

**TO:** Local District Commissioners, Medicaid Directors

**FROM:** Kathryn Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management

**SUBJECT:** The Medicaid Buy-In For Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD)  
Statewide Conference, "Building Community Partnerships"

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Immediately

**CONTACT PERSON:** Local District Support Unit  
Upstate (518) 474-8216 NYC (212) 268-6855

The NYS Department of Health, Office of Medicaid Management will host the Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities (MBI-WPD) Statewide Conference - "Building Community Partnerships". The conference will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center.

The conference goal is to bring consumers, state agencies, stakeholders and local departments of social services' staff together to share best practices and effective strategies in assisting disabled individuals overcome barriers to employment. Attendance at this conference will provide LDSS staff the opportunity to hear first hand the challenges and barriers New Yorkers face when they attempt to return to the workforce. It will also provide LDSS staff with opportunity to hear from working disabled participants the difference the MBI-WPD has made in their lives.

The conference Keynote Speaker is John Hockenberry, an award winning journalist. Three-time Peabody Award winner, four-time Emmy award winner and *Dateline NBC* correspondent, John Hockenberry has broad experience as a journalist and commentator for more than two decades. He has reported from all over the world, in virtually every medium, having anchored programs for network, cable and radio. Mr. Hockenberry is the author of "Moving Violations: War Zones, Wheelchairs and Declarations of Independence," a memoir of life as a foreign correspondent, which was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1996.

Local District Commissioners are encouraged to send Medicaid eligibility staff, Medicaid disability staff and other appropriate staff. Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) funds are available to reimburse LDSS staff for their mileage at the State rate of .375/mile. Staff seeking reimbursement for mileage expenses should indicate the approximate cost on their registration form. Hotel accommodations will not be reimbursed.

The registration fee will be waived for LDSS staff. Please complete and submit the attached registration form for each attendee as soon as possible. Deadline for registration is October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Space is limited so register early to ensure all appropriate staff can attend this important conference.



# BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

*Medicaid Buy-In for Working People with Disabilities Conference*

*Tuesday*

*November 9, 2004*

*Empire State Plaza Convention Center*

*Albany, New York*

*Sponsored by*

*New York State Department of Health*

*Office of Medicaid Management*

# ***BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS***

## **AGENDA**

**Tuesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

- 8:00-9:00**      **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:15**      **Welcome and Introductions**  
Kathryn L. Kuhmerker, Deputy Commissioner  
Office of Medicaid Management, New York State Department of Health
- 9:15-9:45**      **Formal Welcome**  
Speaker to be announced.
- 9:45-10:45**    **Keynote Speaker**  
John Hockenberry, Three-time Peabody Award winner, four-time Emmy award winner,  
*Dateline NBC* correspondent, and award-winning journalist
- 10:45-11:00**   **Break**
- 11:00-12:15**   **Breakout Sessions:**
- Benefits Planning for Social Security and SSI Beneficiaries: “Where the Medicaid Buy-In Program Fits for Working People with Disabilities” – James Sheldon
  - VESID – Frank Coco & Katherine Mario
  - MBI-WPD Toolkit – Harvey Rosenthal & Dale Buddah
  - Disability Program Navigators – Linda Spears & Kevin Nickerson
- 12:15-1:30**    **Lunch**
- 1:30-2:30**      **Motivational Speaker**  
Katinka Neuhof, M.A., The Networking Project for Young People with Disabilities
- 2:30-2:45**      **Break**
- 2:45-4:15**      **Breakout Sessions:**
- Balancing Choice, Empowerment and Incentives to Work: “The Success of the Employment Supports Pyramid in the Ticket to Work Act” – Thomas Golden
  - SSA Work Incentives – Cheryl Adamec & Edward Lacy
  - Employment and People with Disabilities – Susan Dooha
  - Navigating New York City Programs – Becky Hasse
- 4:15**            **Closing Remarks**

**Please make sure you visit our exhibition rooms. Exhibitors will be there to share information and answer questions. Exhibitors will be set up all day during the conference and will be available until 5:00.**

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

### ***JOHN HOCKENBERRY***

Dateline NBC

Three-time Peabody Award winner, four-time Emmy award winner and *Dateline NBC* correspondent, John Hockenberry has broad experience as a journalist and commentator for more than two decades. He has reported from all over the world, in virtually every medium, having anchored programs for network, cable and radio. Hockenberry was responsible for two of the most innovative programs to air on MSNBC. The program “Hockenberry” was a smart provocative news interview program which broadcast live from the war in Kosovo in 1999, while “Edgewise” was a unique blend of raw documentary filmmaking and interviews with newsmakers passionate about politics and culture.

Hockenberry joined NBC as a correspondent for *Dateline NBC* in January 1996 after a fifteen-year career in broadcast news at both National Public Radio and ABC News. Hockenberry's reporting for *Dateline NBC* earned him three Emmys, an Edward R Murrow award and a Casey Medal. His most prominent *Dateline NBC* reports include an hour-long documentary on the often-fatal tragedy of the medically uninsured, an emotionally gripping portrait of a young schizophrenic trying to live on his own, and extensive reporting in the aftermath of September 11th.

## **WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS**

*The following is a list of some of the planned workshops:*

- *Benefits Planning for Social Security and SSI Beneficiaries. Where the Medicaid Buy-In Program Fits for Working People with Disabilities – James Sheldon, Project Director, Western NY Work Incentives & Benefits Advisement*
- *VESID  
Kathy Mario, Supervising Rehabilitation Facilities Specialist  
Frank Coco, VR Policy and Partnership Specialist  
VESID, New York State Education Department*
- *MBI-WPD Toolkit  
Harvey Rosenthal, Executive Director  
Dale Buddah, Training Collective Director  
New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS)*
- *Disability Program Navigators  
Linda Spears, Disability Program Navigator, Buffalo Employment & Training Center  
Kevin Nickerson, Disability Program Navigator, Tompkins Workforce New York*
- *Balancing Choice, Empowerment and Incentives to Work: The Success of the Employment Supports Pyramid in the Ticket to Work Act  
Thomas Golden, Cornell University's Program on Employment and Disability (PED)*
- *SSA Work Incentives  
Edward Lacy, Social Security Area Work Incentives Coordinator for Eastern NYS  
Cheryl Adamec, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration (SSA)*
- *Employment and People with Disabilities  
Susan Dooha, Executive Director of the Center for Independence of the Disabled, New York (CIDNY)*
- *Navigating New York City Programs  
Becky Hasse, Training and Program Manager, Community Service Society (CSS)*

***Pre-Registration is required!***

***SEE REGISTRATION SHEET***

## **EXHIBITORS**

- *Commission for the Blind and Visually Handicapped (CBVH)*
- *Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD)*
- *New York State Rehabilitation Association (NYSRA)*
- *Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC)*
- *New York State Commission on Quality of Care (CQC)*
- *Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities (VESID)*
- *Office of the Advocate for Persons with Disabilities (APD)*
- *New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYSAPRS)*
- *Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL)*
- *Hands Across Long Island (HALI)*
- *Social Security Administration (SSA)*

# REGISTRATION FORM

NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, OFFICE OF MEDICAID MANAGEMENT

## ***MEDICAID BUY-IN FOR WORKING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BUILDING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE***

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my registration of \$40. Make checks payable to:

### **NYS MBI-WPD CONFERENCE**

(Registration includes breakfast, lunch and afternoon refreshments.)

**The late registration fee will be \$55 for checks postmarked after October 15, 2004.  
Deadline for registration is October 22, 2004.**

### **Menu Choice for Lunch: (Please Check One)**

\_\_\_\_ **Chicken Piccata** – Breast of Chicken Sautéed in Lemon Butter Sauce with Capers, Served with Chef's Choice of Potato or Rice and Seasonal Fresh Vegetables

\_\_\_\_ **Roasted Vegetable Napoleon w/Balsamic Sauce** – Portobello Mushroom Marinated in a Balsamic Vinaigrette w/Spinach and Roasted Red Peppers, Served over Rice

\_\_\_\_ **Sante Fe Salmon** – Fresh Grilled Salmon Marinated with Chili Powder, Lemon Juice and Honey Topped with a Savory Lime Sauce

### **Breakdown Sessions: (Please check one AM session and one PM session that you will be attending.)**

#### **AM SESSIONS:**

- \_\_\_\_ Benefits Planning for Social Security and SSI Beneficiaries
- \_\_\_\_ VESID
- \_\_\_\_ MBI-WPD Toolkit
- \_\_\_\_ Disability Program Navigators

#### **PM SESSIONS:**

- \_\_\_\_ Balancing Choice, Empowerment and Incentives to Work
- \_\_\_\_ SSA Work Incentives
- \_\_\_\_ Employment & People with Disabilities
- \_\_\_\_ Navigating NYC Programs

Please return to:

**Christine Oreshan  
NYS Department of Health  
Office of Medicaid Management  
One Commerce Plaza, Room 803-C  
Albany, NY 12260**

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

*This conference is being conducted at a facility that will, to the greatest extent possible, meet the accessibility needs of individuals with disabilities who will be attending.*

## **LODGING**

*Special Conference rates have been reserved at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and at the Clarion Hotel of Albany (formerly the Quality Inn). **To obtain the rate, identify yourself as a “DOH – MBI-WPD Conference Participant.” Please reserve early - cut-off date for conference rate is October 12, 2004.***

<b>The Crowne Plaza</b> State and Lodge Streets Albany, New York 12207	518-462-6611 or 1-800-2-Crowne	\$96.00
<b>The Clarion Hotel</b> 3 Watervliet Avenue Ext Albany, New York 12206	518-438-8431	\$85.00

## **DIRECTIONS**

*The New York State Convention Center, where the conference is being held, is located in the Empire State Plaza in Albany, New York. A map with directions to the Plaza appears on the back cover of this program. Visitor parking is available at the Plaza for \$10.00 per day.*

## **MORE INFORMATION**

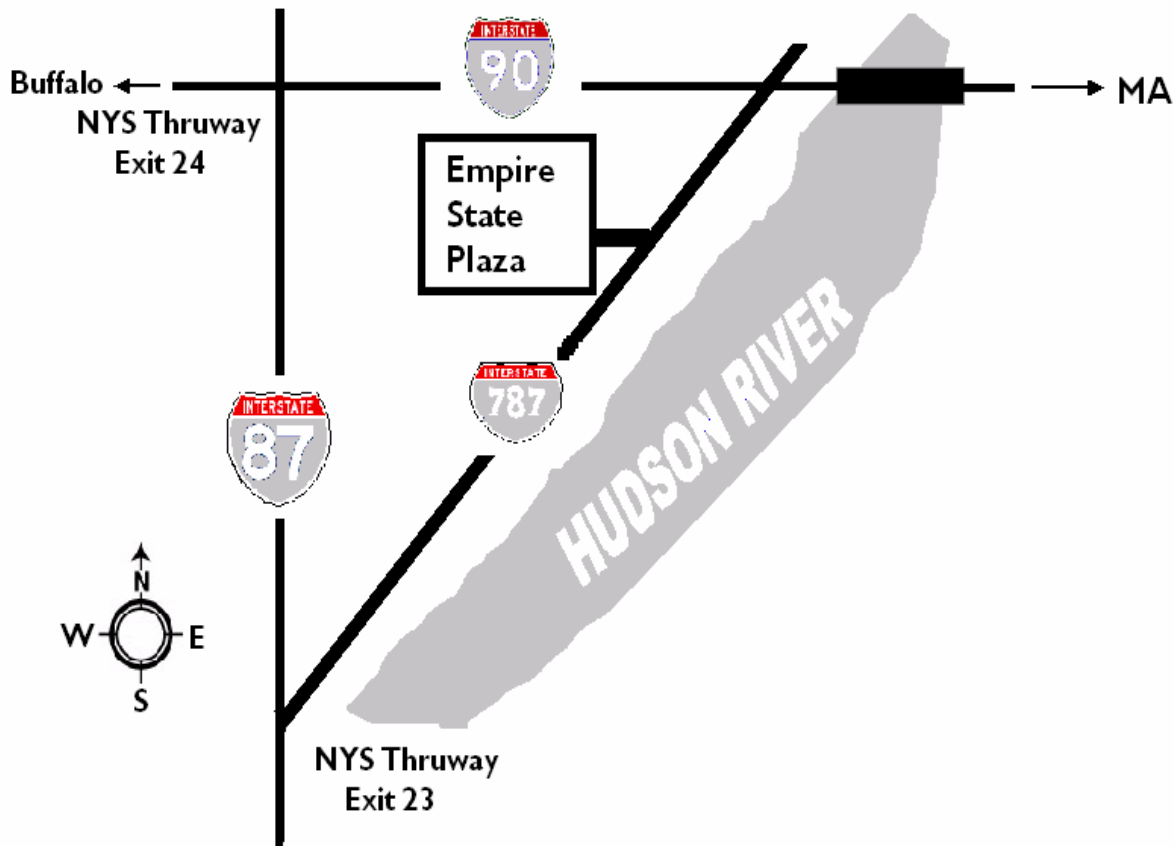
*If you have any questions or want more information, please call Christine Oreshan at 518-473-8748 or e-mail at [cmb09@health.state.ny.us](mailto:cmb09@health.state.ny.us) or Kathleen Orkwis at 518-474-3468 or e-mail at [kxo01@health.state.ny.us](mailto:kxo01@health.state.ny.us).*

## **PARKING**

1. V Lot (P-3 North Area) – Empire State Plaza Underground Parking Level 3.
2. P-1 North Area – Empire State Plaza Underground Parking Level 1 (oversized vehicles in excess of 6'6”).
3. Cathedral Parking Lot – Madison Avenue east of Cultural Education Center.
4. Bus Parking Lot – Madison Avenue west of Cultural Education Center.
5. Grand Street Surface Lot – Grand Street, northeast side of ESP East Parking Garage.



## DIRECTIONS TO THE EMPIRE STATE PLAZA



### Coming From The:

**North:** Take Interstate 87 (Northway) to Interstate 90 East exit. Proceed East to Interstate 787 South and take the Empire State Plaza exit. Follow signs to Visitors' Parking Area.

**South:** Take the NYS Thruway (Interstate 87) to Exit 23 (Albany). Proceed straight through the toll booth to Interstate 787 North. Take the Empire State Plaza exit and follow signs to Visitors' Parking Area.

**East:** Take Interstate 90 and cross the Hudson River. Take exit to Interstate 787 South, along the river. Take the Empire State Plaza exit and follow signs to Visitors' Parking Area.

**West:** Take the NYS Thruway to Exit 24 (Albany). Proceed East on Interstate 90 to Interstate 787 South. Take the Empire State Plaza exit and follow signs to Visitors' Parking Area.

**Visitors' Parking is available in the V Lot only. Elevators will take you to the concourse level of the Empire State Plaza. The NYS Convention Center is located off the main concourse below the Performing Arts Center (the "Egg").**