

NJAMHAA Newswire

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State and Federal Legislation Impacts Unemployment Benefits

Governor Chris Christie imposed a conditional veto that would grant businesses a one-year reprieve from higher taxes, which would otherwise be increased in order to replenish the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, according to today's issue of the *Star-Ledger*.

The veto also reduces or eliminates eligibility for unemployment benefits to individuals who lose their jobs due to gross misconduct. Gov. Christie also called for a task force to be created to develop recommendations for stabilizing the unemployment fund.

On the national level, the Senate refused to pass a spending bill that included an extension of unemployment benefits due to concern over the deficit, which is expected to reach \$1.4 trillion this fiscal year. The impasse on this legislation will result in 1.3 million unemployed Americans losing unemployment benefits by the end of this week, according to today's issue of the *Wall Street Journal*.

House Passes Bill that Stops Medicare Payment Cuts to Physicians

The House of Representatives passed a bill that not only stops a 21 percent cut in Medicare payments to physicians, but also increases these payments by 2.2 percent through November 30, 2010,

according to today's issue of the *Star-Ledger*.

In order to secure the Senate's vote, "the cost of the measure was offset by changes in Medicare billing regulations, antifraud provisions and the tightening of some pension rules," the *New York Times* reported.

State Budget Update: Senate Committee Passes Full Package; Assembly Passes Spending Bill that Affects Hospitals

Yesterday, the Assembly Budget Committee passed A-3070, which "removes cap on .53% hospital total operating revenue assessment and raises cap on ambulatory care facility gross receipts assessment to increase charity care subsidy monies," as described on the State Legislature's website.

Meanwhile, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee approved its version of the full budget (S 3000). This bill appropriates \$28.3 billion in state funds and \$13.2 billion in federal funds. Of interest to NJAMHAA members, S 3000 calls for slightly lower amounts for the Departments of Children and Families, Health and Senior Services, and Human Services, and a slightly higher funding amount for the Department of Community Affairs, compared to Governor Christie's recommendations. Click [here](#) for details.

DCF Announces RFP for Supervised Visitation Service in Morris County

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) posted a Request for Proposals for Supervised Visitation Service for Morris County.

A Question and Answer Period is taking place through July 16, 2010. Questions can be e-mailed to dcfaskrfp@dcf.state.nj.us.

The closing date is July 27, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. Notices of Intent to Bid are due July 22, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) for details.

Community Options Launches Family Web 2.0 Website

Community Options, a Princeton-based national nonprofit organization that develops housing and employment for people with disabilities, has launched its Family Web 2.0 website, www.familyweb2.org.

The website includes information on resources related to advocacy, inclusion, education and other topics, which have been rated by individuals with disabilities and their families throughout the country. The site also features videos of real-life experiences

of people with disabilities; disability experts' views on current related issues; and a message board.

"This is a true innovation as we make our way into the second decade of the 21st century. In an era where our communication technology has surpassed other innovations, it is time to harness this tool to give a better edge to families. From Apple to Intel, from Gates to Jobs, people with disabilities will use technology to become part of the inclusive fabric of our society," said Robert Stack, President and CEO of Community Options.

"We are incredibly excited to launch the website," added Devi Hensch, Director of Program Development. "It's a great way for parents of children with disabilities to network, share experiences and support one another."

CPC Behavioral Healthcare to Hold 50th Anniversary Benefit

NJAMHAA congratulates CPC Behavioral Healthcare on its 50th anniversary, which the agency will celebrate on July 23, 2010 at the Trump National Golf Club in Colts Neck, NJ.

"We will honor our history and mission with a special, consumer-designed anniversary exhibit and an awards ceremony featuring former board chair Jeffrey Rich, Esq., volunteer Roseann Paone, and TD Bank," said Julia Zapoic, Director of Community Relations.

For more information, visit www.cpcbhc.org.

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