsorships are still available; we hope you will consider becoming a sponsor. It is a great way for your organization to get noticed and an opportunity to support a worthy cause. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact [Joyce Kutzner](#). Additional questions, please contact [Jack Phillips](#). ◀

## The \$75k Challenge

Now, more than ever, health and human services providers need to be proactive in helping elected officials work towards common sense solutions in the areas of workforce, tax, regulation, health care, and human services.

The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association Political Action Committee (RCPA-PAC) is challenging members to help us raise \$75,000 — specifically, we are looking for 75 member organizations to raise \$1,000 each. Members can raise the \$1,000 by doing a number of fun activities and including staff, such as staff members pay \$5 to wear jeans, or let your employees buy a chance to throw a pie in the CEO's face. We need YOU and YOUR STAFF to help us reach this goal, because it provides an avenue for our members and staff to make a meaningful impact on the political process. **Our goal is to reach this amount by the end of this fiscal year, June 30, 2018.**

Interested in learning about more fun ideas to raise money for RCPA-PAC or interested in donating now? Please visit our website, download the [PAC FAQ Card](#), [Donation Card](#), or email [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs.

*Your participation in the RCPA-PAC is completely voluntary and you may contribute as much or as little as you choose. Donations are not tax-deductible and will be used for political purposes. You may choose not to participate without fear of reprisal. You will not be favored or disadvantaged by reason of the amount of your contribution or decision not to contribute. ◀*

## Funding Concerns Related to an Increase in the Minimum Wage

Governor Wolf's 2018/19 budget proposal includes an increase to the Commonwealth's minimum wage. The governor's plan would immediately raise the minimum wage to \$12 per hour from the current wage rate of \$7.25 per hour, and then index that new rate to inflation. On the surface this would appear to be the easiest way to support an increase to direct support professionals (DSPs) and begin to move toward a true living wage. Therefore, RCPA is 100% supportive of an increase to the minimum wage because an economic investment in staffing improves recruitment and retention efforts. It is critical, however, that this increase be addressed in the budget such that it does not become an unfunded mandate. ◀



## Supporting the Governor's Emergency Declaration for the Heroin/Opioid Epidemic

Pennsylvania is experiencing an opioid crisis of unprecedented proportions. The Commonwealth must have a strong and expanding network of drug and alcohol treatment programs and providers to address the serious problems that are leading to the disability and death of its citizens. It is crucial that the full continuum of services be supported. One size does not fit all when it comes to substance use disorder treatment. In addition, strong support must be given to medication assisted treatment (MAT). This treatment has proven to be very effective for persons struggling with an opioid addiction.

For more information about our 2018/19 budget recommendations for health and human services, visit this [link](#). ◀

## Waiting List Initiative is Needed

There are over 13,000 individuals waiting for services through IDD waivers. Of these, over 5,000 have been assessed as being in the emergency needs category. The state budget must continue to support funding to address this situation and to make a true impact in this area. ◀



## Uniform PAC Outcomes Measures Discussed at MedPAC Meeting

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) convened their last public meeting on April 5–6, 2018. During the meeting, there was a session on claims-based outcomes measures for post-acute care (PAC) where MedPAC staff presented on a comparison of several performance measures they are developing with an external contractor, Providigm, to assess PAC quality of care. The measures include readmission rates within the PAC stay, readmission during 30 days post discharge, and a Medicare Spending Per Beneficiary resource use measure. The slides from the presentation and transcript from the meeting can be found [here](#). ◀

## Coverage of Next Generation Tests Ensures Enhanced Access for Cancer Patients

In mid-March, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a National Coverage Determination (NCD) that covers diagnostic laboratory tests using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) for patients that have advanced cancer (i.e., recurrent, metastatic, relapsed, refractory, or Stages III or IV cancer). CMS believes when these tests are used as a companion diagnostic to identify patients with certain genetic mutations that may benefit from US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved treatments, these tests can assist patients and their oncologists in making more informed treatment decisions. Additional information is available in the CMS [press release](#). ◀

## Release of HHS Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Action Plan

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) its release of the [Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Action Plan](#), required by Section 13002 of the 21st Century Cures Act. The Action Plan includes recent and planned actions from HHS, the Department of Labor, and the Department of the Treasury related to ongoing implementation of the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008 (MHPAEA), based on written comments from stakeholders and input from a public listening session held in July 2017. MHPAEA applies to employment-based large group health plans and health insurance issuers choosing to provide mental health and substance use disorder coverage, and requires that limitations on such benefits not be more restrictive than limitations on medical and surgical benefits. ◀

# State News

## Capitolwire: As Wolf's Decision About Workers' Comp Drug Formulary Bill Looms, he Announces Executive Actions to Address Opioids in Workers' Comp.

***Legislative Republicans, business groups continue criticism of Wolf for expected veto of Senate Bill 936, express skepticism of Wolf's "future possible actions."***

By Chris Comisac, Bureau Chief, Capitolwire

HARRISBURG (April 26) – With his decision regarding a Workers' Compensation drug formulary bill looming, Gov. Tom Wolf on Thursday announced what his administration called "executive action to curb overprescribing of opioids in Workers' Compensation."

"Pennsylvania's injured workers must have access to reliable, safe, and effective prescription drugs that assist their recovery and ability to re-enter the workforce, while keeping in mind the need to safely and appropriately prescribe all medications, including and especially opioids," said Wolf in a statement announcing the executive action. "My administration is taking these steps to limit overprescribing of opioids to injured workers, limit expensive opioid-based medications, and combat the potential for opioid abuse without rationing health care for millions of workers who could be injured on the job or severely limiting treatment options for workers and their doctors beyond opioids. Read full article [here](#). ◀

## Space Still Available for IRF Quality Reporting Training in Baltimore

Registration remains open for providers interested in attending a free two-day, in person training session on the inpatient rehabilitation facility quality reporting program (IRF QRP). The session, scheduled for Wednesday, May 9 – Thursday, May 10, 2018 in Baltimore, MD will be hosted by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The primary focus of this “Train-the-Trainer” event will be to provide those responsible for training staff at

IRFs with information about IRF QRP changes and updates to the Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility–Patient Assessment Instrument (IRF-PAI) v. 2.00, effective October 1, 2018. Topics will include information on new items, including those associated with the drug regimen review quality measure. Presenters will also discuss resources available on the [CMS website](#), support available through the IRF help desks, public reporting, and use of reports to aid providers in better understanding the IRF QRP.

Additional information, including the [registration](#) page and [agenda](#), is posted on the CMS website. Interested providers are encouraged to register as soon as possible as the in-person training is limited to the first 200 people on a first-come, first-served basis. The training will not be available via webcast, but will be available via a link from the IRF QRP training web page after the training has completed. ◀

## CMS Change Request Geared Toward Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued revised Change Request (CR) 10531 ([MLN Matters Number: 10531](#)). The article, “Claims Processing Actions to Implement Certain Provisions of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018,” was revised and provides direction to Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to reprocess claims related to several provisions of the [Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018](#). The initial MLN article was released on March 26, 2018. On February 9, Congress passed the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which contains a number of provisions that extend certain Medicare Fee For Service (FFS) policies, including Ambulance add-on payment provisions and a three percent home health Rural Add-on Payment. In addition, the Act permanently repeals the outpatient therapy caps beginning on January 1, 2018, while retaining the requirement to submit the KX modifier for services in excess of the prior cap amounts. Due to the retroactive effective dates of these provisions, various Medicare FFS claims shall be reprocessed. This CR provides guidance to MACs regarding Medicare FFS claims reprocessing requirements and time frames. ◀

## Reminder: IMPACT Act Transfer of Health Measures Open for Public Comment

In mid-March, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 ([IMPACT Act](#)) transfer of health measures for public review and comment. CMS contracted with the RTI International and Abt Associates to develop cross-setting post-acute care transfer of health information and care preferences quality measures in alignment with the IMPACT Act. As part of its measure development process, CMS is requesting comments on two draft measure specifications, including:

1. Medication Profile Transferred to Provider; and
2. Medication Profile Transferred to Patient.

Additional information is provided on the [public comment page](#) on the CMS website. The public comment period closes on May 3, 2018. ◀

## OIG Releases Report About Compliance With Medicare Claims for Outpatient Therapy Services

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for Health and Human Services released a report, [Many Medicare Claims for Outpatient Physical Therapy Services Did Not Comply With Medicare Requirements](#). According to their review, 61 percent of Medicare claims for outpatient physical therapy services did not comply with Medicare medical necessity, coding, or documentation requirements. The noted overpayments occurred because the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services’ (CMS) controls were not effective in preventing unallowable payments for outpatient physical therapy services. The OIG provided the following recommendations to CMS:

(1) instruct the Medicare Administrative Contractors (MAC) to notify providers of potential overpayments so that those providers can exercise reasonable diligence to investigate and return any identified overpayments, in accordance with Medicare guidelines; (2) establish mechanisms to better monitor the appropriateness of outpatient physical therapy claims; and (3) educate providers about Medicare requirements for submitting outpatient physical therapy claims for reimbursement. ◀



## DOH Submits Grant Applications for ACL TBI Partnership Program Grant

The Pennsylvania Department of Health's (DOH) Bureau of Family Health (BFH) has submitted grant applications for the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) State Partnership Program Mentor State Funding Grant, as well as the ACL, TBI State Partnership Program Partner Grant. A state is only permitted to be awarded one grant, according to ACL.

Through the Mentor Grant, the BFH proposed to develop and maintain a NeuroResource Facilitation Program in Pennsylvania along with providing TBI education for professionals, caregivers, and family members across Pennsylvania with a focus on the Juvenile Justice and older adult population. The BFH will mentor states who receive the partnership grant with enhancing or building upon the TBI infrastructure within their state. In addition, BFH will collaborate with ACL and other designated mentor states to increase the impact of the TBI Program nationally.

Through the Partnership Grant, the BFH will also develop and maintain a NeuroResource Facilitation Program in Pennsylvania. ACL is scheduled to announce the awarded grants prior to June 1, 2018. ◀

## BIAPA Annual Conference Planned for June 24–26

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) will be holding their annual conference on Sunday, June 24 – Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square. This year's conference, *Confronting the Challenges of Today for a Stronger Tomorrow*, will feature outstanding keynote speakers, workshops, social events, meals, and unlimited opportunities to learn new information. Registrations are now being accepted for the conference. ◀

## BIAA Announces Upcoming Webinars

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has [posted](#) their upcoming live webinars, including May 2018 through January 2019. ◀



## Request for Comment: Health Outcome Survey Measures

CMS is partnering with Mathematica Policy Research to develop quality measures for specific populations of Medicaid beneficiaries. These groups include dual eligible beneficiaries, beneficiaries receiving LTSS through managed-care organizations, and people with substance use disorders, complex care needs, and physical and mental health needs. These quality measures are called “Improving or Maintaining Physical Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults” and “Improving or Maintaining Mental Health in Younger Dual Eligible Adults.”

As part of the development of these measures, CMS is looking for public feedback. They would like input according to a number of considerations, including the usefulness and justification of the proposed measures. People are encouraged to submit their comments [via email](#) by **Thursday, May 10, 2018**. [Read more here](#) about the measures being developed. ◀

## CHC SE Provider Information Sessions

Save the dates for upcoming Community HealthChoices (CHC) Southeast provider summits. Educational conferences for providers will be held to help them learn more about CHC. More information regarding times and locations coming soon.

- ▶ Philadelphia: June 4–8
- ▶ Chester County: June 18
- ▶ Delaware County: June 19
- ▶ Montgomery County: June 20
- ▶ Bucks County: June 21

Specific locations will be announced as we approach the event dates. ◀

## EVV Survey – Your input is Needed

**ACTION NEEDED:** Providers of personal care services, including home and community-based services that have personal care components, please complete [this survey](#) by Friday, April 20. This survey will inform the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) implementation of electronic visit verification (EVV).

The 21st Century Cures Act requires EVV systems for Medicaid-funded personal care services (PCS) and home health care services.

### What is considered PCS?

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) states that PCS consists of services supporting activities of daily living, such as movement, bathing, toileting, transferring, and personal hygiene or offering support for instrumental activities of daily living, such as meal preparation, money management, shopping, and telephone use. For more information on the EVV requirement for PCS, [click here](#). We anticipate additional guidance in the future from CMS on the requirements for EVV.

### What is PA’s plan for complying with this requirement?

EVV use for PCS must be implemented by January 1, 2019, and home health by January 1, 2023. DHS received stakeholder input from beneficiaries, family caregivers, provider agencies, and other stakeholders on the current use of EVV in the Commonwealth and the impact of EVV implementation. This process showed that many providers already use an EVV system, and DHS needs to utilize an open system that can compile data from those existing systems. To comply with the EVV requirement, DHS will use a two-phased approach.

**Short Term:** DHS will use the existing PROMISe fiscal agent contract with DXC to comply with the federal requirement for EVV by January 1, 2019. This will be an open system that will receive information from existing EVV systems being used by providers and will provide EVV for PCS providers who do not have their own system.

**Long Term:** DHS wants to have a better understanding of what providers are currently using for EVV and which providers do not currently have an EVV. **PCS providers should complete this EVV survey ASAP [using this link](#).** DHS also recently released a Request for Information (RFI) directed at EVV vendors. This provider survey and the RFI will give DHS an understanding of the full capabilities of EVV systems and the needs of providers. This data will inform DHS’ next steps with the possibility of a future procurement. The RFI can be found by clicking [here](#). ◀



## Certified Peer Specialists Recognized with Full Certification Process

To more formally recognize the value of peers in the work force, Pennsylvania is moving to a new full peer certification offered by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB). This new formal certification will be necessary to provide Medicaid billable peer support services. To make this transition as easy as possible for current Pennsylvania Peer Specialists, there will be a time-limited grandparenting process for those who wish to obtain the new full certification during the grandparenting period. The grandparenting period began March 1, 2018, and ends August 31, 2019. The requirements for the grandparenting process must be met but no additional exam will be required.

The requirements to become grandparented are:

- ▶ Complete the two-week peer specialist training from one of the recognized training vendors. Those two vendors are the Institute for Recovery and Community Integration and RI Consulting.
- ▶ Complete the CPS Grandparenting Application and sign and date a Peer-specific code of ethical conduct.
- ▶ Obtain a signed and notarized release form.

There is no initial cost to peers for obtaining the credential as the grandparenting fee is being underwritten by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS).

The new CPS certification will be valid for two years. To avoid a lapse in certification, recertification should occur before the end of the two-year certification period. Recertification requires obtaining 36 hours of CEUs every two years and a \$50 two-year recertification fee.

This new formal certification through the PCB is designed to help strengthen the profession and give CPS's a stronger voice, while maintaining the essence of peer support in delivering recovery oriented services. We urge you to complete the process now, during the grandparenting period, to ensure you can continue to do the great work that you do. **REMEMBER:** This new formal certification will be necessary to provide Medicaid billable peer support services.

The CPS Grandparenting Application can be found on the [PCB website](#) under Certification.

Requests for paper applications and/or questions should be addressed to:

Mail: PCB, 298 S Progress Ave, Harrisburg, PA 17109

Phone: 717-540-4455

Email: [info@pacertboard.org](mailto:info@pacertboard.org)

The following organizations participated in the development of the new certification process:

Pennsylvania Peer Specialist Work Group

Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, Office of

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS)

Pennsylvania Mental Health Consumers' Association (PMHCA)

Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition (PaPSC)

Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB)

*Article provided by Mary Jo Mather, Executive Director of the PA Certification Board ◀*



## CCBHC Update

The National Council hosted a half day preconference session for all of the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) across the United States. This was a remarkable group of people, with exciting exchange of dialogue between these leaders.

All CCBHCs were asked to share their accomplishments from year one and to identify challenges they face as they go into year two, using ideas from peers to address them. This session, dubbed the “Brag & Steal” session, led to posters being created — and during a reception after, the

attendees joined together and discussed ideas through the informal networking opportunity.

In addition, there was a focus on legislative action needed to ensure that the CCBHC demonstration project would be continued through extending funding and through expansion to other states. Pennsylvania has NO senators or representatives supporting the bill; therefore, it is imperative that contact is made with the Pennsylvania delegation. For talking points, contact [Rebecca Farley David](#) of the National Council. ◀

## “What Matters to You?” Day is June 6

‘What Matters to You?’ Day aims to encourage and support more meaningful conversations between people who provide health and social services and the individuals and families who receive those services. Find out more information and how you can participate [here](#). ◀

## Outpatient Regulations Update

RCPA staff and a few providers will be meeting with OMHSAS Deputy Secretary Lynn Kovich and her staff on Monday, May 7 to discuss the RCPA Outpatient Redesign White Paper. This meeting is intended to begin next steps for outpatient mental health and substance use disorder care, post outpatient regulation approval. ◀





## Warm Handoff Regional Summits Completed

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and the Department of Health (DOH) have worked with stakeholders to improve the transition for opioid overdose survivors from emergency medical care to substance use disorder (SUD) treatment providers. This concept is referred to as a “warm handoff.” DDAP incorporated contractual changes with the Single County Authorities (SCAs) in its 2015-2020 grant agreement that establishes the overdose survivor as a priority population and requires each SCA to create a warm handoff policy. In February 2017 (and updated in February 2018), DDAP, along with DOH and the Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians, released guidelines and protocols for the warm handoff. Six half-day regional summits were held in March and April 2018 for the purpose of learning, networking, and collaborating, to improve the seamless transition of care for opioid overdose survivors from the emergency department to the SUD treatment provider. Each summit brought together stakeholders from public and private sectors across diverse disciplines. Agenda items included a presentation about a successful warm handoff program, assessment data, and outcome measures. There were also small group sessions focused on action items to address challenges and barriers identified in an assessment survey conducted prior to the summits. More information will follow. ◀

## DDAP Issues Guidance for Providers to Apply for Annual Licensing Waiver

Under Governor Tom Wolf’s disaster declaration, annual DDAP licensure requirements are waived for high-performing treatment facilities. High-performing providers that qualify for the waiver will be able to operate under a two-year license, rather than reapplying and undergoing a facility inspection each year, reducing the number of administrative procedures involved in annual inspections. RCPA has advocated for this change for quite some time. DDAP intends to consider requests for a two-year license long after the disaster declaration is no longer in effect.

To qualify for a two-year license, facilities must hold a full license issued by DDAP for at least two years and, during this time, not have received a citation for:

- ▶ Conduct or omissions that jeopardized the safety of any patient(s) for whom they were responsible;
- ▶ Conduct or omissions that substantially compromised treatment quality;
- ▶ Conduct or omissions that violated a client’s confidentiality rights outlined by state and/or federal law;
- ▶ Conduct or omissions that resulted in a patient receiving treatment without their informed consent; or
- ▶ Failing to follow a written directive from DDAP.

If a facility received a citation for any of these within the previous two years, they will not qualify for an extended license.

Qualifying facilities with an inspection scheduled during the disaster declaration’s 90-day period are being automatically considered and notified by the department. Facilities with an upcoming annual inspection that believe they qualify under these requirements can submit an exception request with DDAP’s Division of Drug and Alcohol Program Licensing. Questions about qualifications and exception requests may be submitted [via email here](#). ◀



## Smith Officially Confirmed as Secretary, PA Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs\*

RCPA has strongly supported the confirmation of Jennifer Smith as the new Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). Smith stated soon after her confirmation, "I am extremely proud of the work we've done as a department since I became acting secretary last January. We've endured changes, challenges, and uncertainty and through all of this, we've maintained an unwavering commitment to DDAP's mission and the populations we serve. I want to thank you for your patience and support as we work together to strengthen the drug and alcohol treatment field and help the Pennsylvanians it serves. Thank you for your support and cooperation over the last 14 months. I look forward to continuing working together to serve Pennsylvania's citizens."

RCPA members stand ready to work with the department on initiatives that will strengthen the drug and alcohol system. Members are particularly interested in the appropriate implementation of the new rate setting package, eliminating unnecessary outdated regulations, increasing access – especially for the provision of medication assisted treatment, and support for the full continuum of services. Members are also interested in expanding critical services for individuals with co-occurring disorders, and working to secure new funding to support the chronically underfunded treatment system.

\*The other members of Governor Wolf's cabinet who were confirmed the same day were:

- Department of Health Secretary Dr. Rachel Levine
- Department of Human Services Secretary Teresa Miller
- Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman

## IDD

### Community Participation Supports Work Group

A forum was held on April 19 to discuss RCPA members' successes as well as challenges in implementing the new service definition of Community Participation Supports. As a result of this first meeting, a work group will be formed to develop recommendations to share with the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). The group will be looking for ways to provide the service in more manageable terms (i.e. less billing codes, flexibility with staffing ratios, etc.) that would still get to the desired results of the service but would allow the providers more chance for success. When the small group has a completed document, it will be shared with the larger group for review. We are also looking to partner with other provider organizations to assure that we are presenting solutions that are agreeable to a wide range of providers. These suggestions will then be presented to ODP in the hopes of initiating changes. If you are interested in participating on the smaller work group, please contact [Carol Ferenz](#). ◀

### Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee

Due to the attention being drawn to the serious prevalence of sexual assault against individuals with disabilities, ODP Deputy Secretary Nancy Thaler has charged all members of the Information Sharing and Advisory Committee (ISAC) to look at the issues from their stakeholders' viewpoints, and what they can offer as a way to help address this problem. As a result, RCPA has formed a committee to consider our role in this challenge. The first meeting is scheduled to be held at the Penn Grant Centre on Thursday, May 17, 2018, from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm. If interested in serving on the committee, please contact [Carol Ferenz](#). ◀

## Compliance Boot Camp Part Two – Focus on HIPAA

As a result of members' needs for training and resources in the area of Corporate Compliance and HIPAA, member meetings were held in January 2018. A Boot Camp Part One training was held in March with close to 100 members attending. The second installment in the series is now scheduled for Wednesday, May 30, 2018, from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. This day will be focused on the topic of HIPAA, Business Agreements, Confidentiality, Privacy Rule, Security Rule, etc. [Use this link to register.](#) ◀

## ODP Communications Since Last RCPA News

- ▶ ODP ANN 029-18 Community Participation Support ISP FY Renewal
- ▶ ODP ANN 030-18 ODP Interviewing Individuals with Disabilities Who Are Victims of Crime
- ▶ ODP ANN 031-18 Electronic Visit Verification Survey
- ▶ ODP ANN 032-18 Certified Investigator Peer Review Spring Courses Now Open for Registration
- ▶ ODP ANN 033-18 Person Centered Thinking Training Available
- ▶ ODP ANN 034-18 Info Mo Vacancy Factor FY 17/18
- ▶ ODP ANN 035-18 Home and Community Based Services HCBS Settings Self-Assessment Period
- ▶ ODP ANN 036-18 Meds. Adm. Summer Classes 2018
- ▶ ODP ANN 037-18 Launch of the ISAC Hub
- ▶ ODP ANN 038-18 MH First Aid Courses
- ▶ ODP ANN 039-18 Charting the LifeCourse Webcasts Now Available on MyODP
- ▶ ODP ANN 040-18 Fiscal Year 2018-2019 ISP Renewal Guidance
- ▶ ODP ANN 041-18 College of Employment Services

## I/DD Provider Survey on Self-Directed Services and Supports



As services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities become more individualized and self-directed, provider agencies are making the switch to more community-based, person-centered supports. While many providers have successfully transitioned to self-directed services, many others still face internal and system-wide barriers limiting their capacity to change.

The Spark! Initiative, an Optum supported initiative, is conducting a nationwide survey of professionals who work with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to better understand how to support service agencies that are navigating the shift to self-directed services.

### Survey Link: Self Directed Services and Supports

This survey will take about 30 minutes to complete. After completing the survey, you can enter in a drawing to receive a free registration to attend a national conference for service providers. Any personally identifying information that is asked in this survey or used to contact you (such as email and agency name) will be kept confidential. The information being collected in this survey will not be used to evaluate the performance of your agency. Your individual responses will remain private while adding to the overall understanding of supports and barriers that agencies face.

This research is funded by Optum, developed by the research team at the National Leadership Consortium on Developmental Disabilities, and directed by the Spark! Initiative. The Spark! Initiative is comprised of representatives of more than 25 organizations focused on developing a variety of resources for the general public to support and empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to live a self-directed life. Optum developed the Spark! Initiative to bring together leaders in government, nonprofits, and private sectors to discuss solutions to better support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please submit any questions, comments, or concerns [via email.](#) ◀



## RCPA Children's Division Welcomes Representative Kathy Watson at Capitol Day

Rep. Kathy Watson, Chair of the House Children and Youth Committee, expressed her gratitude for the invitation to speak at the Capitol Day event. She gave an overview and update on the bills that are in the Senate for consideration. House Bill 2133 and House Bill 1539 are designed to help grandparents who are the sole caregivers of their grandchildren. An estimated 82,000 grandparents are the sole caregivers for the nearly 89,000 grandchildren in Pennsylvania. The bills are part of a package to help grandparents with supportive resources via a website and a toll-free hotline. The Kinship Caregiver Navigator program (HB 2133) would offer information on support and services available. A specially-trained navigator would be able to provide support and guidance and serve as a mediator between caregivers and state and local agency staff. HB 1539 is designed to grant temporary guardianship to grandparents when the parents of their grandchildren are unable to care for them primarily due to substance abuse issues. According to Rep. Watson, "Children thrive when placed with their grandparents, because they provide stability and permanence." Kinship caregivers save taxpayers money as they provide a diversion and alternative to foster care. ◀

## Social Media Enhances Experience of Capitol Day

The Children's Steering Committee has many priorities — and one of them is to continue to find ways to get information that is relevant and timely to our children's services providers. During Capitol Day, RCPA Director of Communications Sharon Militello was providing real-time updates via Twitter and Facebook. We have received so many positive comments about the use of social media, especially during the event. The power of influence through social media enhances the experience for members who were in attendance as well as for those who could not make the trip that day. Stay tuned for more sharing and communicating on social media outlets. Visit RCPA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#); we look forward to your tweets, retweets, posts, and shares! ◀





## **Skills of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.**

Skills of Central PA Inc. is one of the largest human service providers in Central PA, providing intellectual disability services, behavioral health services, and addiction services. We offer services in a 17 county area in Central PA, with the support of approximately 1,100 employees.

Skills is currently seeking a full time Director of Human Resources to join our senior management team. The Director of Human Resources will oversee the administration and management of the company's Human Resource Department, which supports the 1,100 plus employees. The ideal candidate must have strong leadership and communication skills, as well as knowledge of the principles of program planning and design. This would include recruitment and retention; employee/labor relations; compensation and benefits; health and safety; training and development; and management practices and policies.

### **Experience:**

A Master's Degree in Human Resource Management, Employee and Labor Relations, Business Administration, or a related field with a minimum of 3–5 years of Human Resource experience at a senior level is preferred.

Candidates with a Bachelor's Degree and 5–8 years of experience at a senior level will be considered.

Benefits include; medical, dental, vision, retirement plan, paid holidays, vacation, personal, employer paid long-term disability and sick pay.

Salary is negotiable.

Valid PA driver's license and pre-employment drug screening required.

### **Send resume and cover letter to:**

**Skills of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.,  
ATTN: Connie McDaniel  
341 Science Park Rd Ste. 6  
State College, PA 16801**

**or [apply online.](#)**

*Skills is committed to creating opportunities, providing choice and support, and promoting recovery to enhance all aspects of people's lives.*



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

## MAY

<b>Tuesday, May 8</b>	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
<b>Tuesday, May 15</b>	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
<b>Wednesday, May 16</b>	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Human Resources Committee Training: Everything you need to know about FMLA and are afraid to ask! <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Thursday, May 17</b>	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Community Participation Supports Forum <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Thursday, May 17</b>	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Sexual Abuse Prevention Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
<b>Thursday, May 17</b>	10:30 am – 5:00 pm	RCPA PAC Golf Outing <i>Hershey Country Club</i>
<b>Thursday &amp; Friday, May 17 &amp; 18</b>	Annual Membership Reception & Meeting	<i>Hershey Country Club (reception)</i> <i>Hershey Lodge (meeting)</i>
<b>Thursday, May 24</b>	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Children's Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Wednesday, May 30</b>	9:15 am – 3:00 pm	Compliance Program – Part Two <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Wednesday, May 30</b>	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Children's Steering Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
<b>Thursday, May 31</b>	1:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Physical Disabilities and Aging Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>





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

## JUNE

<b>Tuesday, June 5</b>	12:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Drug & Alcohol Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Wednesday, June 6</b>	9:30 am – 12:00 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mental Health Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> Criminal Justice Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
<b>Thursday, June 7</b>	9:15 am – 11:15 am 12:15 pm – 4:15 pm	Supports Coordination Organization Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i> Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Tuesday, June 12</b>	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
<b>Wednesday, June 13</b>	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Brain Injury Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
<b>Thursday, June 14</b>	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Outpatient Rehabilitation Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room – In person and Webcast</i>
<b>Thursday, June 14</b>	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm EDT	IPRC Webinar: Engagement of Children and Families in Pediatric Rehabilitation
<b>Tuesday, June 19</b>	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Medical Rehabilitation Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
<b>Tuesday, June 19</b>	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
<b>Wednesday, June 20</b>	11:00 am – 3:00 pm	BH-MCO/RCPA Task Force Meeting <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>