



2019 CONFERENCE

NEW FEATURE AVAILABLE! RCPA is Seeking Sponsorships for the 2019 Annual Conference: IMPACT

Over the years, RCPA staff and the Conference Committee have received requests from sponsors and exhibitors to have the option of choosing their own exhibit booths. RCPA is excited to be able to offer such a benefit this year.

The [sponsorship/exhibitor/advertiser contract](#) is now available for the 2019 RCPA Annual Conference: *IMPACT*. For the first time, sponsors — and later on, exhibitors — can select their own exhibit booths.

- ▶ Through March 31, self-selection is open **only** to sponsors who submit their contracts with payment.
- ▶ Beginning April 1, this option also opens to those exhibitors who submit their contracts and payments.

Contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator, with any questions. ◀

The RCPA logo, featuring the letters "RCPA" in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a stylized blue swoosh underline.

REHABILITATION & COMMUNITY
PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE

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©2019. 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 PsyTech Solutions Joins Harris Computer Systems

Harris' Healthcare group has completed the acquisition of PsyTech Solutions, Inc. PsyTech provides customizable software across all areas of behavioral health care. See full press release [here](#).

RCPA Member Goodwill Keystone Area & Project SEARCH Dauphin County featured on CBS 21

Five individuals with disabilities were honored recently for graduating from the Project SEARCH Dauphin County program that combines classroom training and onsite work experience over a nine-month period. At the conclusion of the program, the goal is to place participants in competitive, integrated employment. See more details and watch the video [here](#).

Special Feature

Register Now for RCPA Regional Meetings Focused on Value-Based Payments

RCPA will be holding regional meetings in March 2019 per the schedule below, which includes registration links. In response to our recent focus groups, membership requested topic-driven regional meetings. As a result, RCPA has been working with Health Management Associates, Inc. (HMA) to provide our members with a variety of opportunities on understanding Value-Based Payments (VBP).

These regional meetings offer a unique opportunity to hear first-hand information on human services developments, while networking with peers in a relatively casual setting. We request your attendance in person as these meetings will not be offered by conference call or webcast. If your organization would like to sponsor these regional meetings, or if you have questions, please contact [Tina Miletic](#).

- ▶ Northeast Regional Meeting – Tuesday, March 5 in Kingston
- ▶ Central Regional Meeting – Thursday, March 7 in Harrisburg
- ▶ Southeast Regional Meeting – Wednesday, March 13 in Elwyn
- ▶ Northwest Regional Meeting – Thursday, March 21 in Clarion
- ▶ Southwest Regional Meeting – Friday, March 22 in Pittsburgh ◀



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

Governor Wolf Delivers His Budget Address

On Tuesday, February 5, Governor Wolf delivered his 2019/20 [budget address](#) in front of the Pennsylvania General Assembly. The Governor's budget address talked primarily about workforce and education. Specifically, the Governor is not proposing any new tax increases; rather he is focusing on investments in workforce, education, and continuing the fight against opioid abuse.

The Governor's [proposed budget](#) expands access to early childhood education, increases investments in schools, and partners with the private sector to build on the PAsmart initiative, launched last year as a groundbreaking approach to workforce development.

The following are highlights from the Governor's budget address:

Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center

Tackling the skills gap and creating a well-trained workforce requires government, schools, and industry to work together. PAsmart was the first step, but Governor Wolf wants bolder action. Soon the governor will sign an executive order creating the Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center. The departments of Community and Economic Development, Labor & Industry, State, and others will partner with external leaders to find solutions that will strengthen our workforce.

"Across the commonwealth, we have workers aging out of our workforce, and too often the next generation of worker is not there or doesn't have the skills to replace them," said Governor Wolf. "If we can't strengthen our workforce, we will fall behind. And we cannot let our government's response to this problem be handcuffed by stale habit. The time is now for this comprehensive plan for preparing Pennsylvanians to compete and win in our rapidly changing economy."

Early Childhood Development and Parent Support

Parents cannot work if they lack food, housing, or childcare. To break the cycle of poverty, the governor's budget invests in early childhood education and removes barriers for low-income parents. The proposal provides \$5

million to expand home-visiting programs for pregnant women and at-risk infants and toddlers, \$15 million in federal funds to reduce waiting lists for high-quality childcare, and \$5 million for wrap-around services so parents can attend college or other training to get skills for family-sustaining jobs.

Continuing Investments in Education and Career Training

The governor's budget ensures that every student is ready for a career by continuing investments to improve public schools along with more funding for early childhood programs, K-through-12, and higher education. The budget provides increases of \$200 million for basic education, \$50 million for Pre-K and Head Start, \$50 million for special education, \$7 million for the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, and \$8 million in one-time grants for community college students or graduates who are working in Pennsylvania.

PAsmart is an innovative and pioneering approach to connecting Pennsylvanians with education and training opportunities, apprenticeships, and STEM careers, and the governor's budget expands this initiative with an additional \$4 million to help Pennsylvania manufacturers train workers and \$6 million to expand career and technical education for adults.

Governor Wolf is also proposing to save nearly \$120 million over the next two years by raising Pennsylvania's minimum wage to \$12 an hour on July 1, 2019. The boost in pay for one million workers would enable tens of thousands of people to work their way off of public assistance, reducing the burden on taxpayers who are subsidizing low wages.

To prevent students from falling behind, the governor's plan lowers the age when students must start attending school from 8 to 6 and increases the dropout age from 17 to 18. The administration will also study the benefits of providing free full day kindergarten to all children starting at age 5.

Contact RCPA Director of Government Affairs [Jack Phillips](#) with any questions. ◀

Department of Health and Department of Human Services Hold Stakeholder Budget Briefing

After Governor Wolf delivered his 2019/20 budget address to the General Assembly, the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) held a budget briefing updating stakeholders on the status of 2018/19 initiatives and rolling out the Governor's 2019/20 DOH/DHS budget initiatives. The Governor's main initiatives for DOH and DHS for the upcoming fiscal year are as follows:

- ▶ Increase the minimum wage;
- ▶ Help low-income working parents support their families;
- ▶ Strengthen high quality care for infants and toddlers;
- ▶ Expand evidence-based home visiting;
- ▶ Expand services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism on the waiting list;
- ▶ Protect individuals in personal care homes and residential and day-treatment programs;
- ▶ Support Pennsylvanians with disabilities;
- ▶ Invest in mental health services; and
- ▶ Combat the opioid epidemic.

For further information on the above initiatives, please see the DOH and DHS [PowerPoint presentations](#). Questions, contact RCPA Director of Government Affairs [Jack Phillips](#). ◀

Save the Date: RCPA PAC's 6th Annual Golf Outing May 9

Please join us for RCPA PAC's 6th annual golf outing at the beautiful Hershey Country Club on Thursday, May 9th! Lunch will start at 11:00 am in the clubhouse followed by a putting contest and 12:30 pm shotgun start.

The RCPA PAC raises money and supports campaigns of state legislators who work tirelessly on issues that benefit mental health, intellectual disabilities, children's services, substance use disorder treatment and services, brain injuries, medical and vocational rehabilitation, physical disabilities and aging, and other related human services. The funds raised through RCPA PAC can make the difference between a win and a loss on an issue or assist in making a new ally. Even if you can't be a strong contributor to RCPA PAC fundraising efforts, we all have friends and business associates who are interested in helping our allies to victory. Getting involved in RCPA PAC not only allows you to help make decisions on who the committee supports, but also helps to identify new folks who will join in our successes. Further questions may be directed to [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀

Save the Date for RCPA Capitol Day on May 1

RCPA will be hosting our 2019 Capitol Day on Wednesday, May 1. During the day, RCPA will have a table in the Main Rotunda between 9:00 am – 2:00 pm and we will hold a press conference/rally in the Main Rotunda between 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Members are requested to schedule appointments with their Senate and House legislators to discuss the state budget, legislation, and regulations that affect the day-to-day activities of our members.

More information will follow — if you have questions or suggestions regarding our 2019 Capitol Day, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), Director of Government Affairs. ◀



RCPA PAC Needs Your Help!!

Now, more than ever, health and human service 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 RCPA PAC raises money and supports campaigns of state legislators who work tirelessly on issues that benefit mental health, intellectual disabilities, children's services, substance use disorder treatment and services, brain injuries, medical and vocational rehabilitation, physical disabilities and aging, and other related human services. The funds raised through RCPA PAC can make the difference between a win and a loss on an issue or assist in making a new ally.

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. ◀

It's Back!! RCPA's Legislative Tracking Report Now Available

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 under-take during the 2019/20 Legislative Session. If you have questions on a specific bill or policy, please contact [Jack Phillips](#), RCPA Director of Government Affairs. ◀

RCPA Legislative Information

RCPA members can now find the most recent documents on legislative priorities, position papers, and other important legislative information on RCPA's [website](#). Please check the RCPA website for updates on legislative happenings. ◀



HHS Announces EMS Payment Reform

On February 14, 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) [announced](#) a new payment model for emergency ambulance services that aims to allow Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) beneficiaries to receive the most appropriate level of care, at the right time and place, with the potential for lower out-of-pocket costs.

Beginning in early 2020, the new model – Emergency Triage, Treat, and Transport (ET3) Model – will make it possible for participating ambulance suppliers and providers to partner with qualified health care practitioners to deliver treatment in place (either on-the-scene or through telehealth), and with alternative destination sites (such as primary care doctors' offices or urgent-care clinics), to provide care for Medicare beneficiaries following a medical emergency for which they have accessed 911 services. In doing so, the model seeks to engage health care providers across the care continuum to more appropriately and effectively meet beneficiaries' needs. Additionally, the model will encourage development of medical triage lines for low-acuity 911 calls in regions where participating ambulance suppliers and providers operate. The ET3 Model will have a five-year performance period, extending through 2025.

Currently, Medicare primarily pays for unscheduled, emergency ground ambulance services when beneficiaries are transported to a hospital emergency department (ED), creating an incentive to transport all beneficiaries to the hospital even when an alternative treatment option may be more appropriate. To counter this incentive, the ET3 Model will test two new ambulance payments, while continuing to pay for emergency transport for a Medicare

beneficiary to a hospital ED or other destination covered under current regulations:

- ▶ Payment for treatment in place with a qualified health care practitioner, either on-the-scene or connected using telehealth; and
- ▶ Payment for unscheduled, emergency transport of Medicare beneficiaries to alternative destinations (such as 24-hour care clinics) other than destinations covered under current regulations (such as hospital EDs).

The ET3 Model encourages high-quality provision of care by enabling participating ambulance suppliers and providers to earn up to a five percent payment adjustment in later years of the model based on their achievement of key quality measures. The quality measurement strategy will aim to avoid adding more burden to participants, including minimizing any new reporting requirements. Qualified health care practitioners or alternative destination sites that partner with participating ambulance suppliers and providers would receive payment as usual under Medicare for any services rendered.

The model will use a phased approach through multiple application rounds to maximize participation in regions across the country. In an effort to ensure access to model interventions across all individuals in a region, CMS will encourage ET3 Model participants to partner with other payers, including state Medicaid agencies. Contact [Melissa Dehoff](#), RCPA Director of Rehabilitation Services, with questions. ◀

DOD Proposed Rule on Addition of Therapy Assistants as TRICARE Authorized

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued a [proposed rule](#) to add certified or licensed physical therapy assistants (PTAs) and occupational therapy assistants (OTAs) as TRICARE-authorized providers, to engage in physical or occupational therapy, under the supervision of a TRICARE-authorized physical or occupational therapist, in accordance with Medicare's rules for supervision and qualification when billed by under the supervising therapist's national provider identification number. This rule will align TRICARE with Medicare's policy. Contact [Melissa Dehoff](#), RCPA Director of Rehabilitation Services, with questions. ◀

CMS Creates a Medicare "What's Covered" App

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) created an [app](#) called "What's Covered," that provides a quick and easy way to see whether original Medicare covers a specific medical item or service. The app is free of charge. ◀

PA Steering Committee for Standardization of BH Value-Based Payment Approaches

The Behavioral Health (BH) Value-Based Payment (VBP) Steering Committee has been organized and RCPA is pleased to have President/CEO Richard S. Edley, PhD, a part of this important group. See the detailed charter and roster [here](#). The committee will arrive at consensus around a recommended approach for one or more standardized VBP models. To accomplish this objective, the Steering Committee will:

- ▶ Identify areas of opportunity for standardization within the HealthChoices (HC) BH program;
- ▶ Agree on criteria for selecting a specific area(s) of focus for standardization;
- ▶ Review details of existing VBP models currently used in the HC BH program, as well as those used or promulgated by other states or national entities;
- ▶ Solicit feedback from stakeholders within each organization about proposed approaches for standardization and share feedback in future Steering Committee meetings;
- ▶ Align work with OMHSAS' and the Department's vision to the extent feasible, including a focus on addressing social determinants of health and integration of physical and behavioral health; and
- ▶ Recommend one or more specific elements for standardization for OMHSAS and Department of Human Services (DHS) consideration, based on agreed-upon criteria, and offer recommendations to support adoption and implementation. ◀



OLTL Releases Responsibilities of SCE Fair Hearing & Appeal Requirements

On February 11, 2019, the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) released Bulletin 59-19-03, [Hearings and Appeals](#). The bulletin provides the responsibilities of Service Coordination Entities (SCEs) with respect to the notice and fair hearing requirements. Also included with the bulletin are the following attachments:

- A. MA 561 – [Notice of Service Determination and the Right to Appeal](#)
- B. MA 562 – [Decision to Withdraw an Appeal Request](#)
- C. MS 561 – [MA 561 Form Instructions for Service Coordinators](#)
- D. [Bureau of Hearings and Appeals Agency Appeal Cover Sheet](#)
- E. [Bureau of Hearings and Appeals Agency Appeal Cover Sheet Instructions](#)
- F. OHA 147 – [Bureau of Hearings and Appeals Agency Expedited Information Sheet](#)
- G. [BHA Regions Chart](#)

The bulletin is updated to reflect expedited appeals requirements that were established by the Medicaid Eligibility Final Rule and can be found in 42 CFR Part 431.224. The SCEs are responsible to understand the rights and procedures set forth in the [state regulations](#) and [federal regulations](#). The bulletin highlights the many requirements of the SCEs. ◀

MLN Matters Article on TKA Removal from Medicare Inpatient-Only List Reissued for Clarification

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) originally issued an *MLN Matters* [publication](#), “Total Knee Arthroplasty (TKA) Removal from the Medicare Inpatient-Only (IPO) List and Application of the 2-Midnight Rule,” only to be rescinded and re-issued two weeks later. *MLN Matters* [SE19002](#) was reissued on January 24, 2019. CMS removed the Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code describing TKA procedures from Medicare’s IPO list effective January 2018. This allows TKA procedures to be performed on an inpatient or outpatient basis. In other words, it allows Medicare payment to be made to the hospital for TKA procedures, regardless of whether a beneficiary is admitted to the hospital as an inpatient or as an outpatient, assuming all other criteria are met.

This does not have any impact on CMS’ 2-Midnight policy. CMS policy does not dictate a patient’s hospital admission status and has no default determination on whether a TKA procedure should be done on an inpatient or outpatient basis. CMS continues its long-standing recognition that the decision to admit a patient as an inpatient is a complex medical decision, based on the physician’s clinical expectation of how long hospital care is anticipated to be necessary, and should consider the individual beneficiary’s unique clinical circumstances. The Beneficiary and Family-Centered Care Quality Improvement Organizations (BFCC-QIOs) are contracted by CMS to review a sample of Medicare fee-for-service (FFS) short-stay inpatient claims (claims with hospital stays lasting less than 2 midnights after formal inpatient admission) for compliance with the 2-Midnight Rule. ◀

RCPA’s Medical Rehabilitation Committee Meeting Planned for March 19

RCPA’s Medical Rehabilitation Committee will meet for their quarterly meeting at RCPA’s offices on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm. Members are encouraged to [register](#) and attend for updates on issues impacting rehabilitation hospitals. ◀



Brain Injury Awareness Day on Capitol Hill Planned for March 13

The Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, chaired by Congressman Bill Pascrell, is sponsoring [Brain Injury Awareness Day](#) on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, March 13, 2019. The mission of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force is to provide education and increase awareness of brain injury and the needs of individuals with brain injury and their families. As in years past, several events will be hosted throughout the day. The Brain Injury Association of PA (BIAPA) is organizing a group to travel to Washington, DC to attend this event. If members would like to attend, please contact [Monica Vaccaro](#), BIAPA Director of Programs, for more information. ◀

MLTSS Subcommittee Meeting Planned for March 7

The next Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019 from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm in the Honor's Suite at 333 Market Street Tower in Harrisburg. ◀

Temple University Scientist Developing Blood Test to Better Diagnose TBI

A research team from Temple University has been awarded a grant to advance the development of a blood test that could assist doctors with diagnosing and evaluating traumatic brain injuries (TBI). The team was one of four groups awarded a combined \$700,000 by the Science Center's QED program, which funds university technologies with market potential. Additional information is available in the [article](#) published in the *Philly Voice*. ◀

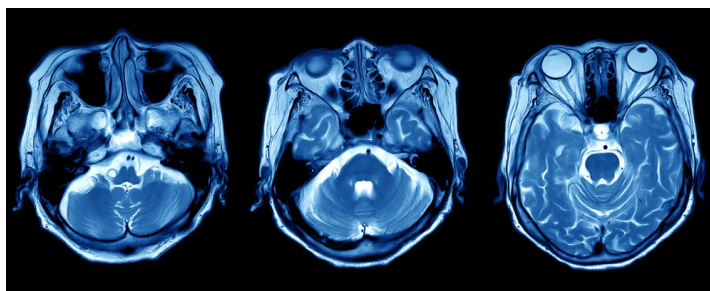
Head Injury Program Accepting Applications for Individuals 18 & Older

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) published a [notice](#) in the January 26, 2019 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* indicating that effectively immediately, they will begin accepting applications to the Head Injury Program (HIP) for individuals 18 years of age and older.

The HIP, administered in the Bureau of Family Health (BFH), through the Emergency Medical Services Act of 1985, funds short-term intensive brain injury rehabilitation for residents in this Commonwealth who have sustained a traumatic brain injury.

To provide these services, the HIP contracts with specialized brain injury providers who offer therapies such as physical, occupational, speech, and cognitive therapies, along with assistive community integration and psychological services. Rehabilitation services can be received in a residential setting as outpatient services or as home-based and community-based services depending on the need of the individual.

To obtain an application, contact the HIP at 717-772-2763 or the Brain Injury Helpline at 866-412-4755. ◀



BIAA Announces Upcoming Webinars

The Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has [posted](#) their upcoming live webinars, including Clubhouse Works! Full Participation in Rehabilitation; Barriers, Behaviors, and Addiction Issues After Brain Injury; Sexuality in Supported Living Programs; Postconcussive Headache – A Pain in the Brain?; Managing Impulsivity in the Community: Tips and Strategies for Families; Implementing Guidelines and Best Practices in Clinical Settings; and How to Use Apps and Strategies in the Real World. ◀

Articles and topics selected for this newsletter are designed to help build continued knowledge base among our members for the topics that will impact you most as we move to managed care in Pennsylvania.

CHC Corner

The launch of Community HealthChoices (CHC) continues in the five county Southeast region and remains in the continuity of care period until June 30, 2019. Several billing and technical issues have emerged related to changes in the provider portals for certain therapies which require a long-term solution. The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) have begun planning for the launch of CHC in Phase Three scheduled for January 1, 2020. This third and final phase will include three regions: Lehigh/Capital, Northeast, and Northwest. Due to the challenges associated with the large rural areas, communications with participants and providers will begin sooner than the previous roll-out timeframe. General information on CHC is found [here](#). ◀

Grievance and Appeals Bulletin

The Office of Long-term Living has issued a Bulletin (59-19-03) on February 11, 2019, effective on that date. The purpose of this bulletin is to articulate the responsibilities of Service Coordination Entities (SCEs) with respect to the notice and fair hearing requirements. This bulletin applies to SCEs serving individuals in the following Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Programs: The Aging, Attendant Care, Independence, and OBRA waivers, and the Act 150 program. This bulletin is updated to reflect expedited appeals requirements established by the Medicaid Eligibility Final Rule, found in 42 CFR Part 431.224. Individuals who apply for or receive HCBS have certain rights with respect to service plan approval and service plan revision. The bulletin describes procedures for SCEs and includes seven attachments. All OLTL Bulletins are available at [this link](#). ◀

Whole-Person Care

Policymakers, providers, managed care entities, participants, family members, advocates, and other stakeholders are increasingly interested in examining how a whole-person care approach can benefit individuals, particularly those with complex needs. Whole-person care is defined as the coordination of physical health, behavioral health, and social services in a patient-centered manner with the goals of improved health outcomes and more efficient and effective use of resources. Stakeholders in California published two white papers — *National Approaches to Whole-Person Care in the Safety Net* and *Opportunities for Whole-Person Care in California* — that review policy, target populations, and various partnership arrangements that have been implemented across the nation and in California. ◀



RPCA Member Step By Step, Inc. Opens State of the Art Co-Occurring Outpatient Treatment Facility in the Lehigh Valley

Step By Step's Lehigh Valley Region has always addressed co-occurring drug and alcohol issues with individuals receiving mental health services in one type of support or another. In 1998, Step By Step filled a gap in the Lehigh Valley by developing an Outpatient D&A Program for individuals who have a mental health disorder with a co-occurring substance use disorder. The service began with just one employee doing everything. She provided therapy, answered the phone, and scheduled appointments, in a suite connected to the Lehigh Valley Regional office.

As the service grew, Step By Step acquired an Outpatient Psychiatric Clinic license to accent the Drug and Alcohol

license, for individuals whose drug and alcohol issues were under control, but the mental health aspect of their

life required ongoing support. In 2008, they added buprenorphine (Suboxone™) to the services provided and added Vivitrol™ in 2017.

The number of individuals seeking services grew, and quality staff sought out opportunities to be part of the counseling team.

The program is now open at its new location, 2015 Hamilton St., Allentown. The new location has 19 therapy rooms plus two group rooms. Step By Step held the official Ribbon Cutting/Open House on January 11, 2019. ◀



Outpatient Regulations

The psychiatric regulations are under legal review again in the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). There is no current timeframe for the conclusion of the review and shipment to the Governor's office. RPCA will keep members posted as to any new developments as they become available. ◀

Suicide Prevention Efforts

RPCA would like to hear about the prevention efforts of our members across the Commonwealth. Please send information about the work you are doing, and how it is funded, to RPCA Mental Health Division Director [Sarah Eyster](#). ◀



Warm Hand-off for Opioid Overdose Survivors: Regional Summits Registration

Registration is now open for the regional summits to address Warm Hand-off for Opioid Overdose Survivors. Please share this information with your membership and encourage their participation.

Overview: Eight regional half-day summits for the purpose of bringing together stakeholders from the public and private sectors across a range of disciplines to learn from experts and one another. Practical examples of successful warm hand-off tools and pathways will build on the success of last year's summit.

Event Details: Details on dates, venues, targeted audience, credentialing, and more can be found [online](#).

Registration: Attendance is free, but registration is required. Online registration for any of the summits is available [here](#). Registration will close about a week before each summit. Due to the large number of entities to be represented, please limit your organization/facility's participation to a select few whose roles most closely align with the intent of the summit.

Questions regarding these summits may be [emailed here](#). ◀

DDAP Offers Training in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

The Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP) is pleased to announce a [free](#) certification seminar in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Rational Living Therapy). This comprehensive, three-day seminar, led by Dr. Aldo Pucci, takes the best of the cognitive-behavioral approaches and delivers them in a systematic manner so attendees can begin implementing them immediately.

Seminars include a comprehensive manual, certification, and 18 continuing education hours from the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), the National Association of Cognitive-Behavioral Therapists (NACBT), and the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB). *There are requirements to register.* More information can be found in this [one-pager](#).

Seating is limited! Please register in DDAP's [Training Management System](#). All questions relative to this opportunity can be forwarded to [this email](#) or 717-736-7452. ◀



DDAP Mini-Regional Training Schedule



Date	Courses Scheduled	Location
March 12, 2019 Tuesday	Basic HIV Case Management Overview Ethics Making the Connection	Southwest Region Westmoreland County Community College 145 Pavilion Lane Youngwood, PA 15697
March 13, 2019 Wednesday	Addictions 101 Basic HIV Ethics TB/STD/Hepatitis (6hr)	Northwest Region Park Inn West Middlesex 3377 New Castle Road West Middlesex, PA 16159
March 14, 2019 Thursday	Addictions 101 Case Management Overview Practical Applications of Confidentiality	Northcentral Region Lock Haven University 401 N. Fairview Street Lock Haven, PA 17745
March 26, 2019 Tuesday	Confidentiality Making the Connection Practical Applications of Confidentiality	Northeast Region Luzerne County Community College 1333 South Prospect Street Nanticoke, PA 18634
March 27, 2019 Wednesday	Addictions 101 Basic HIV Ethics	Southeast Region Inn at Reading 1040 N. Park Road Reading, PA 19610
March 28, 2019 Thursday	Addictions 101 Case Management Overview Ethics in Prevention Screening and Assessment	Southcentral Region Clarion Inn and Conference Center 148 Sheraton Drive New Cumberland, PA 17070

Provider Boot Camp: Considerations When Developing Policies to Support Individuals With ID/A Regarding Sexual Health, Personal Relationships, and Informed Choices

Join us Tuesday, May 7 and Wednesday, May 8, 2019 for training delving into the many aspects a provider needs to consider when developing policies to address the complex issues associated with supporting people with ID/A to pursue personal relationships and their sexuality. ODP Bulletin 00-18-01 provides guidelines and expectations for providers. We will hear from ODP staff and others who were involved in the development of this bulletin, as well as from professionals in the field who can provide guidance in the delivery of these supports. The trainings are offered as two stand-alone dates of training, so participants can choose to attend just one or both days.

May 7, 2019 agenda includes:

- ▶ An overview of ODP Bulletin 00-18-01 Guidelines Concerning Sexual Health, Personal Relationships and Sexuality – *ODP Staff, Beverly Frantz of Temple University Institute on Disabilities*
- ▶ Legal Considerations for Providers – *Jeff Worley of Gibbel, Kraybill and Hess*
- ▶ Consent Issues/Determining Level of Understanding – *Robin Van Eerden, MS, LPC, NADD-DDS, CC*

May 8, 2019 agenda includes:

- ▶ Providing education to Individuals: How to discuss sexuality with individuals with ID/A – *Shawn McGill, MSW Consulting Inc.*
- ▶ Communicating with Families: Rights, Education, Policy – *Dr. Larry Sutton*
- ▶ Self-Advocates Perspective – *Members of SAU1*
- ▶ Communicating with DSP Staff: Rights, Education, Policy, Supporting people with ID/A – *Beverly Frantz*
- ▶ Providers Experiences
- ▶ Case Scenarios (If you have a case you would like to be reviewed, please submit the information in advance to [Carol Ferenz](#)) ◀

Register Here for Day One on Tuesday, May 7

Register Here for Day Two on Wednesday, May 8

March is Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The goal of this recognition is to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to their communities. Intellectual Disabilities Awareness Month covers three main areas: education, employment, and community living. Throughout the month of March, we ask that you highlight success stories on social media featuring the individuals in your community to celebrate the value of all citizens. ◀



OVR Referral Process for ODP Employment-Related Services Bulletin

On February 14, 2019, OVR and ODP released a joint bulletin, [00-19-01](#), to update guidance regarding the requirements for when individuals must be referred to the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) to align with the requirements in the current ODP Waivers and the Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act (WIOA), as well as base-funded employment-related services.

Individuals who receive funding through ODP waivers must be referred to OVR when they indicate an interest in seeking employment, or request employment related services be added to their Individual Support Plan (ISP) such as Supported Employment, Advanced Supported Employment, Small Group Employment (for those under age 25), Community Participation Support (Pre-vocational services that pay subminimum wage and/or occur in a licensed prevocational facility – Chapter 2390, for those under age 25), and Education Support.

Individuals funded through the Adult Autism Waiver must be referred to OVR when they indicate an interest in Career planning, Supported Employment, or Transitional work (for those who are under age 25).

Federal Financial Participation will not permit Medicaid funds to be utilized unless they are the payer of last resort, therefore referrals must be made to OVR since they are responsible for the provision and payment of these services. In some circumstances, OVR may not have the capacity to serve every individual referred by a Supports Coordinator in a timely manner. To address this concern, there are special provisions in the ODP Waivers that allow the Supports Coordinator to access waiver funding. If OVR has not made an eligibility determination within 120 days of a referral being sent to OVR, an individual may access ODP funded employment services until OVR communicates that the individual is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services. If this determination occurs more than 120 days after the referral was sent to OVR, the individual can choose to receive services through OVR, or continue to receive services through the ODP Waiver. The 120-day provision applies to Career Planning (AWW), Supported Employment (AWW and ID/A Waivers), and Advanced Supported Employment (ID/A Waivers).

Community Participation Support (CPS) is a service frequently utilized by individuals in the ID/A Waivers. Individuals under age 25 who were authorized for

ODP prevocational services prior to 7/22/16, or wish to receive CPS services, will not be making subminimum wage, and do not receive CPS in a licensed Vocational Facility (Chapter 2390), do **not** need to be referred to OVR. The requirement to be referred to OVR applies to **prevocational services that pay subminimum wage and are provided in a location that is covered by a 14c certificate**. In order for an individual under age 25 to receive CPS services in a licensed Vocational Facility, they:

- ▶ Must be determined as ineligible for OVR services or had their case closed by OVR;
- ▶ Must have received transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), or pre-employment transition services from OVR; and
- ▶ Must have received career counseling from OVR.

Individuals under age 25 can attend Vocational Skill development services in a licensed Adult Training Facility, community hub, or community location to pursue goals of becoming more involved in their communities, making more friends, increasing their health/wellness, etc. As long as they are not earning subminimum wage, there is no need to make a referral to OVR.

Individuals aged 25 and older are not required to be referred to OVR prior to receiving prevocational services that pay subminimum wage. If the ISP team determines that an individual will be ready to pursue a competitive and integrated employment outcome, the Supports Coordinator must make a referral to OVR unless OVR had previously determined the individual ineligible for OVR services or closed the individual's case. An individual that is referred to OVR may continue to receive CPS services during OVR's eligibility determination process, and also may continue while receiving OVR services, as long as the services are not provided concurrently.

For more detailed information, please refer to Bulletin Number 00-19-01. A joint training webinar was held on February 15, 2019 that was recorded and will be available on [MyODP](#). ◀

ODP Publications Since Last RCPA News

- ▶ 19-007 Report: Improving the Quality of Residential Services
- ▶ 19-008 Social Security Administration Announces 2019 Cost of Living Adjustment
- ▶ 19-009 ACRE Basic Certificate Training for Providers of Employment (REISSUE)
- ▶ 19-010 The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Provides Written Notice of Provider Re-qualification Requirements
- ▶ 19-011 2018 Everyday Lives: Values in Action – Information Sharing and Advisory Committee Recommendations, Strategies, and Performance Measures Now Available on MyODP.org
- ▶ 19-012 New Documentation Requirements for Individual Support Plans (ISPs) Within the Consolidated Waiver
- ▶ 19-013 Now Available: Interim PUNS Guidance and Revised PUNS Form
- ▶ HEALTH ALERT 2019 Extreme Cold Weather Alert
- ▶ 19-014 Consolidated Waiver Fee Schedule Residential Rate Exception Process
- ▶ 19-015 Registration Now Open for Certified Investigator Forum in March
- ▶ 19-016 Notice of Increase to the Federal Reimbursement of Transportation Costs for 2019
- ▶ 19-017 Transition of Individuals from a Nursing Facility Into an ODP Waiver
- ▶ Bulletin 00-19-01 OVR Referral Process for ODP Employment-Related Services
- ▶ ODP News: February 2019 Issue



This is Not a Goodbye But a See You Around

As I take a moment to reflect on my final opportunity I have to provide newsletter content, my thoughts drift to the relationships that I have been privileged to develop and cultivate during my time here at RCPA. None of the following accomplishments and priorities for the upcoming year are possible without the dedication and passion of professionals who care very deeply about children, youth, and families. They demonstrate excellence in all areas of service to others that include the staff who work tirelessly to provide safe, quality services to our most vulnerable and at-risk youth and families. I am proud to be in their company!

As shared in previous communications, 2018 was characterized by collaboration between providers on issues that have a direct impact on quality of care and our capacity to provide services in a fiscally responsible way. Collectively, we influenced the process for moving the Intensive Behavioral Health Services (IBHS) regulations forward, and improved our presence with Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), Juvenile Justice, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), and the legislature. We provided comments on behalf of children and their families to support the outpatient redesign efforts. We were represented at policy discussions where regulations and interpretation had financial and safety implications for providers of PRTF (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility) programming. Finally, we celebrated the expansion of the Children's Steering Committee. It is now 20 members strong and prepared for the work and challenges ahead in 2019.

The 2019 division priorities were ranked by 20% of the children's providers through a survey/poll. The following priorities are listed in rank order:

1. Workforce Issues;
2. Rate Setting/Methodology;
3. Regulatory Reform;
4. Governor's Task Forces;
5. Proaction vs Reaction;
6. Learning Communities (cross-systems, interagency learning);
7. Steering Committee Action Planning and Progress Tracking;
8. RCPA Technical Assistance & Support;
9. Issue-Specific Work Groups/Committees; and
10. Training & Professional Development Opportunities.

These priorities align well with the overall RCPA 2019 priorities of: Workforce Development, Behavioral Health Carve-Out, Regulatory Reform, Value-Based Purchasing, and Telemedicine.

Thank you to [Sarah Eyster](#), as she will be facilitating the Children's Steering Committee meetings and Children's Division meetings as of February 28. Many thanks to Garrett Trout and Susan Hurd for their insight, support, and leadership as your co-chairs and my constant source of encouragement.

I look forward to seeing many of you as I move on to my new professional opportunity at DHS on March 4 as the Bureau Director of Children and Family Services in the Office of Children, Youth and Families. ◀

Be Well,
Robena

2019 Violence and Delinquency Prevention Programs Funding Announcements

Please review the [fifteen evidence-based programs](#) that receive support and oversight through the EPISCenter (Evidence-Based Prevention & Intervention Support Center) at Penn State University. ◀

2019 Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) Statewide Networking Conference

The Early Childhood Innovations Center is hosting a conference on PCIT in March 2019 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Please see the event [brochure](#) for detailed information on speakers and topics covered. ◀



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

MARCH

Tuesday, March 5	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	NE Regional Meeting <i>Nesbitt Medical Arts Building</i> <i>534 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704</i>
Thursday, March 7	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Central Regional Meeting <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> <i>777 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111</i>
Tuesday, March 12	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, March 13	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	SE Regional Meeting <i>John Cramp Administration Building</i> <i>111 Elwyn Road, Room 317, Elwyn, PA 19063</i>
Thursday, March 14	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Physical Disabilities & Aging Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Friday, March 15	11:00 am – 3:00 pm	BH-MCO Task Force <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, March 19	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Med Rehab Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Tuesday, March 19	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, March 20	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Children's Steering Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, March 21	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, March 21	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	NW Regional Meeting <i>Park Inn by Radisson</i> <i>45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion, PA 16214</i>
Friday, March 22	10:30 am – 12:30 pm	SW Regional Meeting <i>ACHIEVA</i> <i>711 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203</i>
Tuesday, March 26	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Annual Membership Meeting <i>Webcast</i>
Thursday, March 28	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Early Intervention Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>



APRIL

Thursday, April 4	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	IPRC Webinar: Rehabilitation Considerations for Cancer Care
Tuesday, April 9	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, April 9	12:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Drug & Alcohol Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Wednesday, April 10	9:30 am – 12:00 pm	Mental Health Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Wednesday, April 10	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Brain Injury Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Wednesday, April 10	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Criminal Justice Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, April 11	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Residential Subcommittee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, April 11	9:00 am – 11:30 am	SCO Subcommittee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, April 11	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	IDD Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Tuesday, April 16	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, April 18	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
****Please note that these meetings are in conjunction with the RCPA Regional meetings****		
Tuesday, March 5	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	RCPSO NE Regional Meeting <i>Nesbitt Medical Arts Building</i> <i>534 Wyoming Avenue, Kingston, PA 18704</i>
Thursday, March 7	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	RCPSO Central Regional Meeting <i>Penn Grant Centre</i> <i>777 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111</i>
Wednesday, March 13	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	RCPSO SE Regional Meeting <i>John Cramp Administration Building</i> <i>111 Elwyn Road, Room 317, Elwyn, PA 19063</i>
Thursday, March 21	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	RRCP SO NW Regional Meeting <i>Park Inn by Radisson</i> <i>45 Holiday Inn Road, Clarion, PA 16214</i>
Friday, March 22	8:30 am – 10:00 am	RCPSO SW Regional Meeting <i>ACHIEVA</i> <i>711 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203</i>