NARA Advocacy October Membership Call

Speakers:
Kelly MacNeill-Cooney M.A., CCC-SLP, CHC/NARA President
Sabrena McCarley, MBA-SL, OTR/L, CLIPP, RAC-CT, QCP, FAOTA/ NARA Chair Government Affairs Committee
Christie L. Sheets / NARA Executive Director
Nicole Ruzinski Bertsch / Principal, Williams & Jensen, PLLC
Karina V. Lynch / Partner, Williams & Jensen, PLLC

Housekeeping Reminders

• All attendees are on mute
• Handouts were provided in the reminder email for this webinar sent 1 hour ago
• **Questions for Speakers:** submit them using the Q&A button on the attendee control panel
• **Technical Questions:** submit them using the Chat button on the attendee control panel
• **Recording:** will be posted for NARA Members on the Portal within 24 hours
Disclaimer

The information shared in today’s presentation is shared in good faith and for general information purposes only. It is accurate as of the date and time of this presentation.

SCHEDULING MEETINGS
Committee Membership by State

- We have worked with Williams and Jensen and our focus is on members of:
  - House Ways and Means,
  - House Energy and Commerce
  - Senate Finance committees

Scheduling Meetings

- Each legislator has a website with a direct link to schedule a meeting and to invite them to an event (such as inviting them to your facility)
  - The person in your group who lives in the district or who has business in that district should request the meeting and/or
  - The person in your group who has a relationship with that office should request the meeting
Scheduling Meetings

Write Your Rep

In Comment box you will request a meeting (you can be specific in the date or dates of request) to discuss stopping payment reductions for rehabilitation providers.
NARA ADVOCACY

PAC Events Attended

September
- Senator Collins (R-ME) Committee for Health and Aging and Committee Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
- Senator Grassley (R-IA), Former Chair of Finance Committee, Committee for Finance, Budget Committee
- Senator Fisher (R-NE)
- Senator Marshall (R-KS)

June
- Rep Jason Smith (R-MO), Co-Sponsor of SMART Act
- Rep Richard Neal (D-MA) Chairman of Ways & Means
- Rep Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)
NARA Advocacy Over the Past Few Months

- Sister Association Coalition
  - Dobson Scoring of SMART Act (NARA Supported)
    - Cost Savings with General Supervision
    - Requesting waiver of 15% in rural and underserved areas
    - Resulting in updated SMART Act language in Senate version
  - 20+ Coalition Meetings with Key Congressional Offices and Committees to Date

Past and Future Impacts

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Occupational Therapists</th>
<th>Occupational Therapy Assistants</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fee Schedule - 2021</td>
<td>-3%</td>
<td>-3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fee Schedule - 2022</td>
<td>-0.75%</td>
<td>-15.75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fee Schedule - 2023</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
<td>-4.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statutory Pay-Go</td>
<td>-4%</td>
<td>-4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-12.25%</td>
<td>-27.25%</td>
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Asks: Meet/Visit/Local Impacts

- **Support the SMART ACT**: Please co-sponsor the SMART Act (H.R. 5536) which will exempt rural and underserved areas from the 15% assistant differential, and change the supervision requirement in private practice settings from “direct” to “general” supervision.
- **Stop the Budget Neutrality Cuts**: Please cosponsor H.R. 8800 the “Supporting Medicare Providers Act”, introduced by Congressman Ami Bera and Congressman Larry Bucshon. This legislation will stop the upcoming 4.5% cut to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule.
- **Support an inflationary increase to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**: Help offset the extreme rise in costs of the last year - while Congress considers ways to reform the fee schedule.
- **Waive Pay-Go**: Congress must waive Pay-Go to avoid a 4% across the board cut to Medicare.
- **Begin long-term reform of the Fee Schedule**: The current Fee Schedule is flawed and must be reformed. Arbitrary budget-neutrality cuts, lack of inflationary increases, and a quality payment system that does not allow facility-based occupational therapy practitioners to participate is not sustainable.
Planning For Your Visits

• Have a plan with your group prior to the visits
• Do your homework! Know the legislators that you will be meeting with.
• Review the NARA resources
• Designate a lead/host person to act as the moderator for the virtual and/or in-person visits. Lead/Host Responsibilities:
  – Intro to NARA
  – Facilitate intro of others on call
  – List our ‘asks’ Bills to support, then pass on to other speakers to go into more detail
  – Host also closes and summarizes with same ‘asks’
  – Liaison/lead or host to complete post visit survey monkey

Capture The Moment

• Take a picture
• Share the picture and express your appreciation for the meeting on social media (remember to tag the legislators office and NARA)
• NARA Social Media:
  – Twitter: @rehabassoc
  – LinkedIn: National Association of Rehab Providers and Agencies
NARA Advocacy At Home

- Invite for a visit!
- Attend an in person or virtual town hall!
- Request a meeting
- Email
- Participate /Have patients participate in NARA Calls to Action

Invite To An Event
Who You Gonna Call

• **Government Affair Committee**
  – Chairperson: Sabrena McCarley, Transitional Care Management
  – Lisa Chambers, Blue Sky Therapy
  – Babak Amali, Prodigy Rehabilitation
  – Jessica Beaudry, Vertis Therapy

• **Political Action Committee (PAC)**
  – Chairperson, Trustee: Mark Anderson, Mountain Land Rehabilitation
  – Trustee: Lee Glasoe, Prairie Rehabilitation
  – Trustee: Chris Batchelor, Big Stone Therapies

Our voices truly are louder when we advocate together!