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Tuesday, 02 June 2009

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NYSACRA News & Views

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Greetings NYSACRA Members!

· CINDY MANN APPOINTED TO HEAD OF MEDICAID DIVISION AT CMS

U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius today announced the appointment of Cindy Mann to serve as Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO), part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and is the part of CMS that oversees Medicaid and SCHIP. Mann most recently served as a research professor and executive director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University's Health Policy Institute. She also has extensive state-level experience, having worked on health care, welfare, and public finance issues in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York. She holds a law degree from New York University School of Law. She has made a number of presentations at ANCOR events and understands the issues of people with developmental disabilities and community supports.

· ALERT: JUNE 4TH CONGRESSIONAL CALL-IN ON LONG TERM SERVICES

Our national provider association, ANCOR, is working with a number of aging and disability organizations to host a second National Call-In Day on Thursday, June 4th to urge Congress to include long-term supports and services in health care reform legislation this year. Last month 10,000 calls were made to the Senate. This time we are targeting the House of Representatives. While 48 million people lack health care insurance, 250 million people lack coverage for long-term services and supports. Nearly half of all funding for long-term services is provided through Medicaid that requires individuals to impoverish themselves to receive these vital services. On June 4, please take 5 minutes to dial this toll-free 1-800-828-0498 between the hours of 9 am to 6 pm EST and be connected with the U.S. Capitol Switchboard. You must provide the switchboard with the name of your Representative in order to be connected with the correct office. Then, give the person who answers the message below:

Please tell the Representative to ensure long-term services and supports are part of health care reform. Virtually every American will face the need for these services. Including long-term services and supports in health care reform and improving access to home and community-based services will achieve greater efficiency, sustain Medicaid, help individuals and families, providers, as well as improve economic growth and job creation. Please tell the Representative that real health security requires including long-term services and supports in health care legislation.

· FLAME IS MAKING A DOCUMENTARY FILM

For those of you who have had the pleasure of seeing the band, FLAME, at our annual conferences, you'll understand the importance of sharing their story with a wider audience. The band has recently announced a deal with Washington, D.C.-based Interface Media Group (IMG) to produce a documentary film about them. The film will focus on the band members in their daily lives, their rise to national prominence, and the agency, Lexington Center that makes it all possible. Learn more about the band at www.flametheband.com.

· SAVE JUNE 22nd - OMRDD ANNOUNCES A STATEWIDE SIMULCAST PRESENTATION ON FIRE PREVENTION & AWARENESS

This simulcast is part of OMRDD's effort to share information with their stakeholders and to raise consciousness about fire safety. The discussion will also focus on practicing what is learned about fire safety in people's homes. There will be more information forthcoming about the simulcast, but OMRDD recommends that agency executives, quality management staff and other property management/fire safety experts participate.

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