

NDACP NEWS

Volume 20

Oct, 2010



Message from the Executive Director

NDACP is gearing up for the 2011 Legislative session. We urge providers and regions to begin to hold regional legislative meetings to inform prospective candidates and incumbents regarding issues crucial to our industry. While ND has a very positive fiscal climate with a projected surplus of 1 billion dollars, we anticipate a very difficult session because of the continued economic climate in the nation, a high level of requests for new programs, and the development of new trust funds. Talk to the candidates as they are running for election.

2011 Draft Platform

- 3% & 3% equity increase
- \$1.80 per hour
- 7.65% benefit pass through
- Continuation of Bucket funding for critical needs
- Funding for transition to the community
- State set aside for digital imaging

Regulatory – with DDD

- 95% Occupancy
- Guardianship
- Rates in Extended Services
- Increase the \$1,000 limit for capitalizing equipment to \$3,000
- Tuition assistance
- Funding for DD Social clubs
- Increase in \$5,000 limit for project capitalization

Greeting to all NDACP members & supporters.

Mission Statement

Through collective and collaborative means, enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery system for people with disabilities.

Statement of Values of NDACP

NDACP supports the viability of all existing members.

Diversity of providers enhances quality.

SB 2423

NDACP Members: Tom Newberger, Sandie Leyland, Eric Monson, Mike Remboldt, Barb Murry

The committee met on Sept 14th. DDD was positive about the possibility of combining occupancy for children's ICF/MR homes with adult ICF/MR homes, and will continue to review the 95% occupancy issue, acknowledging the impact of change within HB 1556.

HB 1556

The final report was delivered from Burns and Associates and presented to the Long Term Care Interim Committee on 9-28-10, by DDD. The vote was unanimous to accept the report and move ahead to develop a new payment system during the next biennium. A bill for an appropriation to fund a consultant may come out of the 2011 Legislative session.

Transition to the Community Task Force

NDACP Members: Tom Newberger, Jon Larson, Sue Foerster, Donna Byzewski, Barb Murry

The Committee Met Sept 15th. Chairperson, Alex Schweitzer was very positive about funding for continued movement from the institution through specialized projects. Sue Foerster will chair the subcommittee to review specialized projects. This committee will begin meeting this fall.

Barbara Murry

YOU CAN HELP! JOIN NDACP TODAY!

NDACP is a statewide group whose member organizations provide a wide range of services for people with disabilities – developmental, mental and physical. Our membership is made up of North Dakota organizations that are governed by citizen Boards of Directors to provide services specifically for people with disabilities.

NDACP strives to stimulate public interest and understanding. We share information, expertise, and develop and enhance special programs. We conduct research and studies, promote advocacy, and are a proactive liaison with governmental agencies on behalf of all North Dakota citizens with disabilities.

Our Mission is to enhance, improve and advocate for positive change in the service delivery for people with disabilities. As a person interested in the Mission of NDACP, WE ASK YOU TO BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER IN NDACP.

Individual Member benefits include: 1) Listing on the NDACF Website as someone who supports persons with disabilities, and 2) The satisfaction of knowing that YOU are helping in the ongoing struggle to obtain appropriate levels of service to people with disabilities.

YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HELP OUR EFFORTS! PLEASE CONSIDER RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THIS DYNAMIC AND GROWING ORGANIZATION FOR THE SAKE OF THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!



Individual Membership 2010

Please consider membership in this dynamic and growing organization for the sake of the people we serve.

____ Yes, I want to join the advocacy efforts of NDACP. Enclosed is my check for \$10 payable to NDACP.

____ I am an employee of an NDACP Member.

____ No, I do not want to join now, but have enclosed a contribution of \$_____ to help the Mission of NDACP.

(Please Print)
NAME: _____

ORGANIZATION: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

E-Mail Address _____

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION SHOULD BE SENT TO:

Barbara Murry, North Dakota Association of Community Providers, PO Box 7037, Bismarck, ND 58507-7037

All memberships run until the end of 2010.

Memberships received after 10-1-10 will be applied to 2011.

Anne Carlsen Center: Eric Monson*

Able, Inc.: Darlene Ovitt

Alpha Opportunities, Inc.: Barb Orr, Bob Bosch, Diane Young, Don Nelson*, Laurie Podoll, Lori Stiefel, Marcia Cofield, Margo Michel, Marva Leben

Catholic Charities: Ashley Schwab, Brian Osvold, Donna Byzewski, Donna Rae Cotton, Emmy Roarda, Josh Schlichenmayer, Karla Johnson, Margaret Rundlett Doom, Mary Solberg, Mavis Jundt, Ronda Hertz, Sue Dokken, Suzanne Netzer, Tammi Devos, Tarri Joki

Development Homes, Inc.: Amanda McNaughton, Angie Hurst, Cindy Holweger, Kara Odegaard, Sandi Marshall*

Enable: Jay Heinz

ETC/VTC: Carolyn Shook, Darla Kaercher-Randle, Larry Ornberg, Mary Nelson, Paulette Wood

Fraser: Barb Grabar, Junelle Christianson, Linda McMillin, Mary Tangen, Merri Christlieb, Renita Quam, Rikki Iverson. Sandie Leyland*

Friendship, Inc., Carrie Balster, Dori Leslie, Gina Neary, Heather Jenkins, Jennifer Joy Jenkins, Jon Opgrand, Kristine Christensen, Suzanne Hanson

HAV-IT: Deb Koble, Gladys Schnase, Loretta Baumbach, Rose Weninger, Sherrie Lien, Shirley Kittelson, Tammy Hornbacher, Tim Huseth

HIT, Inc.: Denita Grosz, Laura Kourajian

Knife River: Candace Ramsden, Elizabeth Reynolds, Gina Weiler, Joyce Henke, Kelsey Hill, Lisa Buchmann, Lyn Haugen, Marilyn Jensen, Michelle Barnick, Shirley Hurley, Tamara Wolf, Wendy Green

Lake Region Corp: Alicia Dalzell, Brenda Touche, Charlotte Burt, David Olson, Deb Johnson, Debra Schindele, Ellen Davidson*, Gloria Schlittenhart, Jean Aardahl, Jeff Jacobson, Jennifer Tollefson, Kari Kopp, Kathy Rutherford, Kim Trana, Linda Brusven, Lisa Wessels, Megan Shipley, Paula Bertsch, Peggy Peters, Stacy MacDonald, Stephanie Hulle, Teresa Stenson, Theresa Overbo, Tom Watt, Vicki Vinnard, Wendy Gulseth

LISTEN: Amanda Leeson, Cassandra Connell, Charlie Bremseth, Deb Marthe, Deleka Lecy, Denae Boushee, Dixie Arnold, Dorothy Gomez, Garry Novak, George Garcia, Jody Belanus, Karen Jorstad, Krystal Roth, Margie Korpatnicki, Mark Rath, Mary Berszewski, Michelle Meagher, Michelle Mutscher, Nancy McKay, Paul Duckstad, Paula Sorenson, Rachel Erickson, Sharon Bakke, Sheila Rhoads, Thomas Martin, Tionna Rendon

NDACP: Barb Murry*

Opportunity Foundation: Andrea Peterson, Becky Holm-Zelzer, Brad Peterson, Charlie Robinson, Cheryl Shortall, DiAnn Merk, Donna Carrier, Donna Peterson, Glen Clark, Jolene Brown, Kathy Ekblad, Kristen Jones, Leah Wells, Mavis Sala, Sandy Edenhoff, Sonya Owan, Tony Puckett

Pride: Becky Cellura, Brenda Parker, Carol, Gass, Darcy Severson, Dawn Thuen, Deb Long, Jani Seifert, Karen Horan, Lori Sitter, Shantell Meidinger

Red River Human Services: Alissa Arndt, Amanda Mass, Denae Burkhardt, Don Leinen, Jr., Jana Sundbom, JoAnne Hartman, Jolene Brown, Joyce Hashell, Karen Bahr, Kris Johnson, Lisa Kremer, Mary J. Dahlheimer, Melinda Barth, Pam Erlandson, Rose Mukanyangezi, Ruth Soderstrom, Stephanie Wellnitz, Susan Jones, Susan Schwartzbauer, Tom Canning, Tom Newberger*, Wendy Kahler

Rehab Services: Marla Kulig

REM-ND, Inc.: Amy Saari, Betty Faul, Brenda Bednarz, Brenda Niess*, Brent Mertz, Cathy Stevenson, Charity Haugland, Charles Evanson, Cindy Restad, Cynthia Kirschenmann, Cynthia Morgard, Dale Setnes, Darcy Sabourin, Debbie Adahl, Debra Leben, Denise MacDonald, Derek Hanson, Diane Slominski, Donnada Agnes, Dorothy Weigel, Frances Carroll, Heidi Gustafson, Herminia Hanson, Janelle Lowney, Jeanne Nybo, Jennifer Goeke, Joyce Carter, Larry Kraft, Leslie Lindquist, Lindsay Gust, Lucy Klym, Marty Shaw, Melane Knutson, Miranda Burns, Nicholas Hersman, Patricia Dettling, Penny Johnson, Russell Myers, Shannon Nybo, Sharon Walter, Terri Locken, Trish Koop

AARP: Marlowe Kro

Individuals: Paula Storm, Roxane Romanick

Please let me know if your name has been missed, in error.

EXECUTIVE MEMBERSHIPS 2010

(\$100.00 Memberships)

Alpha Opportunities: Don Nelson

Anne Carlsen Center: Eric Monson

Development Homes: Sandi Marshall

Fraser, LTD.: Sandra Leyland

Lake Region Corporation: Ellen Davidson

NDACP: Barbara Murry

REM: Brenda Niess

Red River Human Services Foundation: Tom Newberger

2010 NDACP OFFICERS

President: Sandi Marshall, Development Homes, Inc., Grand Forks

Vice President: Mike Remboldt, HIT, Inc., Mandan

Secretary-Treasurer: Don Nelson, Alpha Opportunities, Jamestown



FEATURED AGENCIES

LISTEN

Thursday, August 12 over 350 people came to watch a performance of "Grease" by the LISTEN Performing Arts group. Providence intervened and held off the rain until the performance was over. Kool aid, ice cream, cake, and 40th Anniversary wristbands greeted the spectators while there was TV and newspaper coverage of the event. Old friends, former LISTEN staff, fans from both Grand Forks and East Grand Forks, Grafton and even Devils Lake thoroughly enjoyed the production. The performers put their heart into the effort and were rewarded with a standing ovation. All in all it was a grand evening.

Open houses at Day Services and Drop-In followed on Friday.



Enable, Inc.

Getting by with a little help from her friends

Courtesy of Karen Herzog, Bismarck Tribune

Leafing back through Carlotta Kordonowy's scrapbook, Lynn Bauer discovered that this particular Tuesday — Aug. 31 — was the eve of a special anniversary: It was on Sept. 1, 1985, 25 years before, that Kordonowy had moved into her apartment in south Bismarck. She lives alone and independently with, as the Beatles said, a little help from her friends.

Bauer hasn't known Kordonowy all those years — she's worked at Enable for just eight years — but long enough to consider Kordonowy, 60, a friend as well as a client.

"You can't work with someone for years and not like them," Bauer said.

Bauer is a direct support professional with Enable who visits 15 people each week — she visits Kordonowy three times a week — helping them with tasks that allow them to live independently, such as budgeting, cooking, shopping and medical appointments.

"I visit my friends," Bauer said. "I call them my friends. I love what I do." She and Kordonowy prepare food a couple of times each week and shop for food at other times. Bauer provides the structure that Kordonowy follows to prepare balanced meals for herself. A poster on the side of her refrigerator also helps illustrate what a balanced meal consists of and what it should look like. On this Tuesday, Kordonowy is preparing a meatloaf that she has adapted for her personal taste. "Carlotta loves cranberries, plus they're nutritious," Bauer said, so they are added to the ground beef that is thawed and ready to be mixed. "I thought up the recipe all by myself," Kordonowy said.

Wearing disposable plastic gloves, Kordonowy mixed the ground beef with her hands, breaking it up and kneading it together with the dried cranberries. She crushed up a sleeve of reduced-fat Ritz crackers in a zippered plastic bag and added them to the hamburger-cranberry mix. The Ritz crackers are lower in fat and not as salty as other crackers, Kordonowy explained. Proceeding with the recipe, Kordonowy neatly cracked two eggs — no shell fragments in this bowl — and mixed them in. Seasonings come next. Pepper, garlic powder, dried onion and vegetable powder. No measuring needed — Kordonowy can tell how much is enough by how it looks, Bauer said. Once the mixing is done, Kordonowy sprayed her loaf pan with nonstick spray and carefully patted the mixture into it. She topped it off with tomato paste and the remainder of the dried cranberries. Two big Russet potatoes go with the meatloaf. Kordonowy washed them thoroughly at the sink and punctured them carefully with a fork before placing them into the microwave. Next, Kordonowy searched for the right size plastic containers to portion out her cottage cheese and fruit cocktail salad. What could she substitute if she didn't have cottage cheese? Bauer quizzed her. A glass of milk. What else? Yogurt, Kordonowy said.

Kordonowy also knows how to make Jell-O, to which she will add fruit, Bauer said. Kordonowy also is proud of her apple corer/slicer; her sister in Denver has one just like it, she said.

Kordonowy will freeze portions of the meals she made so she has a variety of food on hand. She also will sometimes have friends over to share a meal.

In the background throughout the cooking session, Kordonowy has a CD playing, lively polka music by Albert Miklish. Miklish played recently at the AMVETS for a polka fest, Kordonowy said, at which she "was dancing my feet off." And polka fests aren't Kordonowy's only chance to dance — "we dance in the aisles when we grocery-shop," Bauer said.

And like most cooking sessions, there's a bit of teasing back and forth. "When can I quit working?" Bauer teases her. "Never," Kordonowy says. "Not till the day God calls us." Bauer makes suggestions and offers guidance but stays in the background of the preparation. Mostly Bauer models by example, things like cleaning up surfaces where raw meat has touched, she said. With the meatloaf ready, Bauer takes a final look over the pan before it goes in the oven. "Let's take a look, my friend," she said. Perfect. No gaps or bubbles. Kordonowy carefully placed the pan in the oven, with Bauer's help, and set her timer for 45 minutes.

What kind of a day is it when Bauer comes? "A fun day," Kordonowy says.

Please send me any news items on your agencies to include in the next newsletter.



Tri City CARES Celebrating 25 Years

Tri City CARES celebrated their 25th Anniversary with an open house, dinner, and entertainment provided by Fun tyme Karaoke on Saturday, August 14th.

Staff gathered with individuals and their families, as well as community members from the three community Tri City CARES serves. Tri City has group homes in Stanley, Tioga, and New Town, Tri- City also owns and operates Hidden Treasures/Tri-Jen's Coffee on Main Street in Stanley.



Top Left: Kim Morten, 1st Individual that came to the agency

Top Right: Dusty Rogstad, Original Board Member, Daughters Jeanine and Dinah

Doing Other Business

Pride buys apartment building

Courtesy of the Bismarck Tribune

By LEANN ECKROTH Bismarck Tribune | Posted: Tuesday, July 6, 2010 2:46 pm |

Pride Inc. has purchased the Westwind Apartments at 708 Boundary Road.

CEO Chuck Bisnett said it is standard for the nonprofit organization to buy apartments to fill clients' needs, but the purchase will not result in any evictions of current occupants of the 13-unit building.

"We have sent out notices that rents will increase to market rates," he said. "We will update it with air conditioning, carpets and a new security system."

Appliances will be replaced as needed, according to Bisnett. He said the apartments will be filled with a mix of Pride Inc. clients and non-clients.

Community Options Moving to New Offices

Courtesy of Bismarck Tribune, by Christopher Bjorke

A Bismarck business that provides services for clients with disabilities moved to a new office. "The company has been expanding greatly over the past few years," said Kevin Iverson, vice president at Community Options. "With the number of programs and added staff, we just needed more space."

Community Options, Inc. is a for-profit company that contracts mainly with state government and other public entities to assist people with disabilities with employment, residential and other needs.

Iverson said that Community Options will occupy two floors of a new building at 4909 Shelburne St., Suite B, but also keep a satellite office at its old location at 3831 Lockport St. Although it is relocating, most of Community Options' interaction with clients takes place in their homes or their workplace, Iverson said.

An open house will be held on 10/5/10, from 1pm – 5pm.



Up Coming Training Opportunities

Brochure and more information available at
<http://www.ndacf.org/training.htm>

Oct 13

Tom Pomeranz Training: Positive Behavioral Supports
Fargo, ND Rosecreek Country Club

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| Oct 14 | Tom Pomeranz Training: Positive Behavioral Supports
Bismarck, ND Bismarck Comfort Inn |
| Oct 18 | DD Business Managers
Mandan, ND HIT 1007 18th St NW |
| Oct 20-21 | Second Session Supervisory Training Series – Bismarck Comfort Inn |
| Nov 17 - 18 | Third Session Supervisory Training Series – Bismarck Comfort Inn |
| Jan 8 | Randall Munson, Humorist & Motivational Speaker
Bismarck, ND Comfort Inn |



ND State Side

Traditional Name with a Progressive Approach

RCS returns to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation name

There is an old saying that goes “What’s old is new again”. For the last nine years, the ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) had been moving forward with the use of “Rehabilitation Consulting & Services (RCS) “, as its operating name. However, the hiring of a new North Dakota director and the success of a national VR-business partnership initiative, have led to a change in direction.

“The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation brand more accurately represents our dual-client approach to service delivery,” explains Russ Cusack, the divisions new director

Under a dual-client approach, DVR assists individuals with disabilities to improve their employment opportunities and assists businesses in solving their disability-related issues.

“While the RCS name was widely accepted by the state’s business community, it did cause confusion with the individual consumer who has been and will remain the primary target of our program. This move should eliminate that confusion and, at the same time, strengthen our position with the state’s business owners and employers,” adds Cusack.

DVR’s Business Relations/Marketing Director, Harley Engelman, agrees. “The Vocational Rehabilitation brand is gaining wide-spread acceptance with many of the country’s most recognizable companies and governmental programs because of The National Employment Team (The NET), the national VR-business initiative. The return to the (DVR) name puts us in a better position to effectively interact with that initiative.”

Cusack and Engelman point out that, while the name is shifting back to DVR, the divisions progressive and innovative

programs for consumer and business will continue.

Cusack indicates, “North Dakota DVR has a reputation for being on the cutting-edge in so many areas of the vocational rehabilitation process. We intend to build on the strong foundation we have in place. Bringing the DVR brand back will not have any impact on our strategic vision and purpose.”

Neither Cusack nor Engelman is concerned that the name change will cause long-term confusion. Both agree that, in the short-term, DVR will have to work hard to re-introduce the DVR name.

“We want this change to move swiftly, cleanly and accurately. A change in name does not change the fact that we have some of the most professional and experienced staff in the country doing marvelous work. They continue to meet the needs of our individual consumers and business partners every day,” comments Cusack.

He adds, “The ND Division of Vocational Rehabilitation remains committed to a standard of excellence for those we serve. That will never change.”

National News

U.S. SENATE DECLARES NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

Resolution highlights service of direct support workforce the week of September 12, 2010

Alexandria, VA, June 28 – – In a show of bipartisan support, and for the third consecutive year, the U.S. Senate unanimously approved a resolution designating the week beginning September 12 as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week.” Sponsored by Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE), Senate Resolution 558 recognizes Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) for their commitment to supporting individuals and promoting community-inclusion for individuals with disabilities of all ages. Senator Nelson was joined by Senators Kerry (D-MA), Brownback (R-KS), Dodd (D-CT), Bingaman (D-NM), Johanns (R-NE), Collins (R-ME), Bunning (R-KY), Carper (D-DE), Brown (D-OH) and Udall (D-CO) as co-sponsors of the bill.

“Direct support professionals provide an invaluable service to the millions of Americans living with disabilities. I’m proud to honor these hard-working individuals who give so much to help those in need. Their dedication to service is an example to us all,” said Senator Nelson.

DSPs are the people who work as direct care workers, in-home support workers, personal assistants and attendants to ensure that people with disabilities are able to live more independently and in community settings. However, low wages coupled with difficult work often leads to high turnover of DSPs. The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) projects that one million new DSPs will be needed by 2016. Of those, 38 percent (388,538) will be for personal and home care aide positions, which is the category where DSP positions are most often included.

“We are proud that the U.S. Senate has bestowed this recognition in honor and observation of the direct support workforce and the tremendous impact they have in communities across the country,” said Renee Pietrangelo, CEO of the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR). “The DSP workforce deserves our highest praise and respect for the critical services they provide daily. They are vital the fabric of our communities and the need for the quality supports provided by DSPs continues to grow at an alarming rate.

This acknowledgment by the Senate is significant to the ANCOR National Advocacy Campaign (NAC) as work continues to secure increased funding for DSPs and improve supports and services for people with disabilities. The Resolution passed by the Senate identifies the critical role DSPs perform in assisting individuals with disabilities of all ages to remain connected to their families and

communities. "July marks the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provides another reason to celebrate the contributions of DSPs," said Renee Pietrangelo, ANCOR CEO. Today our federal and state policies, in keeping with the 1999 U.S. Supreme Court Olmstead Decision, assert the right of individuals to live in their homes and communities.

National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is celebrated annually across the country with special events and ceremonies earmarked to honor the tens of thousands of workers who enable our most fragile citizens and their families to live healthy community-oriented lives. "No matter the nomenclature," says Pietrangelo, "whether they are known as direct support professionals, direct care workers or direct service staff, National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week is a significant and very public way to demonstrate gratitude for what direct support professionals unselfishly do for so many."

The SSI Annual Statistical Report for 2009 is now available online at
http://www.socialsecurity.gov/policy/docs/statcomps/ssi_asr/2009/index.html

This annual report describes the SSI program and the people who receive benefits from it. The tables present data on such topics as recipient characteristics, disability and work incentives, applications, awards, and denials.

Highlights 2009

Size and Scope of the Supplemental Security Income Program

About 7.7 million people received federally administered payments in December 2009.

The average monthly payment in December 2009 was \$499.

Total payments for the year were more than \$46 billion, including almost \$4 billion in federally administered state supplementation.

Profile of Recipients

The majority were female (55 percent).

Sixteen percent were under age 18, 58 percent were aged 18 to 64, and 26 percent were aged 65 or older.

Most (85 percent) were eligible on the basis of a disability.

Six out of 10 recipients under age 65 were diagnosed with a mental disorder.

More than half (57 percent) had no income other than their SSI payment.

Thirty-four percent of SSI recipients also received Social Security benefits.

Of the people receiving SSI benefits, about 2 percent were residing in a Title XIX institution where Medicaid was paying more than half of the cost.

Despite their disabilities, about 340,000 recipients (5.2 percent) were working in December 2009.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE

RELEASE

October 5, 2010

Statement by the Press Secretary

On Tuesday, October 05, 2010, the President signed into law:

S. 2781, the "Rosa's Law," which changes references in many Federal statutes that currently refer to "mental retardation" to refer, instead, to "intellectual disability"; and

State Medicaid directors defect from larger association

A group of state Medicaid directors has formed an independent lobbying organization, breaking away from the larger association that represented them for 31 years.

The National Association of State Medicaid Directors (NASMD) - an affiliate, since 1979, of the broader American Public Human Services Association (APHSA) - has historically acted as the liaison between state Medicaid programs and the federal government.

But NASMD's 12-member executive committee, consisting of Medicaid directors from around the country, voted recently to break away from APHSA and create a stand-alone group.

Supporters argue the independent spin-off - dubbed the National Association of Medicaid Directors (NAMD) - will be a leaner, more nimble organization that is capable of implementing the new health reform law more effectively than NASMD.

"Health care reform moves us, in hyper-speed, into a new and challenging world that will require each of us and our national organization to be more flexible and to develop relationships with organizations such as the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) among others," Carol H. Steckel, head of Alabama's Medicaid program and president of the new NAMD group, wrote last Thursday in a letter addressed to "Medicaid Alumnus and Friends."

Steckel was head of NASMD's executive committee when the panel voted to break from APHSA.

Some Medicaid directors say healthcare reform is not the only reason for the defection. Chuck Duarte, head of Nevada's Medicaid program - but not a current member of NASMD's executive committee - said the movement is derived from a long-standing sense among some stand health officials that they "need to focus more of the dues and resources to Medicaid, and not to other affiliates."

Aside from Medicaid programs, APHSA also represents a host of different human services interests, including food stamp, child welfare and disability programs.

Duarte said the creation of a separate Medicaid group has been under discussion since 1996, when President Clinton enacted welfare reform. The idea, he said, is to treat healthcare as a separate entity and "not another income-based welfare program."

It's not the only shake-up to hit APHSA this month. Hearing the news of NAMD's formation, APHSA leaders fired NASMD Executive Director Ann Kohler, the former head of Medicaid in New Jersey. In her place, the group has appointed Rick Fenton as the acting director of health services.

Steckel's office did not return calls for comment this week, and a number of other NASMD executive committee members declined comment as well.

The shake-up has led to a recruiting battle, as NAMD leaders race to convince Medicaid directors nationwide to join the new group, and APHSA leaders are fighting to have them stay with NASMD.

"We will be working to bring on staff, find reasonably priced office space and equipment, all in a very short period of time," Steckel wrote last week.

It remains unclear which side is winning. Steckel's letter indicates that, as of Aug. 19, "many state directors have expressed their support, and we have only had one state that is not interested in participating in the new organization."

But Duarte said Nevada's program hasn't signed on - not least because it's already paid 2010 dues to NASMD.

Meanwhile, members of APHSA's board are scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon. The purpose of the gathering is to fill the director spot for the larger human services group. But issues surrounding the shake-up at NASMD will surely be a focus as well.

ANCOR



Congratulations to the staff in New positions in the DD Division!

Jamie Wilke is the new Facilities Rates Administrator for Developmental Disabilities Division. Her hometown is Pillsbury, ND. She made her way out to Bismarck to attend the University of Mary where she received her undergraduate degrees in Accounting and Business Administration. She also has completed her Masters in Business Administration through the University of Mary. She is married to Dirk, and they have an adorable cocker spaniel named Koufax. Contact information is: jlwilke@nd.gov 328-8784

Brianne Skachenko is the new Administrator of Day and Residential Programs for Developmental Disabilities Division. She is a Minot State and Dickinson State University graduate. She has a bachelor's degree in both Criminal Justice and Business Administration. Brianne previously worked for Child Support Enforcement for 6 ½ years before moving over to Developmental Disabilities. In her spare time, she enjoys chasing after her children, camping with family, and hunting with her husband. Contact information is: bskachenko@nd.gov 328-8932

Tina Bay is the new Director of the Developmental Disabilities Division. She is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Tina began her work with the division in November 2008 as the Assistant Director. She has over 10 years of experience working with private providers. She is married and has two boys ages 9 and 3 that keep her busy. Contact information is: tbav@nd.gov 328-8966

