

National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies

President's Update: *Accreditation Collaboration with AAAASF*

January 2011

Valued Members:

Over the past two years NARA has collaborated with the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgery Facilities, Inc. (AAAASF) in support of their effort to gain "deemed status" with the Centers for Medicare / Medicaid Services (CMS) as a surveyor of Rehabilitation Agencies. When first approached by AAAASF over two years ago, NARA was pleased with the opportunity as industry experts from our membership collaborated with AAAASF to provide guidance and expertise in the process of establishing an alternative mechanism to the state licensing and accreditation survey delays that ultimately negatively impacted NARA members and other industry providers. Since then, we've also learned of and provided information to our membership regarding The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF's) similar effort. Ultimately, NARA has been pleased with and supportive of these efforts by both the AAAASF and CARF, offering alternatives to our industry.

Thus far, AAAASF has provided surveyor training for their process to approximately 40 industry professionals nationwide. Their next Rehab Agency Accreditation Survey Training is March 12, 2011. AAAASF will pay coach airfare, one night's lodging and meal per diem for attendees that qualify. As several within NARA's membership had the opportunity to be trained as surveyors earlier on in the process, we encourage others to take part in this process with this opportunity. To do so, you may contact NARA's liaison with AAAASF, Mary Jo Spanihel at nara.admin@naranet.org or (979) 234-2854 as well as AAAASF directly at Theresa@aaaasf.org or (847) 775-1970 EXT. 105 before February 16th.

Thank you for your support of NARA and this initiative. If you have further questions regarding this or the CARF process please refer to our website at www.naranet.org or contact Mary Jo Spanihel.

Thank you,

Gregg J. Altobella, MS CCC-SLP

President

The National Association of Rehab Providers & Agencies (NARA)

Washington, D.C.

www.naranet.org