



ASSEMBLYMAN, CP of NYS, NYSARC TO CONDUCT NEWS CONFERENCE CALLING FOR RESTORATION OF OMRDD BUDGET CUTS

Assembly Mental Hygiene Chair Peter Rivera has scheduled an Albany news conference for Monday, March 9th at noon. CP of NYS and NYSARC are helping to coordinate this event, to be held in the legislative press room of the Legislative Office Building in Albany.

Assemblyman Rivera will present the need for legislative oversight of Federal Stimulus Funds and highlight

the need to use some of that funding to restore the cuts to OMRDD programs and services. New York State will receive approximately \$300 million a year in increased Medicaid funding due to the enhanced federal share of OMRDD programs run by voluntary agencies but there are no plans to spend any of that to restore our cuts. Additionally, the stimulus infrastructure funds could be used productively and to “stimulate the economy” by the OMRDD voluntary community based system.

Despite these needs and potential, the Governor has not appointed anyone with executive experience in our field to his 39 member stimulus cabinet. This omission underscores our need to get the attention of the Executive and remind him of the critical needs in our field. Assemblyman Rivera will highlight this, in addition to the other issues.

The Press Conference will feature parents and consumers who can tell a compelling story about what budget cuts mean to them. We will also use the press conference to publicize the Family Advocacy Day scheduled for March 13th. For the CP of NYS press, we need personal stories about the impact of budget cuts on Affiliate consumers and families. Individual names and quotes are important. We want to compile a file of short, one paragraph compelling stories about how the budget cuts will adversely affect New Yorkers with disabilities and their families. Please call Barbara Crosier at (518) 436-0178 with any questions.

IMPACT ON NEW YORK STATE OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as the Federal Stimulus Package, provides nearly \$800 billion to boost the American economy. Approximately \$374 billion is for programs that impact New York State and we expect to receive \$24.6 billion of that funding directly. The programs include funding for

IN THIS ISSUE...

- ◆ *Assemblyman, CP of NYS, NYSARC to Conduct News Conference Calling for Restoration of OMRDD Budget Cuts*
- ◆ *Impact on New York State of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*
- ◆ *Senator Duane, NYS Senate Health Committee Chair, Appoints Soffel, Bearden to Key Committee*
- ◆ *CP of NYS Schedules Supervisory and Leadership Workshops*
- ◆ *CP of NYS Night at the Knicks*
- ◆ *Register On Line for CP of NYS Training Sessions*
- ◆ *Corporate Compliance Officer Regional Meetings Being Held*
- ◆ *Save the Date*
- ◆ *OMR Requires Providers to Send Liability Notices to All Medicaid Consumers*
- ◆ *Cooperstown Surgeon Named to CP of NYS Board of Directors*
- ◆ *UCP of Suffolk Receives Grant From Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation*

Medicaid, Education, Infrastructure and “shovel-ready” projects throughout New York State. Several portions of the federal stimulus legislation will provide direct fiscal relief to State and local governments.

The stimulus bill provides \$87 billion in fiscal relief through increased federal participation in Medicaid (FMAP) and New York’s share of that funding (which includes funding for the State, counties, and the City of New York) is nearly \$11 billion over a 27-month period. The Act includes a State fiscal stabilization fund of \$53.6 billion over two years, which primarily consists of funding for education. New York is expected to receive \$2.5 billion to restore proposed reductions in funding for education. It is expected that half of the \$2.5 billion will be committed in 2009-10 and the remainder in 2010-11. Another \$5 billion in education grants will be available for states meeting key performance measures as determined by the United States Department of Education. New York should be in position to receive substantial funding.

New York is expected to receive \$940 million in Title I funding for high needs students and \$760 million in IDEA funding for special education over the next two years. Both of these funds would be split roughly evenly between the next two fiscal years. This funding will be provided directly to school districts through the State Education Department.

There are several websites that provide information about the stimulus package. Governor David Paterson has a website for the impact on New York at: <http://www.economicrecovery.ny.gov/Recovery/rra.htm>.

The Obama Administration has a website at www.recovery.gov and The Center for Budget Policies and Priorities has put together its state by state estimates for ARRA provisions at: <http://www.cbpp.org/1-22-09bud.htm>.

The National Disability Institute did a report on the Economic Stimulus Plan and how it affects individuals with disabilities which can be found at: <http://www.accses.org/vendorimages/accses/NationalDisabilityInstituteEconStimulusRept.pdf>.

SENATOR DUANE, NYS SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR, APPOINTS SOFFEL, BEARDEN TO KEY COMMITTEE

New York State Senator Thomas K. Duane, Chair of the Senate Health Committee, has appointed Denise Sof-

fel as Health Committee Executive Director and Roger Bearden as Health Committee Counsel.

Soffel comes to her new position from the National Center for Law and Economic Justice (NCLEJ), where she worked as the Health Policy Coordinator, developing and implementing policy advocacy strategy to improve and strengthen public health insurance programs. At the same time she served as a leader of Medicaid Matters, a state-wide Medicaid consumer coalition. CP of NYS worked with Soffel on the coalition. Prior to joining NCLEJ, Soffel spent twelve years as a Senior Health Policy Analyst for the Community Service Society of New York.

Bearden is joining the Senate Health Committee from Disability Advocates, Inc., where he litigated and advocated on behalf of individuals with mental illness and other disabilities. Bearden has previously litigated in federal and state courts and specialized in First Amendment law, representation of religious minorities, and international litigation.

CP of NYS SCHEDULES SUPERVISORY AND LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

Dr. Ralph A. Johnson will conduct supervisory training programs at three sites around the state in April. Dr. Johnson, Director of Training and Faculty Management for the American Management Association, who has extensive international experience in training design and development, will present workshops on:

April 28 – New York City

CP of NYS, 330 West 34th Street, 15th Fl., NYC

April 29 – Syracuse

Enable, 1603 Court Street, Syracuse

April 30 – Albany

Center for Disability Services, 22 Corporate Woods Boulevard, Albany

These interactive, day-long workshops will provide participants with a solid understanding of what it takes to be an effective leader as well as useful ideas and concepts to take back to the workplace. The sessions are designed for people new to supervisory roles, as well as those looking to build upon their leadership skills. For more information, or to pre-register please click on this link <http://www.cpoofnys.org/events/pdf/2009219112221..pdf> or call (518) 436-0178.

CP of NYS NIGHT AT THE KNICKS

The New York Knicks have set aside 500 tickets for the March 23rd game at Madison Square Garden for sale by CP of NYS Affiliates.

We sell tickets at face value (\$60.50), keep \$30.50 and pay the Knicks \$30 for each ticket sold. There is no initial outlay on our part. We pay only for the tickets we sell. We are not obligated to meet any quotas. Payment must be made before the Knicks will release tickets and then we will get the tickets for distribution to Affiliates about a week before the game.

The Knicks have given us a cut-off date of March 6, at which time they will return all unsold tickets from our block back for sale to the general public and we stop selling for that night. There are some visibility benefits we will receive by meeting certain sales goals.

CP of NYS is working to create a relationship with the Knicks for future games and other opportunities. They want to sell tickets and we would like to get discounts and visibility at their games and perhaps other benefits. The goal is to get on the schedule next fall for a game in February of 2010. Please contact Al Shibley in the Affiliate Services Office with questions.

REGISTER ON LINE FOR CP of NYS TRAINING SESSIONS

The Cerebral Palsy Associations of New York State website at www.cpodnys.org now provides you with the chance to register on line for educational and training sessions we conduct. On the Home Page of our website there is a link for *Training and Conferences*. Roll your mouse over the link and a drop-down menu appears. The top choice on the drop-down is the link to those sessions coming up. Click on that link and you will go to the page with information about upcoming training and educational workshops, seminars and conferences. Our Annual Conference link can still be found as the next item in the drop-down menu.

We currently have details about upcoming sessions on the site. You may also access them by clicking on the following links:

The 5 Component Model for Early Intervention

(<http://www.cpodnys.org/events/pdf/200921113422..pdf>)
A one-day seminar by Dr. Robin McWilliam

Creative Leadership Leader-Follower (A Supervisory Training Program for Emerging and Existing Team Leaders)

(<http://www.cpodnys.org/events/pdf/2009219112221..pdf>)
A workshop with Dr. Ralph A. Johnson

More information about those sessions will be available on the website soon.

CORPORATE COMPLIANCE OFFICER REGIONAL MEETINGS BEING HELD

Three regional meetings for Compliance Officers will be held in April. The regional meetings are an opportunity to share issues and questions, learn from your colleagues and share tools used in effective compliance programs. We have a lot of great things going on in CP of NYS compliance programs and hope everyone has an opportunity to attend one of the meetings.

All meetings will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

April 8 – CP of Rochester (hosted by Maryjoan Case) –
3399 Winton Road South, Rochester

April 14 – CP of NYS (hosted by Ellen Gribbin) –
330 West 34th Street, 15th Floor, NYC

April 24 – Center for Disability Services (hosted by
Laura Wells) – 22 Corporate Woods Boulevard,
Albany

Please contact Cheryl Bradway (cbradway@cpofnys.org) to register for one of these sessions.

SAVE THE DATE

The Second Annual Corporate Compliance Conference – *Audits, Investigations and Self-Disclosures* – will be held Tuesday, May 5 at the Crowne Plaza. Speakers this year include James G. Sheehan, NYS Medicaid Inspector General; Brian Flood, Managing Partner, KPMG; Roy Snell, CEO of the Health Care Compliance Association and the Society for Compliance and Ethics; Michael Koenig, Esq. and CP Compliance Officer Laura Wells presenting with Judy Trent of Nassau AHRC. Registration brochure will be available soon.

OMR REQUIRES PROVIDERS TO SEND LIABILITY NOTICES TO ALL MEDICAID CONSUMERS

The Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) has mandated that, effective February 15, 2009, a Liability Notice must be given to any

individual requesting new residential or day habilitation services or any individual requesting additional residential or day habilitation regardless of Medicaid/Waiver status. This applies to ICF, Family Care Res Hab, CR, IRA, and Day Habilitation. All individuals requesting these services must receive the notice so they are aware if they lose Medicaid coverage, they will have to pay privately.

In addition, starting March 15, 2009, **all** people who **currently** receive Medicaid services should receive a notice concerning their responsibility to pay should their Medicaid eligibility lapse. As of this writing, the notice has still not come from OMRDD. Individuals must be told that if they lose Medicaid coverage they will be responsible for payment for these services.

CP of NYS will continue to strongly indicate that providers should not be responsible for issuing these notices. This notification requirement is particularly burdensome, expensive to implement, and unnecessary, and comes at a time when NYS is looking for cost efficiencies. It also undermines the fundamental principles of the Medicaid program, which was set up to ensure services will be provided for people not in a position to pay for those services. We will continue to work with OMRDD to advocate for elimination of, or changes to, the implementation of this policy.

COOPERSTOWN SURGEON NAMED TO CP of NYS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joseph P. Dutkowsky, M.D., has been appointed to the CP of NYS Board of Directors. Dr. Dutkowsky is currently serving as the Attending Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon with Bassett Healthcare in Cooperstown. He received his B.S. Degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY and M.D. from Brown University.

“I am extremely pleased to have such a distinguished and highly respected expert in the field joining the CP of NYS Board of Directors,” said Susan Constantino, President & CEO of the organization. “He will bring a unique perspective to our organization that will make us even stronger and more responsive to the needs of people with disabilities and their families.”

Dr. Dutkowsky has been the recipient of numerous research grants, is a widely published author and a dynamic and highly regarded speaker who has addressed groups in Europe, South America and North America, including the CP of NYS Annual Conference. A native of Endwell, NY, Dr. Dutkowsky currently lives in Cooperstown.

UCP OF SUFFOLK RECEIVES GRANT FROM CHRISTOPHER & DANA REEVE FOUNDATION

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Suffolk has received a \$15,235 quality of life grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. The funds will be used by UCP Suffolk to underwrite the purchase of adaptive medical equipment for its comprehensive, fully accessible Health Center in Central Islip. The items to be funded include a Barrier Free Exam Table, a Universal Power Procedure Table and an accessible Optometry Chair.

Each year the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations that provide services to individuals living with paralysis.