



HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT PASSES

The Health Care Decisions Act, S.756-B (Hannon)/A.3583-A (Weisenberg), passed both Houses of the Legislature and will now be sent to the Governor. This legislation authorizes involved family members of a person with mental retardation to withhold or withdraw life sustaining treatment when a guardian (Article 17A) has not been appointed. The legislation specifically requires that non-guardian family members qualified to act as surrogates have “a significant and ongoing involvement in a person’s life . . . so as to have knowledge of their needs and, to the extent ascertainable, their moral and religious beliefs” when making such decisions. CP of NYS would particularly like to thank Senator Kemp Hannon and Assemblymember Harvey Weisenberg for their sponsorship and support of this important legislation. The bill will be sent to the Governor within the next few weeks and we anticipate that the Governor will sign the bill. CP of NYS will provide an update on this and all legislation of interest to Affiliates after the June 21 recess of the 2007 legislative session.

DE SILVA REPLACES WITHIAM ON MAJOR PROJECT COMMITTEE

Richard De Silva, from Yorktown Heights in Westchester County, has been named Chairman of the Major Project Committee of the New York State Elks Association (NYSEA). He spent 33 years as an executive in the apparel

industry and also served as President of four Professional Associations.

Mr. De Silva served as Exalted Ruler of the Yorktown Elks Lodge and currently holds the position of treasurer. He has also held the position of Mid-Hudson District chairman of Major Projects for three years and has been a Vice-President of the New York State Elks Association. He currently serves as lodge chairman for five committees. A dedicated volunteer, Mr. De Silva has been active in the community in many other ways as well, serving as Grand Knight of the 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus Council #4012 and as President of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus. He is President of Jefferson Owners Corporation, a community of 1,000 units and 1,500 residents and has also been an active volunteer for Hudson Valley Special Olympics for the past 15 years.

Community service runs in the family. Mary, his wife of 39 years, is Past Exalted Ruler of the Yorktown Lodge, currently serves as lodge secretary and holds the position of District Chair for the Elk’s National Foundation.

CMS NPI DATA DISSEMINATION NOTICE

The National Provider Identifier (NPI) Data Dissemination Notice, currently available in the Federal Register, provides information about the NPI database that will be available for public use. The searchable database will allow providers to search for clinician’s NPIs if they are unable to obtain them directly from the clinician. The NPI database will be similar to the Unique Physician Identification Number (UPIN) registry database that is currently available for Medicare identifiers. A link to the Notice, as well as other NPI information, can be found at www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderStand. The Notice provides information regarding which NPI identifying information the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will make available in the searchable database.

CMS has noted that only information that is available through FOIA, will be available in the database. Therefore, social security numbers, individual tax identification numbers and

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date of birth, will not be provided in the database. The Notice provides a full listing of the data elements that will be included in the database.

CMS held a roundtable call to provide clarification on the Dissemination Notice. CMS stressed that providers should check the data they submitted for their NPI prior to the database being released, to ensure the accuracy of their information. Additionally, if providers included any optional information that they do not want included in a public database, they should delete this information. To edit your NPI data, you can go to <https://NPPES.cms.hhs.gov> or you can call 1-800-465-3203. The database may be available as early as June 28, 2007, but may not be available until later in July. CMS will announce the availability of the database at the CMS NPI website (listed above).

MACY'S SHOP FOR A CAUSE DAY SET FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Macy's annual one-day shopping event gives shoppers an opportunity to participate in a unique shopping experience including discounts, entertainment, special events and the opportunity to win thousands of dollars worth of prizes. This year's event will be conducted on Saturday, October 13 at Macy's stores across the country. Several CP of NYS Affiliates participated last year, raising thousands of dollars.

Participating Affiliates sell passes to the event for \$5. Your organization keeps the proceeds from every shopping pass you sell. By purchasing a shopping pass, customers can support your organization, while enjoying a day of discounts and events throughout the store.

According to Macy's, **Shop For A Cause Savings Passes** entitle the bearer to special savings on select merchandise throughout the store in addition to regular and sale merchandise specials. The all day limited exclusion savings pass includes:

- 20% off regular, sale & clearance women's, men's & kids' apparel & accessories, fine, bridge & fashion jewelry, bed & bath items, housewares, frames, luggage, china, crystal & silver.
- 10% off regular, sale & clearance furniture, mattresses, rugs, kitchen & personal care electrics & technology items.

If your Affiliate is interested in participating, call your local Macy's store. To find the nearest store, go to their website at www.macys.com. There are some restrictions and excluded items. If you have any questions or would like more information, call Al Shibley at the Affiliate Services Office in Albany.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SEEKING AFFILIATE PRESENTATIONS

Planning is underway for the 2007 CP of NYS Conference, "*Creative Partnerships for the Future*," scheduled for October 22-24 at The Desmond Hotel in Albany. We welcome the participation of Affiliate staff in presenting workshops and hope that many of you will submit a proposal to make a presentation at the Conference. Again this year, we are offering a standardized time slot – one hour and fifteen minutes. This will allow for optimal session scheduling and will provide a more varied session choice to the audience.

We are especially seeking proposals for workshop sessions in **Innovative Day Programs; Programs for People with Autism/PDD; Partnerships** (i.e., with consumers, families, communities, community agencies) and **Residential Program Issues** (staffing, communication with outside programs, etc.).

If you have any questions, or would like us to send you an *Affiliate Presentation Form* outlining the information requirements for submitting a proposal, please contact the Affiliate Services Office at (518) 436-0178.



2007 CP of NYS Annual Conference October 22 - 24, 2007

UPDATE: Keynote Speaker – John D. Kemp
Principal at the Washington, D.C Law Firm of Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville, P.C.
and CEO of the ACCSES-DSPA Alliance

The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, Albany, NY