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Provider agencies are urged to get ready now for the implementation of the amended liability for services regulations, which expand the original covered services to include Medicaid Service Coordination, day treatment, at home residential habilitation, prevocational, supported employment, respite, and blended and comprehensive services. All individuals (and/or their liable parties) enrolled in any of those services, even those who currently have Medicaid and are in the waiver, must receive liability notices by May 15, 2010 including a fee schedule. OMRDD is now preparing new notices to use as templates; do not use the notices from last year. If the person does not have Medicaid and waiver enrollment by June 15, 2010, providers must begin monthly billing for the service(s), even if the enrollments are in process. If the person does not pay or show any response to the bills, the provider must make some sort of collection effort (e.g. a letter). The regulation provides a limited exception for any individual who has a single service of supported employment or respite, but they will need to receive notices, too. Expect tighter scrutiny of the process by OMRDD, including more person-specific paper surveys to show compliance with each requirement of the regulation. Video-conference training is available through OMRDD on Friday, February 19 from 9 - 12. Registration and other details are available by clicking [here](#). All materials and regulatory information will be on the OMRDD website. Remember that OMRDD requires you to establish a Secure Message Center Account if you wish to use email for sharing person specific information. If you have any questions, you can contact Pat McKay at patm@nysacra.org or 518-449-7551.

· INTERNET SAFETY RESOURCES

Recently, a NYSACRA member invited a representative from the New York State Police Computer Crime Unit to do a presentation onsite about internet safety, in response to some difficult situations they were encountering. An investigator provided a brief power point presentation and brochures called "Stop-Think-Click, 7 Practices for Safer Computing." NYSACRA now has a supply of those brochures on hand to share with our members. There is a computer crime unit within every Troop of the State Police, and similar resources should be available. Go to http://www.troopers.state.ny.us/Contact_Us/Troop_Information/ and click on your county to find the closest headquarters, which can connect you with the computer crimes unit.

- ARTICLE 16 CLINIC PROVIDERS: APGS ON THE WAY

NYSACRA's ad hoc clinical services committee met on 1/12/10 to learn more about the upcoming application of ambulatory patient grouping rate methodology to article 16 clinics. Karen DeRuyter and Reneta Robinson from OMRDD provided a power point presentation explaining the concepts of base rate, and then weights that take into account service intensity, diagnoses, and procedure codes. Department of Health article 28 clinics are now operating under this system. All the mental hygiene agencies are moving toward it as well; OMRDD expects a January 2011 implementation.

- MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER RITTER ABOUT HAITI

As relief efforts continue in Port-au-Prince after the devastating earthquake that struck in that Haitian city on Tuesday, I join with Governor David A. Paterson in sending my thoughts and prayers to individuals, families, our nonprofit partners and all their staff who have relatives in the Haitian community both overseas and here in New York during this sad and tragic time. Several organizations are accepting monetary donations for the relief effort. The Governor has issued a press release listing how to donate and it is posted on his website: <http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/HelpingHaiti.html>. In addition, President Obama has urged Americans to go to the White House's website: www.whitehouse.gov to find additional ways to donate money to the relief efforts. This is the time to reach out with compassion to our Haitian constituents, both downstate and throughout New York. Please join me in offering hope and prayers to those in need.

- ALLIANCE FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

The alliance is a formal partnership of organizations serving persons with developmental disabilities, committed to helping people live interesting and fulfilling lives. They are currently engaged in a national campaign called "Real Jobs-It's Everybody's Business" to ensure that employment expectations for people with developmental disabilities will be the same as for anyone, in regular, competitive, and inclusive employment settings. Their specific goal is to double the employment rate of people with disabilities by 2015. For more information on their efforts, visit their website at www.allianceforfullparticipation.org.