



Special Feature

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. ◀



Richard S. Edley, PhD

President and CEO

Allison Brognia

Administrative Assistant

Lynn Cooper

*Director, Drug & Alcohol Division,
Western Region Representative*

Melissa Dehoff

*Director, Rehabilitation Services
Divisions*

Sarah Eyster, MSW

*Director, Mental Health Division,
Eastern Region Representative*

Carol Ferenz

Director, IDD Division

Cindi Hobbes

*Director, International Pediatric
Rehabilitation Collaborative*

Linda Kaufmann

Administrative Assistant

Tieanna Lloyd

*Accounts Receivable/
Membership Services Manager*

Tina Miletic

*Assistant to the President/CEO,
Finance Manager*

Sharon Militello

Director, Communications

Jack Phillips, JD

Director, Government Affairs

**Rehabilitation and Community
Providers Association**

777 E Park Dr, Ste 300
Harrisburg, PA 17111-2754
717-364-3280 — Phone
717-364-3287 — Fax
www.paproviders.org

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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 Success Rehabilitation Earns B Corp Certification

Women of Influence: Meet Wendy Pardee with The Children's Institute of Pittsburgh (subscription required for full article)

Centene to Buy Smaller Rival WellCare Health Plans in Deal Worth \$17.3 Billion



NEW MEMBERS

ASSOCIATE

LEARNWELL

2 Main St, Ste 2A
Plymouth, MA 02360
Chelsea Louro
Partnership Consultant



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

April is:

Alcohol Awareness Month

National Autism Awareness Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

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 is a discount for the first year 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.

Make an “Impact” as a Sponsor, Exhibitor, or Advertiser at the 2019 RCPA Conference!

Join RCPA as we host our 2019 conference, September 24 – 27 at the Hershey Lodge. RCPA staff and the Conference Committee are excited to release this year’s [Sponsors, Exhibitors, and Advertisers brochure](#), with new opportunities to get in on the action. New this year, based on requests from our previous sponsors and exhibitors, is booth self-selection — sponsors who would also like to exhibit will be given first booth choice through March 31. In order to be considered for self-selection, a completed contract with payment must be submitted. And beginning April 1, exhibitors who have submitted a completed contract with payment will be able to self-select their booths. Booth selections are contingent upon availability.

Don’t miss your chance to be seen and to support the work of this dynamic organization! This event is a highlight for the Pennsylvania mental health, drug and alcohol, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children’s, brain injury, medical/vocational rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging provider community. Complete information about exhibiting, sponsoring, and advertising options are available from the link above.

Sponsor, Exhibit, and Advertise

Exhibit activities take place September 25 – 26. Based on your feedback from last year, we have increased the number of activities offered throughout the event. RCPA encourages all interested parties to complete the contract now! Events within Exhibit Hall include an opening reception, breakfast, coffee breaks, lunch, and prize giveaways. Exhibit hours occur during the two busiest days of the conference, increasing the opportunity for exhibitors — an integral component to conference success — to interact with the maximum amount of attendees. A “Best of Show” competition provides even more prospects to engage guests and winners receive a discount on 2020 exhibit rates.

Interaction with conference guests outside of the exhibit area is just as important! Participating in other conference events such as receptions, meals, and educational offerings provides exhibitors greater potential and flexibility to establish opportunities for business. RCPA includes two exhibitor registrations with the exhibit fee; since exhibitors can attend the entire conference, RCPA encourages organizations to use those registrations fully.

Exciting New Sponsorship Opportunities

The association is privileged to have the backing of the finest organizations in the field for our conference. Through the use of sponsorship circles, RCPA is able to honor all supporting organizations. Within each sponsorship circle, specific events and items such as meals, receptions, conference tote bags, attendee materials, etc. are available, providing additional “naming recognition” for sponsors. Other ideas are welcome as well. Please review sponsorship materials and contact [Sarah Eyster](#) to reserve your opportunity.

Sign Up Now

The deadline for inclusion in all digital material is July 26, 2019. Sponsor, 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 any additional questions, please contact [Sarah Eyster](#), Conference Coordinator. ◀



Federal Department of Labor Rolls Out Proposed Overtime Rule

Recently, the Federal Department of Labor (DOL) announced its new proposed overtime rule. The DOL is proposing to raise the overtime threshold from the current level of \$23,600 (\$455/week) up to \$35,308 (\$679/week).

In 2016, President Obama overtime proposal would have taken the threshold to \$47,476 (\$913/week) and Governor Wolf's 2018 proposal would take it to \$47,892 (\$921). Unlike previous proposals, the rule is not expected to include an automatic escalator.

More information about the proposed rule is available [online](#). The DOL encourages any interested members of the public to submit comments about the proposed rule electronically at this [website](#), in the rulemaking docket RIN 1235-AA20. Once the rule is published in the Federal Register, the public will have 60 days to submit comments for those comments to be considered.

Questions, 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. ◀

Calling All Golfers!

Registration and Sponsorships Available for RCPA PAC Annual Golf Outing

It's time to [register](#) for RCPA PAC's 6th annual golf outing at the beautiful Hershey Country Club, 1000 East Derry Road, Hershey, PA 17033 on **Thursday, May 9!** Registration starts at 10:30 am, lunch begins at 11:00 am, followed by a putting contest and 12:30 pm shotgun start.

Golf outing [sponsorships](#) are also available. We hope you will consider becoming a golf sponsor. It is a great way for your organization to get noticed and an opportunity to support a worthwhile cause.

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. ◀

RCPA's 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 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. ◀

Federal News

MedPAC Addresses Evaluation of Episode-Based Payment System for PAC

One of the topics on the agenda at the March 2019 Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) public meeting focused on the evaluation of an episode-based payment system for post-acute care (PAC). MedPAC advises Congress about the federal programs (Medicare and Medicaid). Over the years, there have been many discussions regarding whether the federal government should implement one payment system across post-acute providers, which vary greatly in how they are paid. Post-acute providers include inpatient rehabilitation facilities (IRFs), skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), home health agencies, and long-term care hospitals (LTCHs). During the March [presentation](#), MedPAC shared that they favor a stay-based system, rather than one tied to a whole episode of care for fear that the episode of care would encourage providers to discharge patients early. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will work with an outside vendor to build a unified PAC payment model with a goal to submit it to Congress by 2022. Contact [Melissa Dehoff](#), RCPA Director of Rehabilitation Services, with questions. ◀



Provider Summits Planned in Preparation for Phase III of Community HealthChoices

In conjunction with the Phase III roll-out of Community HealthChoices (CHC) in January 2020 for the remainder of the state, the Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) has issued some information about CHC, including FAQs, telephone numbers for the CHC Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and dates/locations for the upcoming provider summits.

- ▶ CHC information for providers or participants can be found [online](#). The website will be updated as events are scheduled, so please check back often.
- ▶ [Use this link](#) to take online trainings and read CHC fact sheets.
- ▶ Access a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) about CHC by [using this link](#).
- ▶ Contact a CHC managed care organization (CHC-MCO) to become part of their provider network:
 - **AmeriHealth Caritas**
Phone: 800-521-6007 // [email](#)
 - **Pennsylvania Health & Wellness**
Phone: 844-626-6813 // [email](#)
 - **UPMC Community HealthChoices**
Phone: 844-860-9303 // [email](#)
- ▶ Sign up and encourage your peers to subscribe to CHC emails [here](#). By signing up, you will receive regular communications regarding CHC distributed from OLTL.

Here's a schedule of what's coming in Late Spring/Early Summer 2019:

Save the date for upcoming provider summits in the Northeast, Northwest, and Lehigh/Capital zones. These summits are educational conferences specifically for providers to learn more about CHC. More information regarding times and locations coming soon!

- ▶ **Lehigh/Capital Zone**
 - Monday, May 13: Harrisburg Area Community College
 - Tuesday, May 14: Shippensburg University
 - Wednesday, May 15: Kutztown University
 - Thursday, May 16 (Transportation Session Only): Kutztown University
- ▶ **Northwest Zone**
 - Monday, May 20: Edinboro University
 - Tuesday, May 21: Lock Haven University
 - Wednesday, May 22: University of Pittsburgh-Bradford
 - Thursday, May 23 (Transportation Session Only): University of Pittsburgh-Bradford
- ▶ **Northeast Zone**
 - Tuesday, June 4: East Stroudsburg University
 - Wednesday, June 5: University of Scranton
 - Thursday, June 6: Bloomsburg University
 - Friday, June 7 (Transportation Session Only): Bloomsburg University

MLTSS Subcommittee to Convene on April 4

The Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) Subcommittee meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 in the Honor's Suite at 333 Market Street Tower in Harrisburg, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. ◀

Updated IRF Provider Preview Reports Available

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently updated the inpatient rehabilitation facility (IRF) provider preview reports. The data contained in these reports is based on quality data that was submitted by providers between Quarter 3 for 2017 and Quarter 2 for 2018 and reflects what will be published on [IRF Compare](#) when the site is refreshed in June 2019. [Instructions](#) are available for providers on how to review the reports. The reports will be available for providers to review until April 3, 2019. Contact [Melissa Dehoff](#), RCPA Director of Rehabilitation Services, with questions. ◀

CMS Establishes IRF-PAI Clinical Help Desk

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has established an inpatient rehabilitation facility patient assessment instrument (IRF-PAI) clinical help desk for providers to submit questions about the IRF-PAI that are clinical in nature. The questions should be submitted to [this email](#). Questions related to IRF-PAI data submission and validation should be submitted to [this email](#) or by calling 800-339-9313. ◀

IRF-PAI Section GG Decision Tree Document Posted

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently posted a [Coding Section GG Decision Tree document](#) to assist providers with coding inpatient rehabilitation facility patient assessment instrument (IRF-PAI) self-care and mobility data items. ◀

CMS Releases Updates for Round 2021 of DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has [released](#) information and updates for the Round 2021 of the Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program, which will consolidate the competitive bidding areas (CBAs) included in Round 1 2017 and Round 2 Recompete by conducting Round 2021 in the same geographic areas for a total of 130 CBAs. CMS will shift some items to different, smaller product categories to accommodate the lead item pricing methodology. Round 2021 will include 16 product categories, including new items – off-the-shelf (OTS) back braces, OTS knee braces, and non-invasive ventilators. As a result of the smaller product categories, CMS states that each individual supplier location on a bid must meet all accreditation and state licensing requirements for each item in the product category covered under a contract. ◀



New CDC Data on Sports & Recreation-Related Traumatic Brain Injury

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data contained in a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) [report](#), "Emergency Department Visits for Sports and Recreation-Related (SRR) Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) Among Children – United States, 2010–2016."

Some of the data includes:

- ▶ An estimated 283,000 children seek care in US emergency departments each year for a sports-or recreation-related TBI
- ▶ Contact sports contributed to nearly half (45 percent) of the SRR-TBI visits examined
- ▶ The activities with the highest number of SRR-TBI visits included: football, bicycling, basketball, playground activities, and soccer
- ▶ Males and children aged 10–14 and 15–17 were most likely to sustain an SRR-TBI

The report includes prevention efforts and strategies to reduce the risk for SRR-TBI, including but not limited to limiting player-to-player collisions through rule changes, teaching strategies to reduce opportunities for head impacts, and using pre-participation athletic examinations to identify athletes at increased risk for TBI.

The CDC has many resources available, including:

- ▶ [CDC HEADS UP campaign](#)
 - [Posters for athletes](#)
 - [Online trainings](#)
- ▶ [CDC Pediatric mTBI Guideline](#)
- ▶ [CDC National Concussion Surveillance System](#)

Contact [Melissa Dehoff](#), RCPA Director of Rehabilitation Services, with questions. ◀

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;*
- ▶ *Person-Centered, Participation-Oriented Therapy in VA Polytrauma Transitional Rehabilitation;*
- ▶ *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;*
- ▶ *How to Use Apps and Strategies in the Real World; and*
- ▶ *The Challenge of Brain Injury in Older Adults.* ◀

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.



Pennsylvania Disability Data

The Pennsylvania State Data Center has issued a report on Disability in the Commonwealth 2013–2017. It includes information on trends for age, sex, race, ethnicity, education, income, occupation, and disability characteristics for the 1.73 million Pennsylvanians who have at least one disability.

Key trends include:

- ▶ A higher percentage of females and older persons had disabilities;
- ▶ Ambulatory, or movement-based, disabilities were the most common type; and
- ▶ Those with disabilities had lower educational attainment and earnings.

The report can be found [here](#) (Note: if the link does not work, copy and paste the link into the top of your browser window). ◀

Inside Aging Newsletter

Robert Torres, the Acting Secretary of Aging, has announced that the weekly *Friday Wrap-up* communication from the Department of Aging will become a monthly newsletter, called *Inside Aging*, starting in March 2019. The department conducted a survey of stakeholders to determine the valued components of the new newsletter. The newsletter includes a message from the Secretary, What's New, Legislative Update, Area Agency on Aging Spotlight, and calendars of various offerings and events across the Commonwealth. To read the first issue, [use this link](#) and to subscribe to future issues, click on the "subscribe" tab at the top. ◀

CHC Corner

The Department of Human Services (DHS) and Office of Long-Term Living (OLTL) have announced additional information 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. The timeframe for provider workshops and other communications is available [online](#). The presentation also includes demographics by county and the characteristics of the over 143,000 individuals projected to be transitioned into managed long-term services and supports. General information on CHC is found [here](#). ◀

Call for Change Project: Regional Listening Session

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) wants to hear from you about what has worked and what should change in the public mental health system. In the fall of 2018, the OMHSAS Mental Health Planning Council challenged OMHSAS to re-visit *A Call for Change*, to assess how far Pennsylvania's behavioral health system that serves children, youth, and their families, as well as adults and older adults, has progressed with transformation, and to identify priorities for future efforts.

Central Region

April 2, 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: OMHSAS Central Office – Clothestree

Address: 303 Walnut Street, 12th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101

Southeast Region

April 10 and 11, 2019

Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Norristown State Hospital Building 33 (Multipurpose Room)

Address: 1001 Sterigere St, Norristown, PA 19401

Northeast Region

Lehigh Area – April 22, 2019

Morning Session: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Location: St. Marks Evangelical Lutheran Church

Address: 201 E. Juniata St, Allentown, PA 18103

Afternoon Session: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: Northampton County DHS

Address: 2801 Emrick Blvd, Bethlehem, PA 18020

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre Area – April 23, 2019

Morning Session: 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: Advocacy Alliance – Media Center

Address: 841 Jefferson St, Scranton, PA 18510

Afternoon Session: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Location: Luzerne County Human Services Bldg.

Address: 111 N. Pennsylvania Ave, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

(Western Region was held on March 29, 2019)

The assessment phase will include regional on-site listening sessions, intended to generate broad-based stakeholder input and dialogue. In addition, OMHSAS is posting an online survey to obtain input from stakeholders who are unable to attend a session. The survey can be accessed through May 1, 2019 [at this link](#).

Any questions or comments related to the Call for Change Project can be directed to [this email](#). ◀

CCBHC Update

Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S 824/HR 1767) Reintroduced

Statement from Linda Rosenberg, National Council

WASHINGTON, D.C. (March 14, 2019) — The National Council for Behavioral Health is pleased the Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (S 824/HR 1767) was reintroduced today. We thank the original sponsors, Sens. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), with Reps. Doris Matsui (D-Calif.) and Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.), as well as the new bipartisan co-sponsors.

Congress created the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) program in 2014 as an eight-state, two-year, demonstration project for states to improve access to evidence-based care, addiction treatment, and mental health care; improve care coordination; and provide 24/7/365 access to emergency care. Today's reintroduction of the Excellence in Mental Health and

Addiction Treatment Expansion Act seeks to renew the CCBHC demonstration program in the original eight states for two years and expand it to 11 additional states.

The passage of the Excellence in Mental Health Act began to address the desperate demand for treatment of addictions and mental illnesses. The eight states are leading a bold shift in this country, transforming community services from a patchwork of underfunded and overburdened organizations into a thriving array of clinics that provide patient-centered care. This important legislation would allow current innovation to continue for another two years, expand the opportunity so others struggling can get effective care, and enable important analysis and learning that can be shared nationwide.

The CCBHC model represents a critical advance in coordinating and integrating addiction care.

Early results from the two-year program demonstrate that 94 percent of CCBHCs report an increase in the number of persons receiving treatment for an opioid use disorder (OUD), and 92 percent of CCBHCs offer at least one type of FDA-approved medication-assisted treatment (MAT), either on-site or via referral to an outside program. Expanding the model will allow more communities to respond to the opioid epidemic that is ravaging the country.

Once again demonstrating their leadership and ongoing commitment to science-based community treatment, the National Council looks forward to working with Sens. Stabenow and Blunt, and with Reps. Matsui and Mullin, to pass the bipartisan Excellence in Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Expansion Act (see this statement [online](#)). ◀

Corrections Officials Announce Plans to Expand Medication Assisted Treatment

The announcement was one of several commonwealth events held as part of “Stop Overdoses in PA: Get Help Now Week.” The Department of Corrections (DOC) is expanding Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) to now include methadone and buprenorphine as standards of care where determined appropriate. The long-term goal is for the DOC to provide all FDA approved medications to treat and manage addiction within its facilities.

Expansion of MAT includes:

- ▶ Medication-Assisted Opiate Detoxification: For new commitments, parole violators, and diversion cases;
- ▶ Maintenance: For those individuals who are committed to the DOC and who are already receiving MAT; and
- ▶ Initial Prescriptions: For those individuals who are committed to the DOC and who are not in need of detoxification, but who could benefit from MAT from the time of DOC commitment.

“This agency is treating substance use disorder as the chronic disease it is rather than as an acute illness,” said Steve Seitchik, who serves as the DOC’s MAT program coordinator.

Reports show that there are high rates of fatal overdose and non-fatal overdose among individuals leaving prison; that MAT is more effective than no MAT; and that MAT more than doubles the rates of opioid-abstinence outcomes in randomized, controlled trials comparing psychosocial treatment of opioid use disorder with medication versus no medication.

“We are on the right course for setting our reentrants on the path to a successful return home after incarceration,” Seitchik said. “Expanding our program will help individuals while they are in prison, as they prepare and plan for their release, and upon release through a continuity of care.”

The continuity of care part of this initiative was an issue previously, because reentrants did not have their Medical Assistance (MA) benefits restored in time for their release. Now, through a cooperative effort with the PA

Department of Human Services (DHS), benefits are in place at the date of an individual’s release from prison, ensuring the MAT continuity of care.

The DOC also received a \$3.2 million grant from SAMHSA that will allow the agency to provide multiple Vivitrol injections prior to release from prison. “That is expected to have a positive effect on retention in treatment upon release from prison and even better outcomes than we’ve seen so far,” said Tracy Smith, who serves as the DOC’s Director of Treatment Services. Funds also will be used to pilot the use of Sublocade, which is injectable buprenorphine. According to Smith, “The DOC is partnering with other state agencies and community-based stakeholders to ensure effective and expedited continuity of care for individuals who receive Sublocade.”

Also at this event, officials provided access to specialty staff who administer the program and to inmates who participate by receiving medication.

This and additional information is available on the [DOC website](#). The above are major advances in the criminal justice community as they relate to substance use disorder. Having benefits in place the date of the individuals’ release from prison, and making MAT available to all who will benefit from it, are advances that RCPA and other stakeholders have worked hard in advocating to make happen. ◀

ASAM Guidance – Document Update

The ASAM “Guidance on Treatment Plan Updates, Continued Stay Reviews, Transfer/Discharge, and Authorizations” that was distributed on February 28 has been replaced with a new, edited version. Please view the new document on the [ASAM page](#) of their website. Questions about the ASAM Transition may be submitted [via email](#). ◀

DDAP Mini-Regional Training Schedule

Below is the mini-regional schedule for May. These trainings are on the schedule in the Training Management System (TMS); to register, visit this [web page](#). Also included is the link to DDAP's [Training Announcements page](#). This is where members will find the most up-to-date schedule of events. ◀



Date	Courses Scheduled	Location
May 7, 2019 Tuesday	Addictions 101 Confidentiality Ethics in Prevention Screening and Assessment	Southwest Region Pittsburgh Marriot City Center 112 Washington Place Pittsburgh, PA 15219
May 8, 2019 Wednesday	Case Management Overview Confidentiality Ethics Opiate Abuse and Addiction	South Central Region Penn State Altoona 3000 Ivyside Park Altoona, PA 16601
May 9, 2019 Thursday	Basic HIV Confidentiality Ethics Screening and Assessment	Northcentral Region Ramada Inn and Conference Center 1450 Atherton Street State College, PA 16801
May 21, 2019 Tuesday	Addictions 101 Case Management Overview Screening and Assessment TB-STD 6 Hour	Northeast Region East Stroudsburg University 200 East Prospect Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
May 22, 2019 Wednesday	Case Management Overview Confidentiality Opiate Abuse and Addiction Screening and Assessment	Southeast Region The Merk Conshy 100 Four Falls Corporate Center Conshohocken, PA 19428
May 23, 2019 Thursday	Ethics Opiate Abuse and Addiction Practical Applications for Confidentiality TB-STD 6 Hour	Southcentral Region York College of PA 441 Country Club Road York, PA 17403

Transformation to Competitive Employment Act

Congressman Bobby Scott (D-VA-3), Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA-5) introduced the Transformation to Competitive Employment Act of 2019 ([HR 873](#) / [S 260](#)). This Act provides states, service providers, subminimum wage certificate holders, and other agencies with resources to help workers with disabilities transition into competitive, integrated employment. The Transformation to Competitive Employment Act is legislation designed to strengthen and enhance the disability employment service delivery systems throughout states while subminimum wages, which are currently allowed under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act, are phased out over a six-year period. Currently, under Section 14(c), employers that obtain a certificate are permitted to hire individuals with disabilities at less than minimum wage. The Act would include some grant money to assist states and certificate holders in transforming their organizations' other purposes. The bill also proposes a prohibition of issuing any new 14 (c) certificates.

Providers who currently operate services under this section have expressed concern that this bill does not allow for choice for individuals who chose to work in community rehabilitation programs (resulting in the elimination of jobs), and that the proposed rate of wage increases in the phase-out period does not truly allow time for adjustments for providers (within six months of the enactment of the act, individuals would need to be compensated at 50% of minimum wage). Change at this pace could result in many individuals losing their current employment with such a short time frame to adjust to the change. ◀

Chapter 6100 Regulations Delayed Again

Deputy Secretary Ahrens shared with the IDD Committee recently that the publication date of Chapter 6100 regulations has once again been delayed. Early May is the soonest we can expect to see the regulations published in the *PA Bulletin*. As a result, all anticipated dates of implementation of the various parts of the regulations are also delayed. We will continue to keep members up to date with any movement in this regulatory package. In addition to this delay, the proposed waiver amendments have also been delayed in submission to CMS. The timeline for the implementation of those proposed changes is now anticipated to be in the fall of 2019. ◀

ABLE Age Adjustment Act Reintroduced

On March 5, Senators Bob Casey (D-PA), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), and Pat Roberts (R-KS) reintroduced the ABLE Age Adjustment Act ([S 651](#)). The bill amends the Stephen J. Beck, Jr. Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act to increase the maximum age of onset limit from before 26 to before 46. This change would allow more flexibility in the eligibility for use of an ABLE account. ◀



April is Autism Awareness Month



The month of April is a time to promote autism awareness, acceptance, inclusion, and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. On April 2, the day is proclaimed to be World Autism Awareness Day. Hundreds of thousands of landmarks, buildings, homes, and communities around the world light up blue in recognition of people living with autism. Autism-friendly events and educational activities take place all month to increase understanding and acceptance and foster worldwide support.

Some events to check out:

- ▶ [MetroKids](#)
- ▶ [LEGO Club a Community Social Support Program](#)
- ▶ [Autism Awareness Day at the Philadelphia Zoo 2019](#)
- ▶ **Watch a movie.** The Autism Society is working with [AMC Theatres](#) to bring special-needs families [Sensory Friendly Films](#) every month.

Resources available:

- ▶ [Autism Speaks](#)
- ▶ [Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training Collaborative \(ASERT\)](#)
- ▶ [Autism Society](#)

Put on the Puzzle! The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. Show your support for people with autism by wearing the Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon – as a pin on your shirt, a magnet on your car, a badge on your blog, or even your Facebook profile picture – and educate folks on the potential of people with autism! To learn more about the Autism Awareness Ribbon, [visit this web page](#). ◀

Remember to Take Advantage of ANCOR Membership

If you have not already begun receiving email information from ANCOR, and are interested in getting up-to-date information on a federal level, visit the [ANCOR website](#), or contact [Gabrielle Sedor](#) for assistance. Every Friday at 12:30 ET a very brief (15 minutes or less) call is held for all members with a recap of activities for the week. The ANCOR Member Briefing call can be accessed by calling 866-439-4480, PIN 59741638#. ◀



ODP Publications Since Last RCPA News

- ▶ 19-018 Chapter 6100 Quality Management Planning Requirements for AAW Supports Coordination Organizations and Providers
- ▶ 19-019 Available ACRE Basic Certification Training for Providers of Employment Services
 - April ACRE Flyer
- ▶ 19-020 Update Regarding Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) Information and DHS Survey
- ▶ 19-021 Training Opportunity: Consider Communication
 - ▶ Consider Communication Flyer
- ▶ 19-022 Required by March 24: Transportation Trip Cost Report for Provider Type 26
- ▶ 19-023 ODP Virtual Training Offerings April, May, June 2019
- ▶ 19-024 Open for Public Comment: Proposed Rates for Community Participation Support and Transportation Trip for Fiscal Year 2019–2020
- ▶ 19-025 Now Available: Updated ID/A Waiver Employment Service Definition Question and Answer Document and ID/A Waiver Employment Service Definition Quick Guide
 - Waiver Employment Service Definition Quick Guide
 - Waiver Employment Service Definition Question and Answer Document Version 2
- ▶ 19-026 ASD Seminar 2019: Being an Informed Supporter: What You Should Know About Autism
- ▶ 19-029 Quality Investigation Unit – Temple University
- ▶ 19-030 2019–2020 Fiscal Year (FY) Renewal Guidance
 - ▶ Attachment 1 – New CPS Services FY 2019–20
- ▶ 19-031 College of Employment Services ACRE Update – Discounted Rate Extended
- ▶ 19-033 ODP Releases 2017–2018 Annual Data Report
 - ▶ FY 2017–2018 ODP Annual Data Report
- ▶ 19-034 Requirements Regarding the Number of Individuals Served in Licensed Facilities That Provide Community Participation Support or Day Habilitation Services
- ▶ 19-035 ACRE Basic Certification Training for Providers of Employment Services
- ▶ ODP News March 2019 (Please note: The Virtual Office Hours Webinar “Deaf Services Coordinator Available to Answer Questions” on April 25, referenced on Page 3, has been canceled)
- ▶ Save the Date: Lifesharing Conference 2019

RCPA Children's Steering Committee Hears from Office of Youth and Families Deputy Secretary Cathy Utz

The Children's Steering Committee heard from Deputy Secretary Utz about the budget and priorities for the division for 2019. The following highlights were noted:

- ▶ 2.8% increase in the needs-based budget plan
- ▶ Providers should give input to your county children and youth office budget for 2020/21
- ▶ Family First is seeking a legislative delay until April 2020 for these provisions:
 - o Protocols to prevent inappropriate diagnoses that lead to inappropriate placements in non-foster family settings
 - o Fingerprint-based criminal records checks of national crime information databases, and child abuse and neglect registry checks on any adult working in a child care institution
- ▶ Extension of Chafee aftercare services to former foster care youth to age 23 and education and training vouchers to age 26 is appropriate. Considerations include documented and expected outcomes for youth receiving these services and the availability of state and local funding as the expansion would need to be implemented, absent additional federal funding.
- ▶ Model licensing standards for foster family homes
- ▶ Delay the effective date for the Title IV-E funding limitation until October 1, 2020
- ▶ Expand prevention services
- ▶ Kinship Navigator programs beginning
- ▶ RTF convenings and outcomes
- ▶ Act 33 Child Fatality and Near Fatality Review

Use [this link](#) to view the PowerPoint presented by Deputy Secretary Utz. ◀

School Safety: Central PA Schools Increasingly Prioritize Mental Wellbeing

By Min Xian • MAR 19, 2019
WPSU Radio Penn State

On a recent school day at Mount Nittany Elementary School in State College, Tiffany Myers read a children's book out loud to a class of about 20 fifth graders.

"The story we're going to read today is called, 'Red: A Crayon's Story.' Just right off the bat, what are you noticing about this crayon that makes it different than what you might expect?" Myers, a school counselor, asked.

The story is about how a blue crayon labeled as red overcomes others' misconceptions and embraces his own unique traits. Students nodded their heads as Myers summed up the lesson.

"We all have lots of things that make us who we are, and we might not be able to recognize those things about somebody else just by looking at them," Myers said... read full article [here](#). ◀

Despite Opposition From Wolf Administration, House Committee Backs Bill Providing New Tax Incentives to Adoptive Parents

By Dave Fidlin | [Watchdog.org](#) | Mar 18, 2019

A bill calling for increased tax incentives for foster parents recently received robust, bipartisan support from the Pennsylvania House Finance Committee, though officials within Gov. Tom Wolf's administration are in opposition to it.

Rep. Tarah Toohil, R-Hazleton, went before the committee March 13 with her sponsored legislation, HB 296. At its core, Toohil's plan includes a \$1,000 adoption tax credit and a \$500 foster care tax credit for families who provide permanency to children in the care of the commonwealth's Department of Human Services... read full article [here](#). ◀

TrueNorth Wellness Services is seeking a qualified individual for job as Chief Operating Officer

Individual plans and directs all aspects of the company's operations. The COO also is responsible for the short and long term profitability and growth of the company.

- Plans and directs all aspects of the company's operational policies, objectives, and initiatives.
- Develops policies and procedures for operational processes in order to ensure optimization and compliance with established standards and regulations.
- Represents the organization in its relationships with major customers, suppliers, competitors, government agencies, professional societies, and similar groups.
- Develops a sound short- and long- range plan for the organization.
- Ensures the adequacy and soundness of the organization's financial structure and reviews projections of working capital requirements. Negotiates and otherwise arranges for any outside financing that may be indicated.
- Ensures effective quality improvement activities occur within the clinical programs.

QUALIFICATIONS

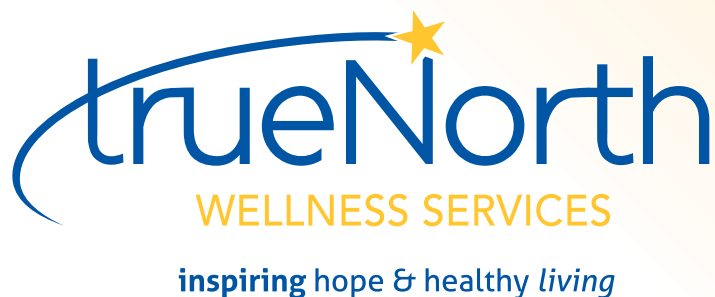
Education/Experience:

- Bachelor's degree in Business, Health Care Administration, Public Administration, or Human Services. Master's degree preferred.
- 5+ years of experience in a top management position in the human service or health care industry.
- Extensive experience in conducting meetings, contracting, and strategic planning and development.
- Previous management experience including responsibilities for hiring, training, assigning work, and managing performance of staff.

***Interested candidates should send cover letter and resume
to attention of Garrett Trout by April 15, 2019.***

[Garrett Trout, CEO](#)

625 West Elm Avenue • Hanover, PA 17331





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

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	IDD 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>



MAY

Wednesday, May 1	9:00 am – 2:00 pm	RCPA Capitol Day <i>Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg, PA</i>
Thursday, May 2	9:00 am – 11:30 am	Meeting with Michael Gamel-McCormick <i>Best Western, 800 E Park Dr, Harrisburg, PA 17111</i>
Tuesday, May 7	9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Sexuality Policy Development Workshop (Day One) <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Wednesday, May 8	9:00 am – 4:30 pm	Sexuality Policy Development Workshop (Day Two) <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, May 9	10:30 am – 7:00 pm	RCPA Golf Tournament <i>Hershey Country Club</i>
Friday, May 10	10:00 am – 2:00 pm (times tentative)	RCPA Annual Membership Meeting <i>Hershey Lodge</i>
Tuesday, May 14	12:00 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Advocacy, Education & Membership Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Wednesday, May 15	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Human Resources Committee <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, May 16	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Children's Division <i>Penn Grant Centre</i>
Thursday, May 16	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Outpatient Rehab Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>
Thursday, May 16	9:00 am – 10:00 am	Government Affairs Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Tuesday, May 21	12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	IPRC Outcomes & Best Practices Committee <i>Conference Call</i>
Thursday, May 30	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Early Intervention Committee <i>RCPA Conference Room</i>