



NYS LEGISLATURE COMPLETES THE 2008-2009 STATE BUDGET

The New York State Legislature passed the Education, Labor and Family Assistance and Revenue bills on Wednesday, April 9, to complete the passage of the 2008-2009 State fiscal year budget, which began on April 1, 2008. The final budget as adopted is \$121.7 billion and 4.9% larger than last year's budget. Following are 2008-2009 state budget highlights of interest to CP of NYS Affiliates:

DOH

Article 28 Clinics

- As part of what the Governor's office described as "the most significant reimbursement changes since 1996," APGs for our Article 28 DTCs will move forward as of March 1, 2009. As previously discussed, it will begin with 25% APG reimbursement and 75% threshold rate reimbursement on 3-1-09 and will be phased in to 100% APGs over four years.
- Psychotherapy billing by social workers, for those clinics that provided the service, billed and received payment during 2007, will be 100% at the APG rate as of 1-1-09.

Early Intervention

- There is \$16.7 million to provide state share funding for a COLA for Early Intervention (EI) providers beginning 4-1-08. We are currently working with DOH and the Legislature on the implementation of this COLA for all EI services and children. Additionally, as a result of our efforts, DOH has committed to requiring cost reports from all EI providers through the approval/re-approval process and looking at restructuring the EI rates to address the financial problems of comprehensive EI providers inherent in the current rate setting methodology.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- ◆ *NYS Legislature Completes the 2008-2009 State Budget*
- ◆ *Corporate Compliance Regional Meetings*
- ◆ *Governor's Expo Provides Opportunity for Affiliates to Highlight A.T. Activities*
- ◆ *Compliance Conference*
- ◆ *Spring Home Service Directors Meeting Scheduled*
- ◆ *Sports and Fitness Conference Registration Form On Line*

Other Health Initiatives

- There will be a new prescription drug discount card for people with disabilities of all ages and everyone (below a certain income) between the ages of 50 to 64. Currently, the EPIC program is only for individuals over 64 below a certain income.
- SCHIP will be expanded to include children up to 400% of poverty (now at 250%) and this expansion will be funded entirely with state funds.
- Doctors Across NY will provide grants for doctors to repay their education loans to practice in areas where there is a physician shortage.
- The tobacco tax will be increased by \$1.25 per pack. DOH sees this as an important health initiative in addition to raising state revenues.
- All local grant/assistance programs in DOH were cut by 2% as part of Governor Paterson's announced cuts to trim the state budget due to decreased revenue forecasts.

OMRDD

- The final budget restores \$4 million of the \$4.7 million OMRDD cut. Therefore, \$700,000 of the original state share cut remains. OMRDD has said that they will work with providers to look at areas to achieve this savings.
- The COLA for non-trended programs is continued through 2012. The COLA effective 4-1-08 is 3.2%.
- Additionally, Governor Paterson had announced that there would be an additional cut of 3% on state-operated programs and 2% on local assistance programs. The OMRDD state operations cut will be approximately 3.5%. The OMRDD 2% reduction on local assistance programs amounts to \$11.2 million. DOB will be working with OMRDD on how and where these reductions will be taken to minimize impact on voluntary providers.

SED

Special Education Teacher Shortage

- Provided an additional \$2 million for 4410 and 853 teacher salary enhancements along with the \$2 million added last year (for a total of \$4 million this year).
- Continued the \$2 million for 853 teacher salary enhancements that has been in place since 2002.

Preschool Special Education

- Rejected the Administration's proposal to shift 4410 evaluation and administration costs to school districts.
- Rejected the Administration's proposal to eliminate parent choice of evaluators.
- Rejected the Administration's proposal to authorize SED to set the Related Service Only (RSO) regional rates.

- Rejected the Administration's proposal to cap the county's share of 4410 costs.

VESID

- Extended Supported Employment was reduced from \$13.9 million to \$13.624 million.
- Intensive Supported Employment did not receive any increase or COLA.
- Case Services did not receive any increase or COLA.
- Early Childhood Direction Centers state funding was cut by 2%, or \$13,000 for a total appropriation of \$1.5 million.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE REGIONAL MEETINGS

Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State (CP of NYS) will conduct three regional meetings for Corporate Compliance Officers on the dates listed below. Choose the meeting that is most convenient for you and register by contacting Jean Fryer at (518) 436-0178 or jfryer@cpofnys.org.

- Tuesday, April 22 (CP Rochester)
- Wednesday, April 23 (CP of NYS Affiliate Services Office, Albany)
- Tuesday, April 29 (CP of NYS Metropolitan Office, NYC)

The meetings will provide opportunities for Corporate Compliance Officers to share information and compliance tools. The topics for the meetings are Compliance Training, Risk Assessments, Compliance Investigations, and Compliance Audits. The conversation will be open and questions from the group are encouraged. If you have specific agenda items, please e-mail them to Susan Hornbeck at shornbeck@cpofnys.org and they will be included in the discussion.

GOVERNOR'S EXPO PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR AFFILIATES TO HIGHLIGHT A.T. ACTIVITIES

CP of NYS has arranged to participate with an exhibitor's booth at the 10th Anniversary New York State Governor's Expo: **Technology Opens Doors**, on May 15, 2008 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Albany.

We would like to highlight our Affiliates' activities in the area of assistive technology, including TRAIID projects, specialized assistive technology services or innovative technologies utilized within your programs. If you would like your information included, please send us program descriptions, sample brochures, and especially photos of A.T. in use. Photos should be 8x10 or, if sent electronically, high enough resolution to be enlarged to 8x10. Please forward all materials as soon as possible.

Photos and information can be sent to jgerson@cpofnys.org or ashibley@cpofnys.org, or by mail to Al Shibley or Judi Gerson at CP of NYS, 90 State Street, Suite 929, Albany, NY 12207.

Additional information about the Expo can be accessed at www.atexpo2008.com. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Judi or Al.

COMPLIANCE CONFERENCE

The CP of NYS/NYSARC compliance conference on May 16 is filling up fast! If you have not yet registered, please do so to guarantee your seat. Registration cost for Affiliates is \$125 for

the first staff member, and \$99 for each subsequent staff member from the same Affiliate. Please send your registration and fee to NYSARC, 393 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054.

The first block of rooms at a discount rate has been filled. The Crowne Plaza added a limited number of rooms for the evening of May 15 at the discount price of \$99. If you are unable to book a room at the Crowne Plaza, the other hotels nearby are:

The Hampton Inn and Suites

25 Chapel St., 518-432-1112

74 State

74 State Street, 518-434-7410

Holiday Inn Express

300 Broadway, 518-434-4111

SPRING HOME SERVICE DIRECTORS MEETING SCHEDULED

The spring meeting of Affiliate Home Service Directors, CP of NYS Affiliate Services staff, and representatives of the New York State Elks Association (NYSEA) will take place May 20-21 at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown.

The first of two annual meetings of this group will provide an opportunity for Home Service Directors to meet with representatives of the NYSEA, which supports the Home Service Program with an annual donation of nearly \$500,000. Representatives of the Elks will discuss their plans for the year and hear from the 27 CP of NYS Home Service Directors.

Additionally, Carol Kriss, from the NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), will speak to the group about the latest federal targeted case management regulations and the potential impact on New York State as well as any planned changes to the service coordination programs in New York.

SPORTS AND FITNESS CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM ON LINE

CP of NYS will conduct a one-day sports and fitness conference on Monday, June 9, 2008 at Camp Jened in Rock Hill, NY. The event will provide an opportunity for staff and consumers from organizations serving people with disabilities to participate in informational sessions presented by representatives from organizations that conduct fitness, sports, and recreation programs for people with disabilities. Some of the organizations that will be involved are the United States Tennis Association (USTA), Blaze Sports America, Touching Bases, and Special Olympics New York.

We are expecting presentations and demonstrations in such sports as bocce, canoeing, baseball, and tennis for people with disabilities. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you know of anyone in your organization who may be interested in attending, please pass this information along.

The Registration Form for the conference can be found by going to www.cpofofnys.org (click on Training and Conferences, Training Sessions, then Sports and Fitness Conference).