

# DC COALITION CONNECTION

January 2017 No 3

## 2017 Legislative Breakfast

Please mark your calendars for Friday, January 27th from 8:30AM to 10:30AM for the DC Coalition's first Legislative Breakfast which will be held at the Occidental Grill located at 1475 Pennsylvania Ave.— just across from the DC Council (Wilson) Building. With several new CMs and a few new committee leadership roles at the DC Council, we are seeking to:

- heighten Councilmember awareness about the critical nature of the services that our members provide within the District and the importance of adequate funding;
- present a unified position on issues that the Councilmembers may encounter as they relate to waiver and ICF services, business and labor regulations, funding for Universal Paid Leave, engagement with DDS/DHCF/DOH, etc.; and
- offer Provider Members an opportunity to connect with Councilmembers who serve or live in their wards so that relationships can be developed. This is would be an excellent time to invite Councilmembers to your programs to show them first-hand how DC Coalition members change lives.

For 2017, the HHS committee has been divided into two committees: Health — which will be chaired by newly-elected Vince Gray — and Human Services — which will be chaired by Brianne Nadeau. Councilmember Nadeau has already committed to attend our breakfast event.

This event will be limited to 50 attendees, so please register with Ian Paregol as soon as possible. Although this event is free to members, we will need members who are paid in full for their 2017 membership to register in advance. This event will fill quickly, so act today.

## Dues Reminder & New Executive Training

Our membership year runs from January 1st to December 31st, so if you have not yet completed your 2017 Provider Membership Application, please forward it - along with your dues payment - to Kathleen Bjerknes at RCM of Washington, 64 New York Ave., NE, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20002.

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2017 is going to be a terrific year! Besides the Legislative Breakfast, we will be offering an new opportunity for provider leadership. Based upon survey feedback, provider members want the Coalition to expand training and host an **Executive Level Training** designed to heighten management skills, board development, fundraising, strategic planning, and advocacy. This will be a free, one day training for Provider Members. Stay tuned for details.

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*"Membership in the Coalition is important for our organization. The DC Coalition keeps all of us informed and enables our entire provider group to have a voice in the rules and regulations that effect our agencies.*

*The Coalition helps to advocate for sensible alternatives that do not jeopardize the services that we provide while still helping our industry move forward with more person - centered supports.*

*We are happy to renew for 2017. Best wishes."*

*- Provider Member*

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bookmark our website at  
[www.DC-Coalition.org](http://www.DC-Coalition.org)

## Calendar

**Fri Jan 6th at 10AM -**  
Finance Committee Mtg  
at My Own Place

**Fri Jan 6th at 11AM -**  
Legislative Committee Mtg  
at My Own Place

**Tues Jan 10th at 2PM -**  
No Membership Meeting in Jan  
Please attend the Evans close-out hearing at US District Court

**Wed Jan 11th at 1PM -**  
Board Meeting  
at RCM of Washington

**Wed Jan 18th at 3PM -**  
Day Services Committee Mtg  
at Wholistic\

**Fri Jan 27th at 8:30AM -**  
DC Council Legislative Break  
fast at Occidental Grill

## On Your RADAR

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

**The new Living Wage in the District is \$13.95/hr effective January 1, 2017.**

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

**Presidential Inauguration — Fri, January 20, 2017.** Many streets will be closed near the White House so plan accordingly.

February Membership Meeting — **February 14, 2017** at ILS. We will be discussing Adaptive Equipment and DME processes with a panel of governmental and private representatives. Plan to attend if you find the Adaptive Equipment processes troublesome.

## Universal Paid Leave Act

On December 20th, the DC Council held its final legislative meeting of the Council Period, and during the meeting voted to pass the Universal Paid Leave Act of 2016. UPLA grants all District employees (except DC governmental employees) the ability to access 8 weeks of paid parental leave, 6 weeks of family leave, and 2 weeks of medical leave to care for one's own illness. The law proposes to collect a 0.62% payroll tax from DC businesses beginning 7/1/19 to fund leave which will be administered by a separate governmental agency. Should the bill and program be fully funded in next year's budget process, benefits are proposed to begin by 7/1/20.

This means we need to get busy proving that the costs to the provider community will exceed the .62% payroll tax, assuming that DDS and DHCF account for the payroll tax component (which I have not seen as "a given" anywhere). Some initial data was obtained by the Coalition Finance Committee indicating that the costs w/in our industry are anywhere from 1.5 to 6 times the leave implementation costs in a typical DC employer.

We will need providers to participate in the **data collection** process which will consist of an analysis of the leave taken by employees at all salary levels to include an estimate of the projected leave that would occur under the new UPL laws based on unpaid FMLA taken in 2015/2016; unpaid leave for employees who had no vested leave accrued (but who would now automatically have two weeks upon hire); training costs for replacement staff; and overtime generated as a result of leave-based absences.

The Finance Committee will recirculate this survey which should be completed by your HR/Finance staff. It goes without saying that if we are afforded only a .62% increase in DDS/DHCF funding for our labor costs, there will be expenses associated with UPL that will be borne solely by the providers. This is an opportunity to get ahead of this determination and prove the additional costs that we will incur in implementing UPL so that we can secure support for full funding of the costs associated with paid leave.

Please send a representative to this Friday's (1/6/17) Finance Committee Meeting at My Own Place.

## DC Council Committee Leadership

As the DC Council begins its new Legislative Session, below please find the committee chair designation for each of the 10 Committees per DC Council Chair, Phil Mendelson.

CM Allen- Judiciary  
CM Bonds - Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization  
CM Cheh - Transportation and the Environment  
CM Evans - Finance and Revenue  
CM Gray - Health  
CM David Grosso - Education  
CM McDuffie - Business Development and Consumer Affairs  
CM Nadeau - Human Services  
CM Silverman - Labor and Workforce Development  
CM Todd - Government Operations

CMs Robert White and Trayon White will not chair a committee but will each sit on five committees as members.

Finally, the amended Universal Paid Leave bill passed by a vote of 9-4 at the Council. DC Councilmembers Alexander, Evans, May, and Todd voted in opposition to the Bill. However, the 9-4 vote (with two of the votes against the bill no longer from member who are on the Council) will make a veto by Mayor Bowser unlikely and a virtual lock to be overturned by a subsequent Council vote.

A few amendments were added. Those amendments relevant to Providers were:

- Ensuring that the employee—and not their employer—would be responsible for tracking the taxes on the leave benefit that employee received from DC government;
- Preventing unannounced searches of DC businesses by DC government because of constitutional concerns; and
- Requiring affirmation from an individual using leave to care for a family member that they will be the person taking leave, and their family member to certify that care is needed.