



Texas Rehab Providers' Council

10303 Northwest Freeway, Suite 100 Houston, TX 77092

Ph: (713)-686-9950 Fax: 713-686-2361

TXRPC.Org

TXRPC NEWS MAY 2006

Annual Conference August 2-5 Expands

The Historic Gunter Hotel in downtown San Antonio will be the new scene of the TXRPC Annual Conference and Education Seminar. Four major power wheelchair manufacturers will conduct training seminars on their new electronics and applications, all with approved CEU's! The DMERC Medical Director and staff will present a half-day open forum of Q&A regarding Medicare Policy Changes. HHSC and TMHP plan a repeat of the morning panel discussion on current Texas Medicaid issues. There will be a half-day short course by Peggy Walker on required paperwork for Medicare wheelchairs, funding, and audits. A business meeting featuring the credentialing committee report will be held, as well as an afternoon session on accreditation. Watch the web site for registration information and a detailed schedule!

ROHO and TXRPC Present Training in Houston this Week

TXRPC Members in the Houston area are facilitating a ROHO educational seminar May 17, 2006 at the Arabia Shriners Temple, 2900 N Braeswood Blvd in Houston. The cost is \$55.00 per person at the door. Enrollment information is detailed at www.txrpc.org

The morning session is "Addressing the Wound Healing Continuum: Assessment, Treatment and Continuity of Care. The afternoon session is entitled "Dynamic Seating and Positioning: Facilitating the Ready Posture. Darren Hammond, MPT, CWS will be teaching both sessions and CEU's are available.

Stander Coding Addressed with HHSC & TMHP

In March, TXRPC furnished HHSC with a White paper detailing problems with the Stander Codes as applied in Texas. The HCPC codes E0637, E0638, E0641, and E0642 have been the source of much confusion since they were assigned an extremely low "maximum fee" and Custom Systems were forced into the pre-defined categories.

The Agency Liaison Committee addressed this issue in the April Meeting.

TMHP and HHSC staffs were unaware of the backlog of requests for standing equipment among providers who are waiting for Texas Medicaid to change the allowable to a reasonable amount. TXRPC needs to provide HHSC with an estimate of the number of children (and adults) in Texas that are being denied access to this medically necessary piece of equipment. The Prior Authorization unit at TMHP cannot provide an accurate number because most are not being submitted for PAN at this time due to the changes in coding.

Now is the time for you to act. First, make a list of the Medicaid beneficiaries that have asked your company for a stander on which you have deferred action until the maximum fee is changed. Second, urgently communicate that number (not the list) to Tom Hafford at texasdme@itexas.net





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Power Wheelchair Fee Schedule Questioned

In March, TMHP began applying an allowable to power wheelchair bases coded K0010, K0011, K0012. The allowable amount for the K0011 was computed to be \$3,659.50, which is significantly less than the Medicare allowable of \$5,112.80.

Discussion of this topic at the April Liaison Committee meeting with HHSC and TMHP revealed the core problem was the crosswalk of an outdated code. It is yet unclear how difficult correcting this problem may be. It is possible that the solution may require several levels of committee action at HHSC, a process that may take a number of months. The TXRPC Agency Liaison committee will continue to monitor the progress of this issue.

Legislative Liaison Committee to Get Up and Running

The Texas Legislature is currently in special session and the next regular session will be upon us before we know it. It is time to formally get the Legislative Liaison Committee up and running.

In addition to working in support of the credentialing committee initiative as needed, some of the committee's goals over the next year will include:

- Development of an elected official contact data base,
- Creation of a contact program to reach out to organizations and individuals active on the issues of Assistive Technology within Texas,
- Development of presentation materials that can be used to educate elected officials on the benefits and complexities of our industry,
- Establishment of legislative monitoring and communication processes to keep our membership informed on legislative activities of impact to our industry.

You don't need to be a political expert to serve on the committee, just be ready and willing to work to enhance the understanding and awareness of others about what we do as providers of assistive technology, how it impacts the lives of others, and why that is important.

Remember, any staff member of a member organization can serve on a TXRPC committee. If, as a member representative, you know of a staff member within your organization that might be interested in getting involved, please have them consider offering to serve.

If you are interested in getting involved with the work of this committee please contact the committee chairman, Ron Kieschnik. Ron can be reached by email at ron@seatingprofiles.com





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ELECTION TIME

TXRPC Board Elections

The 2006 election of directors will be conducted during June. This year, there are four Director posts to fill. Directors whose terms expire at the end of June are:

Chris Yule
Sandy Cormier
Leah Kennedy
Michael Bird

Nominations

Each member representative will receive a nomination form via fax and email. Instructions are on the form. Nominations can be faxed or mailed to the Secretary of the Council, but they **MUST** be received before close of business (5:00 p.m.) Friday, June 9, 2006. Nominations submitted by email cannot be accepted. A nominee is only qualified if he or she is a member representative of a member organization, in good standing, and is willing to serve for the anticipated term. Present directors will contact nominees to verify willingness to serve.

Balloting

Official Ballots will be prepared and distributed to all member representatives. Official ballots will include all qualified nominees. Member representatives shall indicate their votes for up to four (4) nominees, but with no more than one vote per nominee. Signed ballots should be returned via fax or US Mail to be received by the Council Secretary before close of business (5:00 p.m.) Friday, June 30, 2006.

Election

Ballots will be tallied by the Secretary. The four nominees having the most votes will be elected to a two-year term. New directors will begin service at the board meeting on the fourth Tuesday of July. Officers are elected by the board and serve one-year terms.

