



UPDATE FROM WASHINGTON

Summer Edition

AS OF: 8/5/2010

Hello Legislative Liaisons and Chapter Presidents,

This is your eighth official *Update from Washington*! It has been a few months since the last *Update* so here is your **Summer Edition**. The *Updates* are intended to give a simpler picture of what has been happening on a national level with regard to policy surrounding the employment of individuals with disabilities.

As always, if you have comments on the issues addressed or have questions, would like more information or would like assistance in your state, do not hesitate to contact me at Stephanie@apse.org or (920) 495-9688. Thank you and remember, “*A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history*” (Gandhi).

Have a wonderful rest of the summer,

Public Policy Associate
APSE

Note: The House and Senate will be reconvening on September 13th following their August Recess period. Therefore, the *Update* will resume in October.

EMPLOYMENT/TRANSITION:

APSE has been working to promote the phase-out of 14 (c) certificates and subminimum wage.

- APSE has been in dialogue with a staffer from Senator Enzi's office regarding APSE's legislative recommendations to Workforce Investment Act reauthorization and the Rehabilitation Act reauthorization that were submitted in April.

* Note: Word is that Congress plans to introduce reauthorization legislation before the end of this Congressional Session; however no date has been set yet.

- On July 23rd the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking public comment on revising to its Section 503 (of Rehab Act) regulations.

To view the ANPRM, click [here](#)!

- On July 29th APSE attended a Congressional briefing on Integrated Employment co-sponsored by TASH and CPSD. The panel of speakers included [Curt Decker](#) (Nat'l Disability Rights Network), [Nancy Ward](#) (Self-Advocate), [Michael Callahan](#) (Marc Gold and Associates), [Barb Trader](#) (TASH) and [Keith Wiedenkiller](#) (AMC Entertainment).

** To watch each panelist's presentation, click on their name.

LTSS/HEALTHCARE REFORM:

- On June 3rd an Action Alert was sent out asking individuals to contact their Senator(s) and ask for continued support of FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage – the federal share of Medicaid financing). Click [here](#) to view the Alert!

- On July 1st the Department of Health and Human Services launched a website dedicated to informing the public about health reform and options available for insurance coverage. To visit, click [here](#)!

- On July 16th APSE participated in a meeting via CPSD with staff from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services). Overall the meeting went well and CMS is interested in input on its upcoming 2010 Waiver Technical Guide. To learn more about CMS, click [here](#)!

- As of August 5th: We are waiting for the Senate to pass H.R. 1586 with the extended FMAP funding amendment. If passed, the House will have to reconvene for a vote.

Want to know more about FMAP? Click [here](#) to learn more!

ASSET DEVELOPMENT:

- On April 26th the PPA sent out individually customized letters to each of the legislative liaisons to send on behalf of their respective APSE state chapter re: SSI Savers Act. 2 states have confirmed that they sent their letters out.

- On July 6th an Action Alert was sent out asking individuals to contact their Representative to convene a hearing on the ABLE Act. Click [here](#) to view the Alert!

OTHER:

- APSE was involved in a meeting through CCD with Christine Griffin, Deputy Director of OPM on July 1st. For more information on OPM, please click [here!](#)

Meeting Highlights Include:

FEDERAL HIRING FAIR

- OPM and ODEP co-sponsored a Federal Hiring Fair for prospective employees with disabilities.
- It was an 'invitation-only' event where in order to participate you had to receive an offer for an interview after you submitted your resume.
- Statistics:
 - 5,000 resumes in total were received
 - 500 people total were interviewed
 - 300-350 people had on-day interviews
 - 150 people had an interview a few days later
- Intent of the Hiring Fair was to have agencies and departments participating give condition job offers on the spot. As of July 1st there were a total of 58 offers and 20 confirmed hires.

USAJOBS.GOV/OTHER INITIATIVES

- OPM and ODEP co-sponsored a Federal Hiring Fair for prospective employees with disabilities.
- OPM is working to improve the federal hiring process, particularly usajobs.gov, to make it less confusing and simpler to navigate. They plan to switch from the "knowledge, skills and abilities" section currently required to apply for a federal job and instead rely on resumes.
- Things are in works to create a website similar to <http://www.fedshirevets.gov/> .
- OPM wants to work on establishing timelines that agencies/departments have to reply back to applicants after they have applied for a job. Currently it is very difficult for an individual to find out the progress of an application.

- OPM would like to increase the use of Schedule A hiring of/by individuals with disabilities. They will be working with Disability Program Managers/Selective Placement Coordinators across agencies/departments to educate them about the Schedule A hiring process. To learn more about Schedule A, please click [here](#)!
- Working to get rid of Certificate of Disability and will eventually come put out an NPRN (notice of proposed rulemaking) on this change.

DIVERSITY INITIATIVE

- Obama Administration has tasked OPM w/developing a government-wide diversity and inclusion strategy. OPM has spent 4 months working on it and area now deciding how to roll it out – ideally it would be an Executive Order.
- A Diversity Office has been created at OPM consisting of a council and steering committee. The hope is that such Diversity Office will be replicated across agencies.

WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT PROGRAM

- Christine talked briefly about a program that was originally started by DOD and is now run in tandem with ODEP called “Workforce Recruitment Program”. The program consists of a database of college students with disabilities who are interested in summer work or internships. According to DOL’s website, “WRP is a recruitment and referral program that connects federal and private sector employers with highly motivated postsecondary students with disabilities who are eager to prove their abilities in the workplace through summer or permanent jobs.” For more information, please click [here](#)!

RESULTS ONLY WORK ENVIRONMENT (ROWE) INITIATIVE

- ROWE is starting at OPM and if it goes well it is hoped that it will spread across agencies/departments.

Basic Principles:

- Expanding the concept of 'telecommuting'.
- The hiring manager defines what results are that are expected of an employee.
- Where an individual does their work, when they work and how they do their work is up to the employee.

Hiring Statistics within Federal Government:

- Hispanics and pwd are the least represented
- Pwd leave the federal government at 3 times the rate of others but there are no exit interviews to determine the reason they are leaving.

FISCAL COMMISSION:

- PPA attended the bi-partisan National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform open hearing on June 30th.
- APSE gave recommendations through CCD. CCD had a representative give oral testimony at the hearing.
- Please click [here](#) to view the public testimonies given by various organizations and individual citizens at the hearing.

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDANCE:

APSE signed-on to the following:

- * Co-signed (5.12.10) American Cancer Society letter to the Department of Labor on Essential Benefit Package Services Coverage in Health Reform
- * Co-signed (6.4.10) AAPD letter to Majority Leader and Minority Leaders on Health Reform Appropriations
- * Co-signed (7.28.10) CCD letter to Senate RE: Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- * Co-signed (7.30.10) CPSD ABLE Act letter Urging Passage of H.R. 1205 House WM Committee
- * Co-signed (7.30.10) CPSD ABLE Act letter Urging Passage of H.R. 1205 House Dem Leadership

APSE's Legislative Handbook is online under the "Members Only" Conference section!!