



Western Highlands Network News

June 30, 2008

In This Issue

- Buncombe County System of Care Opportunities
- Social Security Representative Payees
- NAMI Family-to-Family

Authorization Data

- Initial Authorization: 6/23/08
- Medicaid Registration: 6/26/08
 - IPRS Registration: 6/23/08
- Concurrent Review: 6/25/08

Upcoming Events

- **Mental Health Community Forums**
“Change on the Horizon”

Western Highlands Network presents “Change on the Horizon”, a Community Forum addressing current plans for addressing crisis services, medical support and service needs for Mental Health Consumers in the community. The public will have an opportunity to give input and pose questions to the presenters. The forum will take place on the following dates and locations:

For Madison, Mitchell and Yancey Counties:

Monday, June 30th
6:30-8:00 pm
Burnsville Town Center
6 South Main Street, Burnsville

News Flash!

Buncombe County System of Care Training Opportunities Summer - Fall 2008

If you are a stakeholder in Buncombe County that has involvement with children, in particular Child and Family teams, you are invited to participate in System of Care training. If you are a member of the Buncombe County Collaborative, it is required that you have System of Care training, and we encourage your child-serving staff to attend as well. If you know of Foster Parents, Birth Parents, Adoptive Parents, Guardian Ad Litem, or any one else that participates in Child and Family Teams for children at risk of out of home placement, please follow this link for training dates, and Registration updates!

<http://www.westernhighlands.org/systemofcare.htm>

For interested parties in *other counties*, please contact Rose Stouder, System of Care Coordinator for Western Highlands Network at stou0824@westernhighlands.org for more information about scheduling a training in your area, or make contact with your local collaborative.

Community & Consumer Happenings

Social Security Representative Payees

Many consumers find themselves in a situation where they need a representative payee to handle their financial matters where they themselves are unable to do so. We receive more and more calls from providers who provide services for adult consumers and are unable to find resources. DSS was once an option, but they are overburdened and not taking on any new cases, as are others that have taken on this role in the past.

Any person or agency (not affiliated with a provider agency) that would be interested would first have to be approved by Social Security, especially if they plan to charge a fee (this fee is typically \$30/month per consumer). They would begin by contacting Vanessa White at 1-800-772-1213, extension 3036 or email Vanessa.white@ssa.gov. There is an application process for approval. Please distribute this to anyone you believe might have an interest in serving as a consumer payee.

Upcoming Trainings/Meetings

- 7/1 NPI Training
1:00-3:00pm WHN room 315
- 7/3 SA Provider Meeting
1:00-3:00pm WHN room 315
- 7/8 NC TOPPS Training
1:00-4:00pm WHN Room 315

Stay Informed!

NC Division of Mental Health

www.ncdhhs.gov/mhddsas

NC Division of Medical Assistance

www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/home.htm

Value Options

www.valueoptions.com

Contact Us

Western Highlands Network
356 Biltmore Avenue
Asheville, NC 28801
Phone: 828-225-2785
Fax: 828-225-2784
www.westernhighlands.org

Corporate Compliance

To report concerns regarding fraud,
waste, or abuse:
1-800-826-6762

Some ideas are community not-for-profits, retired persons still civically active, community law practices, organizations, collaboratives, community groups, civic groups, etc.

NAMI offers free education for families of mentally ill in Asheville and for the first time in Mars Hill

NAMI Western Carolina
Contact Florence Rowe
299-9596

NAMI *Family-to-Family*, a free 12-week class for relatives and friends of individuals diagnosed with a severe mental illness, will be offered from 6:30 to 9 p.m. beginning Monday, August 25 in Asheville and for the first time in Mars Hill on Thursdays, starting August 28. Sponsored by NAMI Western Carolina, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the course provides up-to-date facts about schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, anxiety disorder and co-occurring addictions. Trained family members teach the course that balances education with self-care, emotional support and empowerment. A clinical psychologist with an ill family member developed the curriculum that has been presented to more than 100,000 people nation-wide.

The NAMI *Family-to-Family* course also covers:

- Coping skills, handling a crisis and relapse
- Listening and communication techniques
- Problem solving, setting limits, rehabilitation
- Understanding the experience of being mentally ill
 - Community services and resources
- Advocacy, fighting discrimination and stigma

Since the class size is limited, early registration is required. Call 828-258-5359 for information about the Asheville class and 828-505-0438 for the Mars Hill class.
