



A Project of the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD)

The American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) is a 70 year-old bipartisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the development, promotion, and implementation of public human service policies that improve the health and well-being of families, children, and adults. Its leadership is drawn from the state and local officials who oversee a broad range of programs, including Medicaid, child welfare, food stamps, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, child care, services to the mentally ill and developmentally disabled, public health, vocational rehabilitation, and job training.

Located in Washington, D.C., APHSA provides members with up-to-date information on Congressional and executive branch activities and initiatives that will impact human services programs across the country. It also regularly provides to the Congress and the executive branch information on the states' position with regard to human services policy issues. The Association works closely with the National Governors' Association (NGA) as well as with senior staff of other state executive branch organizations, such as the National Association of State Mental Health Program

The Center and Parent Organization

Directors (NASMHPD), the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NADDDDS), and the National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA), as well as the National Council of State Legislatures.

The National Association of State Medicaid Directors is a professional, non-profit organization of representatives of state Medicaid agencies, including the District of Columbia and the territories. It has been an "affiliate" of APHSA since 1979. The primary purposes of NASMD are to serve as a focal point of communication between the states and the federal government, to provide an information network among states on issues pertinent to the Medicaid program, and to serve as the forum for developing policy recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Medicaid programs.

The Center for Workers with Disabilities was established to aid participating states in their implement of their Medicaid Infrastructure Grants, and related efforts intended to enhance employment opportunities for persons with disabilities. The Center is housed within the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD). For more information on APHSA and its affiliates, including NASMD, go to www.aphsa.org.

Supported by dues from member state agencies, the Center is open to all states that have received a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant. States that are considering implementation of Medicaid eligibility expansions for persons with disabilities who are working may also join.

The Center is advised by a steering committee composed of a representative from each member state. Founding members include: Idaho, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico,

Oregon, and Rhode Island. The Center has served over 30 states since its inception.

Center Staff

Located in NASMD, the Center shares many resources with the Medicaid directors' Association including administrative support and conference planning staff as well as technical staff working on key issues such as Long Term Care policy, Medicaid Eligibility, Third Party Liability coverage issues, Systems, and Managed Care. In addition to those resources, there are dedicated Center staff and Project Team Members with extensive Medicaid, Social Security benefits and disability policy knowledge that provide state specific technical assistance. The Center also facilitates state-to-state technical assistance by connecting state counterparts working on similar issues or to share expertise, offers a robust Web site, and routinely produces informational documents for states.

The Center for Workers with Disabilities offers states the following services:

Public Policy Support Services

The Center offers states an array of services aimed at growing or enhancing employment opportunities and other efforts that will enable persons with disabilities to be full participants in their communities including:

- Technical assistance and guidance to support state efforts to design or expand Medicaid infrastructures supporting the competitive employment of persons with disabilities. Center staff will organize and coordinate consultant services to states from other

Center Services

participating state staff who have expertise in the particular area of need. Center staff will also provide consultant services as possible based on Center resources.

- A resource bank or “library” of up-to-date information and experiences from states with more fully developed infrastructures supporting the competitive employment of persons with disabilities;
- Co-located with the National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD), the Center offers a mechanism for the timely exchange of information about state activities and the identification of operational and policy issues with CMS as they relate to such infrastructures. Access to NASMD resources including a close working relationship with CMS staff, access to the state/federal Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) expertise;
- Access to critical Federal agencies (i.e., SSA, DOL, and ED) relating to policies affecting workers with disabilities and, subsequently, serving as a focal point for the regular exchange of information with these agencies on state activities and operational issues, as well as the formal channel for policy recommendations;
- Monitoring federal executive branch issuances, regulations, policy or operational guidance as well as Congressional legislation impacting on programs serving all persons with disabilities;
- A forum for sharing exemplary state practices and exchange of experiences in TWWIIA and BBA implementation through conferences, seminars, e-

mail, the Center Web Site, and teleconferences;
and

- Close connections with national, Washington-based advocacy organizations, such as the National Governors' Association (NGA), the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS), the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Information Dissemination: Another key area of work for the Center is synthesis and dissemination of information on promising practices in the following areas: a) health care expansions; b) income and eligibility criteria; c) benefit coordination for individuals participating in a work or return to work programs; d) intrastate agency relationships; e) "ticket" program implementation; f) "model" providers; g) working with advocates; h) resources on consumer directed services (CDS) and personal assistant services (PAS); i) information on federal activity impacting on TWWIIA programs and other incentives for workers with disabilities.

For more information on the Center for Workers with Disabilities contact Mark Newsom, Program Director, at:

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