



Hello PADDNN Members,

Hard to believe we are well into the winter season of 2010 already! Hope everyone had a wonderful New Year and all are enjoying the snow blanketing most of Pennsylvania. Our March quarterly meeting is quickly approaching, and the final preparatory touches are being completed as we speak. Hope to see many of you at this special meeting, where we will celebrate PADDNN's 10th Birthday! We will be offering 3 CEUs for nurses attending. Flyers detailing the meeting should have arrived by the time you receive this. If you did not receive, please contact PADDNN secretary Melody Wolf at mwolf@heionline.org.

The officers of PADDNN have been occupied with attending to business issues for our organization and some of the following tasks are underway or completed...

1. The PADDNN by-laws were reviewed and updated. We are in the process of finalizing the documents and they will be available at the next PADDNN meeting, for members' review.
2. The organizational chart for PADDNN is developed and will also be made available for membership.
3. New forms have been created for the organization to feature our new logo, meet requirements for CEU offerings (evaluations, etc.), and to allow for smoother transition and continuity as organizational tasks are taken over by our committee leadership. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those dedicated members who are currently involved in our very active committees. Our organization has grown significantly over the past 10 years and we couldn't do all we do without you! Special thanks to Melody Wolf for her hard work developing these new forms for the transition of responsibility.
4. The membership committee is working on developing marketing tools to promote our organization. Special thanks Sandy Corrigan and Ronda Dysinger for taking the lead on this project.
5. By now all should be aware of the new policies regarding membership. Due to fees for meals and CEU offerings, we now have instituted a \$30 non-member fee for attendance at our quarterly meetings. We implemented this change to assure fiscal responsibility

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- Of the organization, and to promote fairness for those who loyally support PADDNN through membership. Membership really does have benefits!!!
6. Additionally, to streamline the membership process for the committee, we have established a time line for the special group rate offered by PADDNN. Group rates are available to help defray costs of multiple memberships, which are often paid by an employer for their nurses. A group is defined by PADDNN as 5 or more nurses, registering at the same time, from the same organization. A \$5 per nurse discount is offered for group membership meeting the above criteria. **The special discounted group rate does end February 28, 2010, so if you are seeking to receive that rate, please submit information prior to the deadline. Please note....all memberships are assigned to a specific nurse and are non-transferrable.*
 7. We have instituted a discounted rate for nursing students. All nursing students interested in joining PADDNN will receive membership at the discounted rate of \$25 per year.
 8. We have instituted a discounted rate for retired nurses. Nurses, who wish to join PADDNN in retirement, can purchase membership at the discounted rate of \$25 per year.
 9. PADDNN has been added as a group on Facebook. Search your Facebook browser and join us there as well!
 10. PADDNN has added blogging capabilities to our website. Join us and share your PADDNN experiences as we celebrate our 10th year!

Kimberly Cahill RN, BSN
PADDNN President



Emergency Preparedness Information for People with Disabilities

Stay up to date on all the latest information by joining [PAR's Emergency Network](#)

The Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council (PADDCC) has published a new position paper – "Emergency Preparedness and Response for People with Disabilities," the seventh in a series intended to contribute to the discussion of issues important to Pennsylvania's disability community. Per PADDCC, the position paper was prepared with and by people with disabilities and other interested parties.



The paper highlights several areas where emergency preparedness, response and recovery could be improved for individuals with disabilities, their families and their support systems. They include communication and information exchange, inclusion of individuals with disabilities in disaster planning, and defining system and government responsibilities.

To view the PADDCC Emergency Preparedness and Response for People with Disabilities position paper, please click on the following link
<http://www.paddcc.org/images/stories/pdfs/emergency%20preparedness%20and%20response%20position%20paper.pdf>.

In addition, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration on Developmental Disabilities has also developed a PowerPoint presentation that provides information for families about preparing for emergencies. The presentation includes information on state and local resources for family readiness, developmental disabilities networks and checklists for parents of children with special needs.

Visit http://www.disability.gov/emergency_preparedness/personal_preparedness/home to view the presentation and additional emergency preparedness materials.

For pandemic news, resources and other information, PAR members are encouraged to visit [PAR's Online Emergency Network](#) accessible on our website at www.par.net. The PAR Emergency Network was created to serve as a hub of communication for PAR and its members during emergencies.



PA's Healthcare Quality Units Work on Grant

Press Release

The Developmental Disabilities Council is federally funded and established in 55 states and territories to engage in systems change, advocacy and capacity building. Each year Pennsylvania's Council identifies requests for proposals that reflect the priorities of the Commonwealth.

The Dual Diagnosis Services and Supports Grant is a two-year grant that was funded in October 2008 and is comprised of a statewide coalition of eight Health Care Quality Units. For the purposes of this grant, dual diagnosis

is defined as intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental illness. The primary mission of the grant is to: determine how people with dual diagnosis want to be supported, identify ways the support systems could be more responsive, provide a comprehensive review of best practices from existing literature, advocate for increased collaboration between systems that support people with dual diagnosis, create public awareness to increase acceptance, and educate one and all to improve outcomes.

On September 30th, Pennsylvania's Health Care Quality Units (HCQU) hosted a state-wide stakeholders' meeting as part of the *Dual Diagnosis Services and Supports* project funded by the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. At the meeting, findings of focus groups and consensus meetings conducted across the Commonwealth were presented. In addition, workgroups were formed to begin developing a roadmap for improved services and guide project efforts going forward.

Nearly one hundred stakeholders gathered in Mechanicsburg for a full-day session. Opening speakers included Secretary Estelle Richman, Department of Public Welfare, Deputy Secretary Kevin Casey, Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), Sherry Snyder, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (OMHSAS), and Graham Mulholland, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Developmental Disabilities Council. Participants were encouraged by the speakers to continue their work to improve services and supports for people with intellectual disabilities who also have mental illness.

On behalf of the HCQU Coalition, Dina McFalls, Director of Philadelphia Coordinated Health Care, presented a summary of findings of the focus groups and consensus meetings. During the afternoon, four workgroups met to develop goals or mission statements and to begin identifying action steps for ongoing work. The four workgroups include: 1) Access to Behavioral Health Services; 2) System Integration (ODP & OMHSAS); 3) Public Awareness; and, 4) Education. These areas represent the summation of input from over 500 people during the focus group and consensus meetings held in Year One. Each workgroup will be chaired by two HCQU directors: Group 1 by Lynn Libby and Joanne Cook; Group 2 by Dina McFalls and Kevin McElligott; Group 3 by Star Long and Heather Coleman; and, Group 4 by Sharon Falzone and Mary Nau. Each group determined an agenda based upon the themes that were presented as their focus and each group will establish various projects to undertake over the next year. Updates of group progress will be reported throughout the year.

The Public Awareness Workgroup will have several press releases throughout the upcoming year in order to keep you current on the goals and projects of the grant workgroups. Please contact Heather Coleman (610) 435-9050 or Star Long (717) 835-2275 with any ideas, questions or concerns.

**Please feel free to send comments, articles, suggestions, etc.,
for the newsletter to: kimc@theadvocacyalliance.org**

Check us out on the web at www.paddnn.com



Communications Committee Chairperson -1 position

Communications Committee Regional Representatives-4-6 positions

Salary non negotiable- it pays nothing

Benefits- get to really know PADDNN members from across the state, excellent professional experience in a non-stress environment, hours flexible, no weekends or holidays –unless that is how you like it, looks good on a resume!

Responsibilities- creation and maintenance of website, newsletter, and other duties as you visualize beneficial to the organization.

Contact- kimc@theadvocacyalliance.org for more information or to set up an interview...

PS...all applicants will be hired on the spot!!!