

CCPA Public Policy Winter 2008 Newsletter

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Capitol Corner

CCPA's Legislative Agenda and Strategy

CCPA's Public Policy Steering Committee has used your valuable input from the September 10th Policy Summit to develop our legislative agenda for 2009.

Our overriding legislative priority is support of the **Community Provider Rescue Fund** to support essential services and protect the people we serve. The Community Provider Rescue Fund includes:

1. Providing for consistent and adequate funding to **meet the immediate Cost of Services** (COS) through annual funding increases that match the rate of inflation for medical services. This equates to \$70M in each year of the biennium.

2. Creation of a community provider **Capital Improvement Fund** of \$30M per year to address infrastructure needs.
3. **Elimination of Unfunded State Mandates** on community providers and administrative rule changes that reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

CCPA has reached out to other organizations to share our agenda and strategies. CCPA presented our message and strategy to the Nonprofit Human Services Cabinet, a state-wide coalition of nonprofit human service associations and organizations representing approximately 1000 human service providers.

are a core function of state government. Several state agencies have acknowledged the private provider crisis and the effect further cuts would have on the system.

During the November 18th report to the Appropriations and Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committees, OPM Secretary Robert Genuario mentioned that private providers are on their list of budget challenges. DMHAS Commissioner Thomas Kirk and DDS Commissioner Peter O'Meara also have stated concerns for the effects budget cuts could have on the private sector.

Special Session. The Governor's plan funds community providers in proportion to their contract base and fee for service revenue through the purchase of service state agencies. We are pleased that this plan matches CCPA's recommended (*Continued on page 2*)

What's New

- On Nov. 21st, the **Journal Inquirer** ran a front page story by Keith M. Phaneuf, "Nonprofits say they need more from the state." In the article, Terry Edelstein, President/CEO, CCPA, Barry Simon, CCPA Board Chair and Executive Director at Gilead Community Services, Heather Gates, President/CEO, Community Health Resources, and Tom Sullivan, Executive Director, ARC of New London County announced CCPA's efforts to seek a Community Provider Rescue Fund this legislative session.

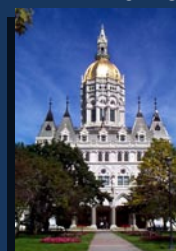
- CCPA submitted several Freedom of Information requests to DDS, DMHAS, OPM, DPH, DCF, OHCA, DAS, and DSS for their budget reduction options. Check CCPA's website at www.ccpa-inc.org to view the documents we received.

- CCPA released the results of our survey on the effect of 0% COLA, resulting in articles by the **AP**, and in the **Hartford Courant**, **Stamford Advocate**, **Connecticut Post**, **Journal Inquirer**, and the **Norwich Bulletin**.

- CCPA President/CEO, Terry Edelstein, submitted comments on the DSS regulation regarding requirements for payment of rehabilitation services for individuals under age 21 with behavioral health disorders who are eligible under Medicaid. You may view the comments and the regulation on CCPA's website at www.ccpa-inc.org.

Make sure your voice is heard this upcoming legislative session:

Join CCPA today!



Contact
Kendra Maigarie,
Member Services
Coordinator,
for membership
information at
kmaigarie@ccpa-inc.org
or (860) 257-7909.

Participate with CCPA!

Visit CCPA's website to find the latest information on events at the state Capitol pertaining to private providers, updates on each of CCPA's divisions' activities, and upcoming training opportunities.

www.ccpa-inc.org

You can also contact your legislators or take part in our CCPA Members-Only Online Discussion Forum with your peers. Contact Ashley Sales at asales@ccpa-inc.org for more information.



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Families, a sample of which is displayed in the table.

For more information on CPI activities, contact CCPA's Public Policy staff at (860) 257-7909 or visit our website at www.ccpa-inc.org. If you would like to participate in CCPA's Community Provider Initiative Steering Committee, please email Alyssa Goduti, Vice President for Public Policy, at agoduti@ccpa-inc.org.

(Energy Plan—Continued from page 1) allocation plan presented by Alyssa Goduti to the Appropriations, Human Services and Energy and Technology Committees during their informational forum on energy costs on August

21st. We hope that this process will speed the distribution of funding to providers. We recognize that this funding does not come close to meeting your needs related to energy costs and will continue to advocate on your behalf.

Data and Research

Community Provider Initiative Data Subcommittee Findings

DDS, DMHAS, and DCF Per Capita Costs

Per Capita Costs for those in residence with/at:		
	Daily	Annual
DDS FY2005		
Average CLA's (North, South, West Regions)	\$672	\$245,280
West Region Inpatient	\$585	\$213,525
North Region Inpatient	\$858	\$313,170
South Region Inpatient	\$905	\$330,325
Southbury Training School	\$842	\$307,330
DMHAS FY2006		
Connecticut Valley Hospital	\$1,125	\$410,625
Connecticut Mental Health Center	\$1,339	\$488,735
Southwest Connecticut Mental Health System	\$1,499	\$547,135
Cedarcrest Hospital	\$1,179	\$430,335
DCF FY2008		
Connecticut Juvenile Training School	\$1,192	\$435,080
Connecticut Children's Place	\$1,366	\$498,590
High Meadows Residential Treatment Center	\$1,214	\$443,110
Riverview Hospital	\$2,369	\$864,685

Sources: (For table above) DDS FY04-FY05 Auditor's Report, DMHAS FY05-FY06 Auditor's Report, DCF Operating Cost, OSC Per Capita from 10/20/08 Secretary Genuario's testimony attachment

Reflection and Review

We Are Not Invisible: Parent Empowerment Task Force Update

Hundreds of parents turned out for the Parent Empowerment Task-force rally the morning of November 24th, the day of Special Session, to emphasize their concerns about the crisis impacting community

providers as a result of 25 years of inadequate funding. Parents were interviewed for WPLR 99.1, for the Norwalk Hour, the Newtown Bee, and for a segment on New England Cable News. Thank you to many of you who have encouraged parents and family members to get involved in this advocacy effort.



Family, friends, and individuals with developmental disabilities rally outside the Capitol on 11/24.

Special thanks to Senator Jonathan Harris, who spoke at the rally in support of adequate funding for community providers. Thank you to all of the parents and family members who have been such tremendous advocates on this issue. Immediately following the rally, parents visited with their local legislators.

The group held an initial press conference on October 21st and delivered over 6000 petitions to the Governor's office asking for a town hall meeting with the governor to discuss this critical issue. The event was featured in the *Stamford Advocate*.

If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Empowerment Task Force, or would like to help, visit their website at www.wanict.org or contact Mickey Herbst, Chair, at mjherbst@optonline.net.

Save the Date – Upcoming CCPA Training Opportunities!

1/21/09 – Succession Planning and Leadership Development
2/4/09 – Perspectives on Medicaid Corporate Compliance