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Friday, 05 February 2010

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Greetings NYSACRA Members!

· PRESIDENT OBAMA INCLUDES EXTENDING FMAP IN BUDGET PROPOSAL

In a recent press release, ANCOR applauded President Obama's inclusion in his budget proposal of a \$25.5 billion extension of federal Medicaid funding in states' enhanced Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The administration's proposal for additional federal Medicaid assistance enacted this year would extend last year's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) assistance--currently slated to end December 31, 2010--until July of 2011. ANCOR calls on the U.S. Senate to include an extension of FMAP in its forthcoming jobs bill and join the House in passing legislation that will help alleviate this growing crisis for individuals with disabilities, their service providers, and state governments. NYSACRA drafted correspondence to Senator Charles Schumer as to his leadership on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and seeking support of the FMAP extension.

- NYSACRA SUBMITS TESTIMONY ON PROPOSED 2010-11 EXECUTIVE BUDGET

The Joint Fiscal Committees of the New York State Legislature have commenced a series of public hearings to seek input on the proposed 2010-11 Executive Budget. The Mental Hygiene Budget hearing was held on Wednesday, February 3rd at the Legislative Office Building in Albany. OMRDD Commissioner Diana Jones Ritter was joined by her colleagues from OMH and OASAS to defend their respective budget proposals. Several advocates across the three disability areas also delivered testimony at the public hearing to highlight support and opposition of specific provisions included in the Executive Budget proposal. NYSACRA has submitted testimony to the joint fiscal committees specific to the OMRDD budget proposal.

- CREATIVE AD CAMPAIGN THINK BEYOND THE LABEL

The New York Times ran an article on 1/28/10 about a national advertising campaign designed to encourage employers to hire people with disabilities. You can see the article at

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/29/business/media/29adco.html?scp=1&sq=Disabilities%20Ad%20Campaign&st=cse>. The unifying theme, Think Beyond the Label deliberately chooses not to come across like a typical public service announcement. The New York State Makes Work Pay Campaign is a supporting partner in this campaign. New York Makes Work Pay is a Comprehensive Employment System Medicaid Infrastructure Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Through research, policy analysis, training, and technical assistance, the New York Makes Work Pay Initiative provides policy and practice solutions to address New York State's estimated 70% of working-age people with disabilities who are not employed. For more information, go to the website www.thinkbeyondthelabel.com or www.NYMakesWorkPay.org.

· THE ARC OTSEGO ISSUES CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Arc Otsego has issued a call for artists for Voice! 6, the sixth annual juried exhibition of artwork celebrating the creative voices of artists with intellectual and other developmental disabilities from across New York State. Any artist living in New York State who has an intellectual and/or other developmental disability and is eighteen years of age or older, is invited to submit artwork for consideration. Voice! 6 runs from Friday, July 16 through Saturday, July 31, 2010 at the Martin-Mullen Art Gallery located in the Fine Arts Building on the SUNY College at Oneonta campus. Winners of a total of \$1,000 in prize money will be announced at the opening reception which takes place Friday, July 16 from 5:00 7:00 PM. After the opening reception, the festivities will continue with a dance featuring Flame, an internationally known group of musicians who have developmental and physical disabilities. The submission deadline is Tuesday, June 1, 2010. For more information, please call 607-432-8595 or visit the website at www.arcotsego.org to download a copy of the call brochure and the application form.

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