



CP OF NYS TESTIFIES AT ASSEMBLY PRIMARY CARE HEARING

CP of NYS testified on Monday, October 29, 2007 at a State Assembly Health Committee hearing on ensuring access to primary care services, emphasizing the need to ensure access to health care services for people with disabilities. Barbara Crosier, CP of NYS's Vice President for Government Relations, testified jointly with Dr. Dan Silverman, Medical Director for the Center for Disability Services. CP of NYS emphasized that, as OMRDD providers, we have the experience of patient centered or person centered services. The Administration has spoken of their goal to move toward a patient centered health care system and CP of NYS and its Affiliates would like to partner with the State Health Department to continue to provide and expand our health care services to people with disabilities and our communities where they are needed. Dr. Silverman spoke of the challenges of providing health care services within the current environment where the rules are continually changing but the reimbursement has not increased in fifteen years. Assemblymember Richard Gottfried, who is chairman of the Assembly Health Committee, said that he appreciated our comments and that we raised issues that have not been raised by any of the other presenters. CP of NYS will meet with Assemblymember Gottfried in his New York City District Office to continue the conversation about the services and needs for the CP of NYS Article 28 clinics.

NEW PROCEDURES FOR MANDATED REPORTERS OF CHILD ABUSE & MALTREATMENT

Chapter 193 of the Laws of 2007, modifying section 413 of the New York State Social Services Law (SSL), became law on July 3, 2007, with an effective date of October 1,

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2007. The new requirements significantly change procedures in terms of who is responsible for making a report to the State Central Register of Child Abuse and Maltreatment (SCR).

Previously, section 413 of the SSL required that "whenever such person is required to report under this title in his or her capacity as a member of the staff of a medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency, he or she shall immediately notify the person in charge of such institution, school, facility or agency, or his or her designated agent, who then also shall become responsible to report or cause reports to be made."

Beginning October 1, 2007, mandated reporters who work for a school, child care provider, foster care facility, residential care facility, hospital, medical institution or mental health facility, and who have direct knowledge of any allegation(s) of suspected child abuse or maltreatment, must personally make a report to the SCR and then notify the person in charge of the institution or his/her designated agent that a report has been made. The person in charge, or the designated agent of such person, is then responsible for all subsequent internal administration necessitated by the report. This may include providing follow-up information (i.e., relevant information contained in the child's education record) to Child Protective Services.

Note: Notification to the person in charge or designated agent of the medical or other public or private institution, school, facility or agency does not absolve the original mandated reporter of his or her responsibility to personally make a report to the SCR. Further, all initial or subsequent reports made to the SCR shall include the name, title and contact information for every staff person of an institution that is believed to have direct knowledge of the allegations contained in the report. Nothing in Chapter 193, however, is intended to *require* that more than one report from any such institution, school or agency be made to the SCR.

No medical or other public or private institution, school, facility, or agency shall take retaliatory personnel action against an employee who made a report to the SCR. Furthermore, no school, school official, child care provider, residential care facility provider, hospital, medical institution provider or mental health facility provider shall impose any

conditions, including prior approval or prior notification, upon a member of their staff mandated to report suspected child abuse or maltreatment.

Chapter 193 also amends section 413 of the Social Services Law to specifically include school teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses and school social workers on the list of individuals classified as mandated reporters and therefore required to report cases of suspected child abuse or maltreatment to the SCR.

HUNDREDS FROM ACROSS THE STATE ATTEND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Nearly 900 people from 24 Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) Affiliates across the state attended three days of workshops and meetings, October 22-24, at the 2007 CP of NYS Annual Conference in Albany.

A Keynote Address by John D. Kemp, Chief Executive Officer of ACCSES, The Voice of Disability Service Providers, and a panel discussion of key statewide issues headlined by Lieutenant Governor David Paterson and Diana Jones Ritter, Commissioner of the State Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), highlighted the event. The Conference also featured the CP of NYS Annual Awards Dinner on October 22 and music by "Creation," a musical group from UCPA of Nassau County, and "Universal Mind," from Aspire of Western New York.

The program included sessions and meetings dealing with issues such as education, assistive technology and the latest medical information on cerebral palsy and other disabilities. The CP of NYS Annual Awards dinner recognized and honored individuals and organizations from across the state for their success in overcoming obstacles, or for their contributions to people with disabilities and their families. The next night 61 employees from 21 Affiliates were honored for outstanding service at the Celebrate Staff Dinner.

A display of artwork submitted by Affiliates from across the state was on display at the silent auction on Tuesday. A full-color poster with all 17 pieces of original art was displayed and sold at the Conference. Karen DeVoe, from the Center for Disability Services, was chosen as CP of NYS Artist of the Year, and was also honored at the Annual Awards Dinner. Posters are available for sale by calling the Affiliate Services Office.

Tuesday evening included a performance by comedian and motivational speaker Brett Leake. Mr. Leake was back on Wednesday morning with a light-hearted and inspirational presentation to conclude the Conference.

Thank you to all our exhibitors and sponsors in making this year's Conference accessible to so many people across the state.



*Keynote Speaker
John Kemp speaks
with CP of NYS
Board Member
Cora Baliff.*



*Brett Leake provided
Conference attendees
with his views on
living with a
disability, as well as
many opportunities to
laugh during two
presentations at the
CP of NYS Annual
Conference in Albany.*



*Universal Mind, a band from Aspire of Western New York,
provided music for dancing on October 23
at the CP of NYS Annual Conference.*