



The Mobilizer



Volume 2, Issue 1

March 2005

Medicaid Service Coordinators mobilize to confront issues

By DENISE YOUNG

The power of mobilization is apparent when members rally behind an issue and things begin to change. One example is the situation with our members who are Medicaid Service Coordinators (MSCs).

MSCs play a vital role at the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) by assisting in service planning, service delivery and assuring quality care. Many of these members have reported feeling frustrated and discouraged.

Last spring, PEF President Roger Benson along with PEF leaders and members from the Finger Lakes DDSO met to discuss the problems MSCs were experiencing. They identified key elements to form a campaign and launched a statewide multi-pronged campaign to deal with the issues.

The issues that drive this campaign may be familiar to other members. The MSCs are seeking workplace dignity, respect, stress management, caseload fairness and equity, pay for work performed, and justice.

To obtain these goals, the campaign focuses on the local level. Some issues can be directly influenced by MSCs at their own worksites and dealt with in labor-management meetings. Other issues warrant statewide intervention.

PEF selected six Developmental Disabilities Service Offices (DDSOs) as sites for mobilization forums. Meetings will also take place at these locations to further discussions on the issues and areas of progress.

"We have found subtle changes in how the work issues are affecting MSCs at various locations," said Statewide OMH Labor-Management Chair Greg Case.

Case, MSC sub-committee chair, said PEF used a survey for initial feedback.

(Continued on page 3)

Members stampede 'class & comp' with letter campaign

PEF leaders who work at the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD) have noted an increase in workers at the SG 14, rather than SG 17 level, along with demanding caseloads for Medicaid Service Coordinators (MSCs).

So, the MSC sub-committee decided to take action by initiating a letter-writing campaign directed at Nicholas Vagianelis, director of the Division of Classification and Compensation in the Civil Service Department.

According to Greg Case, committee chair, more than 200 members from across the state responded.

"We are grateful and proud our members stepped up to the plate to participate in this campaign," Case said. "They recognize the importance of this effort that calls for acknowledgement of the demanding nature of this job."

IN THIS ISSUE

Pg. 2 PEF reacts to DOT transformation

Save the date!

Pg. 3 Mobilizer classes available

Newsletters unite divisions

Pg. 4 Welcome new hires

Mobilization courses available to fit your needs

Basic Mobilization:

These topics cover a basic introduction to organizing, educating and division activity—the three main components of mobilization. All of these topics can be done as individual modules or combined to create a more comprehensive introductory package.

- ✓ Mobilization 101
- ✓ Charting and Mapping Your Workplace
- ✓ Orienting Your Mobilizers
- ✓ Recruiting Volunteers

Advanced Mobilization

These topics are for divisions who have already completed the initial phase of mobilization and are ready to further educate their members and prepare for action. Again, these can be tailored to fit your needs.

- ✓ Testing Your Mobilization Network
- ✓ Updating Your Workplace Charts and Maps
- ✓ Selecting Issues for Local Campaigns
- ✓ Running Effective Union Meetings
- ✓ Communicating our Message: Using Flyers, E-mail and Newsletters
- ✓ Developing Allies: Building Community Coalitions

For further information contact Margaret Messer by e-mail, MMesser@pef.org or call (800) 342-4306 x287.

Medicaid Service Coordinators

(Continued from page 1)

“We also have a team of PEF leaders and staff who are visiting the DDSOs for training, planning and issue analysis. We recently returned from a successful meeting held at the Manhattan DDSO. I’m convinced using mobilization tools brings results to our members,” he said.

Division newsletter brings results at OTDA

By KATHY D’ARMINIO

PEF Division 399 Council Leader

When I first became a council leader in PEF Region 5 for the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, my goal was to create a stronger communication link among our members.

After developing a Web site and e-mail network, I realized one of the very best ways to communicate was having a newsletter. My members needed a hard copy of union news. A newsletter fit the bill and members enjoy finding it on their desks.

To fill the space, I try to include at least one part of the new PS&T contract. This provides detailed information so members can fully appreciate and understand their benefits.

I also focus on a current workplace issue. Many of our members are unaware of how our contract can help them, especially when a situation develops on the job.

The back page of the newsletter is consistent and includes the important PEF phone numbers, stewards and other contact information for the Web site and e-mail network.

My primary goal is to educate our members. So, I include updates from various committees. This has increased interest and participation in the committees. And, we like to include a schedule of social events and photos.



Tell us about your success story with a newsletter. Just send the details to DMiles@pef.org. And if you want to start a newsletter of your own, contact PEF's Public Relations Department at 1-800-342-4306 ext. 234 and request a copy of "How To Create A Powerful Newsletter For Your Division."

Welcoming new hires to the union

Remember when you were the new kid at work? Did a union steward welcome you? Did co-workers tell you about all the union benefits?

Welcoming new workers is a great way to build a union. Research has shown people form their ideas about their union within the first weeks of employment.

It's important to greet new workers and provide them with information right from the beginning. And what better way to break the ice with the new kid by sitting down, saying welcome, and explaining the advantages of being a PEF member.

And, don't forget to contact the PEF Membership Benefits Department at 1-800-342-4306 for new hire materials. It is a great way to help someone experience solidarity.



RESOURCES

Stay informed!

- ☞ Sign up to receive PEF's "Active Informed Member (AIM)" e-mail updates. Join the PEF ACTION CENTER by visiting www.pef.org and clicking on "Action Center."
- ☞ Call the PEF Hotline, updated weekly, at 1-800-553-2445

If you need information or assistance with the mobilization process contact:

Margaret Messer
MMesser@pef.org
1-800-342-4306, ext. 425

Kim Loccisano
KLoccisano@pef.org
1-800-342-4306, ext 425

Denise Young
DYoung@pef.org
1-800-724-5003

Blair Burroughs
BBurroughs@pef.org
1-800-522-8700, ext. 523

THE MOBILIZER MARCH '05 EDITION

Volume 3, Issue 1; March 2005. Published by the PEF Mobilization Department and Public Relations Department,
P.O. Box 12414, Albany, NY 12212-2414

Contributors:
Kathy D'Arminio
Denise Young
Margaret Messer
Deborah A. Miles - Reporter/Writer
Paul Murphy - Graphic Artist

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NEW YORK STATE
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
FEDERATION, AFL-CIO
PO BOX 12414
ALBANY, NY 12212-2414**



Presorted
First-Class Mail
US Postage PAID
Albany, NY
Permit # 853