

DC COALITION CONNECTION

December 2016 No 2

Year in Review

Each year at Thanksgiving, I take the opportunity to reflect upon the year, assess my own progress and determine if there are remaining goals that I can still attain before the end of December. I have prepared a corresponding summary relative to the DC Coalition for your consideration - here are some of the 2016 highlights:

Outreach & Operations: The Coalition hired a full-time Executive Director; re-designed and re-launched a new, more-engaging website; increased Provider membership by 12.5% so that now Coalition members comprise 75% of all DC Medicaid Waiver service providers and ICFs; grew Associate Membership by 40%; developed a system for monitoring DC-proposed legislation; and, of course, the created a monthly newsletter for members.

Strategic Decisions The Coalition developed collaborative relationships with several members of the DC Council; worked with the leadership of DDS, DHCF and DOH; aligned mutual interests with the DD Council; held fundraisers for several successful DC Council candidates; partnered with the DC Chamber of Commerce; celebrated March with a Disability Awareness event including several prominent governmental leaders; arranged a reception to recognize outgoing Director, Laura Nuss' contributions to the field; partnered with DDS for a well-attended DSP conference; secured membership on the Mortality Review Commission; offered content-rich training to members on emerging issues; and established a 3-year strategic plan for the DC Coalition.

Policy Engagement: The Coalition provided written testimony on Universal Paid Leave and both written and oral testimony at the DDS and DHCF's Budget Oversight hearings and Wage Theft Amendment hearings; circulated a "one-pager" on Coalition critical legislative concerns at the Council; presented input and offered provider-relevant comments concerning the renewal of the District's HCBS waiver; and continues to push for a hearing on Citizens with Intellectual Disabilities Civil Rights Restoration Act.

The Coalition also secured an agreement with DHCF on the consolidation of bed hold days; acuity evaluations shifting to every 3 years (instead of annually) for levels below 4; and the consolidation of ICF buckets for all silos except for administrative and wages as well as securing DHCF's commitment that providers will be involved in discussions before anything is finalized or published with respect to ICF rates.

As we prepare to close out 2016, for the month of December, the Coalition will continue to work on advocacy issues surrounding Universal Paid Leave and ensuring that DDS / DHCF timely fund the Living Wage by 1/1/17 so providers can avoid any exposure under the Wage Theft Act. The DC Coalition will continue to advocate on behalf all service providers in the District and seeks to expand our business/Associate Member connections.

2017 DC Coalition Provider Membership Dues Decrease

In a business environment when the cost of everything seems to be rising, the DC Coalition Board of Directors unanimously voted to offer a **reduction** in Provider membership annual dues versus 2016. The new dues schedule for 2017 will be mailed during the first week of December. Recall that our membership year runs January 1 through December 31.

We are so pleased to be able to offer this reduction to our members, and we look forward to a successful 2017.

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"We are honored to serve as the pharmacy provider to a number of great agencies in the DC area. Alco has been supporting community service providers in Maryland, DC and N. Virginia since 1997, so we fully understand your needs and requirements. We feel that as Associate Members of the DC Coalition, we are "stronger together." It is our goal to streamline your needs so that you can best support the members of the community."

*- Alco Pharmacy
Associate Member*

Follow us on Facebook and bookmark our website at www.DC-Coalition.org

Calendar

Fri Dec 2nd at 10AM -
Finance Committee Mtg
at My Own Place

Fri Dec 2nd at 11AM -
Legislative Committee Mtg
at My Own Place

Tues Dec 13 at 1PM -
Board Meeting
at Wholistic

Tues Dec 13 at 3PM -
Membership Meeting
at Wholistic

Wed Dec 21st at 3PM -
Day Services Committee Mtg
at RCM of Washington

No Residential Committee Mtg in
December

Locations and updates can be found
at www.dc-coalition.org

Board Elections

Congratulations to [David Carrington](#) of ILS who was re-elected for a (1) year term as Board President, and to [Russ Snyder](#) of VOA - Chesapeake who was re-elected as Vice-President for (2) years. **Thank you for your continued service to the DC Coalition!**

On Your RADAR

HCBS Waiver Plan Amendments discussion meeting at DDS— **Upcoming meetings: December 5th; 12th and 19th**

Living Wage Implementation Date — **January 1, 2017**

2017 DC Coalition Membership payment due — **January 2, 2017**

January Membership Meeting — **January 10, 2017** at RCM

Universal Paid Leave Act Update

On November 29th and 30th, reports circulated on the scope of DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson's revised draft for the Universal Paid Leave Act (UPLA). The Chairman is proposing a government-administered program to cover paternity/maternity care at 11 weeks and a cap of 8 weeks of leave for the care of one's family member. Employees would be eligible for up to 90% of their pay with a weekly cap of \$1K/week for those who make <\$46K; and 50% up to \$1K/week for those making >\$46K. Under the proposal, taxes would increase in 2019 and coverage under the plan would begin in 2020. In addition, leave payments would be managed by a third party governmental contractor. The assumption is that this coverage will be paid for with a payroll tax that businesses will be assessed based on the wages they pay their employees up to 0.62 percent of their respective payrolls.

The Chairman has indicated he would like to keep the tax under 1% and is open to growing the benefit coverage in the future, but as of now, the bill has not received a fiscal impact statement from the Council CFO. The bill will need to be scored before the Council can consider it on December 6th. The DC Chamber of Commerce is taking the position that it cannot support a bill that would propose a tax on business and they will work with other business groups to echo that message.

Mayor Bowser's office has stated, "The Mayor looks forward to reviewing Chairman Mendelson's full proposal once it is released to the public, however, without the full details she remains concerned that the legislation does not go far enough in putting DC families first." The Mayor's office is also concerned that VA and MD citizens will benefit from the collection of taxes within the District.



HCBS Waiver Plan Amendments Meetings

Throughout October and November, DDS — in partnership with DHCF - continued its series of public meetings designed to consider new HCBS waiver services and assess potential changes to existing waiver services for implementation in November 2017 with an eye towards bringing DC into compliance with the CMS Final Rule by March 2019.

Over the past month, discussion centered around significant changes in large day services, and employment readiness, as well as the considerations around peer supports, family training, and assistive devices. The next 3 Waiver Advisory Group meetings are: Dec 5 (2PM), 12 (3:30PM) and 19 (2PM) at DDS.

The provider community are welcomed in these meetings, so I urge you to attend. The changes that are proposed and approved during these meetings will determine waiver practices within HCBS into the 2020's, so please come and be an active voice in the future of services.

While business advocacy groups are lining up to oppose this legislation, there is adequate council member support of the UPLA within the DC Council to pass this bill at the Council level.

The DC Chamber along with several other business groups have proposed an alternative to UPLA which is called, the "Employer Mandate" The most significant aspects of the Employer Mandate are: an exemption from coverage for any workers who have been employed for less than one year; employer management of the leave process; and an opportunity for cost sharing between employer and worker for coverage.

We will keep you posted....