



Joint Associations Legislative Briefing Call Notes January 13, 2020

Welcome

Legislative Briefing calls have returned to their weekly schedule, held each Monday at 11am. during session.

Federal

- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved OPWDD's 1915 Waiver Application.
- There is a bill in Congress to authorize states to provide Medicaid reimbursement for DSPs who are with an individual with DD while they are in the hospital.
- There is also a bill in Congress, introduced by Seth Moulton (D-MA), to include DD as a medically underserved population. The designation would increase access to resources from training to loan repayment - resources currently available to underserved populations such as those who live in poor zip codes, homeless individuals and migrant workers.

New York State

- Brief overview of the State of the State – The Governor reviewed his accomplishments and talked about a progressive New York, legalizing marijuana, and addressing the increase in hate crimes. There was no mention of the 1% reduction in Medicaid payments to health care and little talk about the \$6 billion overall deficit. Although, he did mention that the increase in Medicaid spending has been strictly a State problem because the counties Medicaid spending was capped. He said it was easy to write checks when you weren't paying the bill and he implied that there may be changes to the cap or that, at minimum, the county authorizations for services may receive closer monitoring. The State of the State booklet also mentioned expanding Universal PreK.
- Senators Ken LaValle (R) and Velmanette Montgomery (D) will not seek reelection in November 2020. Will Barclay, of Syracuse, is the new Assembly Minority Leader, replacing Brian Kolb.
- The State Budget is due by January 21 and there is some speculation it may be out early, possibly by Jan. 15.
- The 12-31-19 NYS Register included:
 - A 1% Medicaid across the board cut but the reduction exempts services under Mental Hygiene law, FQHCs and Early Intervention. However, there will be a 1% cut to Article 28 clinic reimbursement.
 - The new corridors and fees for CDPAP Fiscal Intermediaries which will be devastating to Fiscal Intermediaries and therefore to program participants.
 - Notice of IPSIDD rebasing
 - Notice of Article 28 APG rebasing

Advocacy

- NYDA's is continuing our 3for5 advocacy. We have joined with all of the "O" agencies (OMH, OPWDD, OASAS) and various human services associations and agencies in seeking the 3for5 for sustainable funding. DOB and the Governor's staff is aware of the strength of the coalition and they indicate they understand the need and the necessity. In addition to the NYDA meetings, all of the advocates are meeting every week to strategize and make sure that we all continue the same 3for5 message and ask.
- Aileen Gunther and David Carlucci have sent letters to the Governor.

Legislation of Interest

- Senator James Skoufis has introduced the Prevailing Wage Bill for construction workers, and we are continuing to assess the impact on the I/DD field.
- The Sub-minimum Wage Bill would discontinue the State sub-minimum wage provisions that have allowed opportunities for some people with I/DD to obtain and maintain employment, either on an ongoing or short-term basis to work toward becoming a productive member of the community; collecting a paycheck.
- We continue to collaborate with other EI and preschool advocates seeking a 10% increase in EI and preschool rates. The broader the coalition, the better the response.
- There was an SED workgroup to discuss preschool special education issues and concerns including:
 - Schools cannot pay teachers, teacher aides, and assistants enough to keep up with public schools.
 - Background check requirements take time and delay getting teachers into classrooms.
 - The NYC salary parity deal for teacher's who work at community-based organizations has made 4410 teachers the lowest paid in the city. Our NYC providers are now in a "super crisis" and we are addressing the issue with both City and State elected officials.

2020 Advocacy Days

Statewide Advocacy Network (SWAN)	1/14
The Arc and The Alliance	2/10 & 2/11
Joint Association (ALIA, CP of NYS, DDAWNY, IAC & NYAEMP) <i>(Hotel registration is due Friday, Jan. 24)</i>	2/25 & 2/26

NYDA Legislative Briefing Call will not be held Monday, January 20, Martin Luther King Day