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Thursday, 14 January 2010

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NYSACRA News & Views 1-14-2010

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NYSACRA produced a new publication as a result of a grant project for the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council. It is now available on our website at [http://www.nysacra.org/nysacra/news/Shared\\_Living\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://www.nysacra.org/nysacra/news/Shared_Living_Report_Final.pdf).

We collected information from people and providers through regional forums and online surveys, did research, and then put it all together, into a paper about values, the principles behind shared living, the ways it happens now, and the barriers that exist. We learned that there is no one way to do it, and that innovative, individualized living situations must be based on committed, caring relationships and community membership. We welcome your reactions.

· ANCOR TO SPONSOR 2010 DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR CONTEST

This contest is a great way to recognize the tremendous role Direct Support Professionals play in the lives of people with disabilities, and the impact their work has in the communities they serve. This is the fourth year ANCOR has sponsored the Direct Support Professional of the Year Contest as part of its National Advocacy Campaign.

The purpose of this program is to recognize the best of the Direct Support Professional workforce and at the same time raise awareness in Washington of the devotion, professionalism, and quality supports Direct Support Professionals provide in their daily work. (Last year, the Direct Support Professional Alliance of New York State was awarded ANCOR's National Advocacy Award, which was part of their campaign to recognize direct support professionals.)

Nominations are being accepted through February 26, 2010 - so don't delay! Shine a light on the best and brightest of your direct support staff and nominate a DSP today! Follow this link <http://www.ancor.org/nac/2010dspcontest> to learn more about the Direct Support Professional of the Year Contest and follow this link <http://www.ancor.org/nac/2010dspcontest/nomination> to nominate one now!

- SENATE HEARING ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL

On January 7, 2010, the Senate Standing Committee on Investigations and Government Operations held a public hearing on the activities of the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG). Citing the financial crisis New York and other States are facing and the need to combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the Medicaid program, the Committee provided an opportunity for the OMIG to discuss its efforts and for health care provider representatives to offer feedback on those efforts. Here are key points of the testimony offered by Jim Sheehan, New York Medicaid Inspector General. Here is a summary of witness testimony prepared by Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP.

- AN INVITATION

YAI invites you to visit its Resource Center where you can find some fun and creative activities to add a little spark to more mundane training topics. You'll find exciting games to teach First Aid, OSHA, Incident Reporting, HIPAA and more. There are also a number of dynamic activities to get your group going!

To become a member of the Resource Center and receive the NYSACRA discount, simply go to [www.yai-rc.org](http://www.yai-rc.org), click on join now, and when filling out the membership form, make sure to include that you are a NYSACRA member.

· TECHNOLOGY PRE-CON INTEREST SURVEY

Our pre-conference session at this year's annual conference is dedicated to technology. NYSACRA's Technology Committee is striving to bring the best information we can. Please take the following brief interest survey to help us prepare for the pre-conference open forum. Our goal is to present the most useful and up-to-date information on subjects that you want to hear about. Go here to take the survey.

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