



AspireMN

An association of resources and advocacy for children, youth and families

www.aspiremn.org

~ Pass this to colleagues and staff who would enjoy the updates, and encourage them to sign up to receive future updates by emailing rpeterson@aspiremn.org. ~

October 8, 2018

FIRST FRIDAY – updates and ideas to share

MN LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Funding the deficiency for Children’s Residential in the current biennium is a priority for expedited action at the start of the 2019 legislative session. Please encourage candidates and legislators to make this a top issue for their first days of the upcoming session. This Children’s Residential Fact Sheet has been updated and posted on the AspireMN.org homepage, second item under Member and Community Resources to share with elected officials and other stakeholders.

Say Yes & Invest initiative unifies community interests in a sustainable community mental health system and proposes a rate increase, establishing a rate methodology, and naming the published MA rate as the payment floor. Initially led by MACMHP and AspireMN, this developing initiative invites all stakeholders to contribute to messaging, advocacy and legislative engagement. Please contact Kirsten at kanderson@aspiremn.org with additional suggestions of partners to invite to this growing table.

AspireMN OUTCOME EVALUATION – SDRS 2017 Released!

The AspireMN 2017 Annual Outcome Evaluation Report of the Student Data Reporting System (SDRS) has been finalized by data analysts at the Center for Advanced Studies in Child Welfare and posted on the AspireMN.org homepage under Member and Community Resources. This report includes data from participating residential, group home and foster care providers and outlines a variety of data that are of value for individual provider organizations, funders, elected officials and other stakeholders. The SDRS has been reporting data on experiences of children and youth in AspireMN member agencies since the early 1980s. The SDRS data is foundational for the enhanced outcome evaluation system being developed with leadership from the Research & Evaluation Committee, chaired by Dawn Peterson of The Hills Youth And Family Services – you can find out more or get involved by contacting Dawn at dpeterson@TheHillsYFS.org.

FEDERAL UPDATES

A federally proposed **Public Charge Rule** has created grave concern within immigrant communities as it proposes that use of public systems by immigrant families, including publicly funded health care, would prevent finalizing the immigration and citizenship process. As

communities, advocates and providers review this proposed rule, this [MN resource page and hotline](#) is available to you to create shared understanding of current policy versus proposed rule changes.

The **Family First Prevention Services Act** is being reviewed and implemented nationally. October 1 a helpful update was published by Jerry Milner, Commissioner of the Administration on Children and Families out of the federal Department of Health and Human Services. His letter is posted at [AspireMN Member Resources](#) under Key Resources. The MN DHS will host a panel at the Nov AspireMN Member Meeting on MN's plans for implementation of this significant child welfare funding reform.

Health and Human Services Appropriations were signed into law by the President – as part of a larger appropriations bill including Defense, Labor and Education funding. Funding levels for areas of AspireMN member engagement were maintained or received slight increases.

NAMI-MN advocacy success! Rare bipartisan support was seen in the passage of the **Opioid Bill** with new provisions to address preventing and responding to the national opioid epidemic. Included in the final bill is language proposed by NAMI-MN to include School Linked Mental Health counselors in the National Health Service Corps Behavioral Health loan repayment program by allowing the time serving clients outside of the clinic walls to count for hours required for participation.

IRS Notice: Charitable Contributions in Exchange for State or Local Tax Credits – *(text from the NACBH update)* On August 27, the Internal Revenue Service published a [notice](#) of proposed rulemaking and notification of public hearing in the Federal Register, related to section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Proposed amendments will implement new limitations on the federal deductibility of charitable contributions when a taxpayer receives or expects to receive a corresponding state or local tax credit. According to the IRS, in recent years, it has become increasingly common for states and localities to provide tax credits in return for contributions to certain entities listed in [section 170](#), including health care, educational and church organizations.

EVENTS

AspireMN Member Meeting November 8-9 at the Radisson in St. Paul, register and review the agenda on the [AspireMN.org](#) homepage.

DON'T MISS THIS!

Beyond ACES: Building Resilience across Communities and Generations with Keynotes Ann Masten and Mark Meier, on Nov 16, 8-4 in New Brighton, hosted by the MN Council on Family Relations. Learn more and register [here](#).

LSS of MN Advocacy Bootcamp A Continuing Education workshop providing 5.5 Social Work CEUs. Thursday, October 25, 2018 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul. Are you interested in learning more about making changes through legislative advocacy? Community members, social workers and other social services providers are invited to attend this in-depth training all about the legislative process. Attendees will hear from experts and leave with the skills and confidence they need to successfully advocate on the issues they care about. Advocacy Bootcamp will include: • Guest speakers

from the legislature • A 'behind the scenes' tour of the Capitol • A primer on how an idea becomes a law • Tips for successful legislative meetings • How to effectively engage others in advocacy. Registration Details: Cost: \$75 or \$40 for students. Lunch is included. Space is limited! Registration information will be posted at www.Facebook.com/lssmn. Questions? Please call 651.969.2354 or email Juliana Keen at jkeen@lssmn.org.

AspireMN MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

- Members gathered for the September Leadership Retreat to reflect and create shared direction for this time of multidirectional change in the field. A final report, *Leading in a Time of Change*, is available for members to use in your ongoing leadership discussions at [Member Meeting Resources](#) under September Updates.
- AspireMN is in the process of directly engaging Gubernatorial campaigns – inviting campaign representatives to visit with staff and Executive Committee members about key initiatives and policy priorities for campaigns to consider as they prepare for election day.
- During the monthly meeting with Behavioral Health Division leaders, AspireMN was grateful to advise on how to best characterize the findings and next steps for current challenges and future opportunities for mental health payments. Some of the recommended language has been incorporated in the draft Executive Summary – yet to be released to the public.
- DHS Commissioner Piper met with AspireMN Executive Committee members, MACMHP representatives and staff on the topic of the Mental Health Rate Study conducted by DHS contractor Mercer. Good dialogue between your AspireMN leaders and those gathered included acknowledgment by our DHS Commissioner that the sustainability of the community based mental health system is a priority and should be considered as such by the next administration. No further commitment was made.
- The Children's Intensive Mental Health Study has AspireMN traveling to meet with key stakeholders and seek unique insight to contribute to a powerful end result with the study. We are grateful for generous engagement from MnJDA in St Cloud, Psychiatric Leaders in Minneapolis, MN Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in St Louis Park, the National Organization of State Associations for Children in Madison, and the National Association of Children's Behavioral Health via conference call.
- Planning for the 2019 session includes engagement with diverse partners – AspireMN has been informally engaging with MACSSA on joint interests for children, youth and families with mental health needs.
- QPI-MN was invited to present at the Metro MSSA meeting. Presenters Kate Rickord from St David's Center and Darlene Bell, Foster Parent with Family Alternatives joined AspireMN staff in sharing the QPI-MN story and inviting continued enhanced participation.
- An official request to identify the AspireMN Outcome Evaluation System under development was made of the MN State Medicaid Director with support from AspireMN Executive Committee leaders. Conversations are ongoing with DHS leaders in various divisions to align plans for the next iteration of the SDRS with DHS systems.

Updates by AspireMN Supporter UST

How Nonprofits Can Save on Unemployment & HR Costs – For 35 years, UST has been helping 501(c)(3) organizations exercise their exclusive nonprofit tax alternative, as allowed by Federal law, to pay only for their own unemployment claims dollar-for-dollar which can save them thousands annually. UST participants are able to efficiently combat improper unemployment claims, meet important deadlines and prepare for claims hearings by utilizing their state-specific claims representative—helping them to avoid costly penalties while offsetting the administrative headache.

UST has been able to help our participating members lower their unemployment costs through proper claims administration, reserve-building, auditing, outplacement services and online training opportunities. **Last year, UST helped your participating nonprofit peers save \$15,267.21 on their unemployment claims costs ... money better used directly supporting the communities they serve.** More than 2,200 nonprofit organizations are already exercising their unique tax alternative with UST. To find out how much you could save for 2019, submit the [free unemployment cost analysis](#) by Nov 15, and use priority code 2018AMN-E to expedite the process.

Find UI Tax Savings while Better Serving Your Communities – As a nonprofit leader, you deal with human resources costs and pending legal changes on a regular basis. As the hidden expenses of state unemployment taxes become more apparent—and costly—we wanted to share with you a state-recognized alternative just for nonprofits.

As a 501(c)(3), you are allowed by federal law to pay only for the unemployment benefits claimed by former employees. This allows you to continue to provide employees with UI benefits without sharing in the excess costs of the state unemployment tax system. Endorsed by AspireMN since 2004, UST provides nonprofits with workforce solutions—including state-specific claims assistance, a live HR hotline, online employee training courses, e-filing capabilities and outplacement services—allowing you to refocus your funding and staffing resources on the communities you serve. Last year, UST returned \$1,259,711 in recovered state errors to its members. To get a more extensive preview of UST's program options, as well as the opportunity to identify any hidden savings for 2019, **be on the lookout for UST's upcoming mailing, which will be hitting your mailbox in mid-September. You must [submit](#) the Cost Analysis before Nov 15th to meet the deadline for 2019 enrollment.** (Use priority code 2018AMN-E to expedite your request).

FIELD-RELATED UPDATES

Blue Cross Blue Shield to shift processing of PMAP and MNCare to Amerigroup, effective 12/1/18. For those who contract with BCBS you should be able to find more on this update through your online portal with BCBS. AspireMN has requested the updated bulletin to share with the full membership.

National Council on Behavioral Health call for proposals – for [NatCon19](#) – For those interested in presenting, please [submit a proposal](#) by **November 2, 2018**. We are particularly interested in proposals that: Stimulate and provoke discussion and audience engagement. Provide diverse approaches via real-life case studies. Reflect innovative, cutting-edge content and are outcome-focused. Showcase human-

centered design. Are replicable and inspire action. Tracks include evidence-based treatments for addictions, mental illnesses and co-occurring disorders; financing and alternative payment models including CCBHCs, population health and integrated care; juvenile and criminal justice; suicide prevention and post-suicide attempt intervention; prevention, early intervention and crisis services; transformative collaborations and trauma-informed care; recovery supports and peer leadership; and workforce and technology solutions – just to name some. There is sure to be a spot to showcase your organization. Check out [last year's program](#) for inspiration and remember, the deadline for submissions is **November 2, 2018**.

DHS Mental Health Updates, included:

Develop Clinical Capacity to Provide Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment to Children and Youth Across Minnesota

– DHS is seeking proposals for Qualified Grantee(s) to Develop Clinical Capacity to Provide Evidence-Based Mental Health Treatment to Children and Youth Across Minnesota

DHS through its Behavioral Health Division, is seeking Proposals from qualified Responders to develop clinical capacity within mental health communities across Minnesota, specifically those implementing Intensive Treatment in Foster Care (ITFC) and Youth Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) services, to utilize research to inform mental health treatment, and thereby improve outcomes for children and their families.

Information due: November 1, 2018, [Find out more](#)

First Fridays will be shared monthly with members. Contributions are welcome. Please send your ideas for content to rpeterson@aspiremn.org.