

Medicaid Task Force - AN INVITATION

NOTA Legislative Committee Advocacy Need - February 26, 2008

Several OTs have registered concerns about Nebraska Medicaid occupational therapy service provision. Challenges range from:

- extreme delays in the authorization process,
- limited knowledge about the system procedures,
- authorization denials of specific diagnoses,
- denials of interventions that target visual perception functions
- denials of reimbursement after the fact of authorization

Your legislative team has been active in fielding these concerns, conducting a mini survey of the various practice environments managers and interfacing with AOTA State Affairs Division.

During the 2008 Unicameral Session, LB1176 has been introduced to limit adult outpatient therapy services to 60 visits annually. The Unicameral is in favor of this bill as it represents a cost savings of \$2.5 million. Your NOTA lobbyist (Amy Lamb) has been in collaboration with the NE PT Association President to discuss testimony. Amy has also collaborated with the AARP lobbyist (Mark Intermill) to prepare and submit an amendment that recommends consideration for exceptions (similar to the Medicare exception rule).

Given the climate of constrained resources, and to address these recurring issues, we propose the formation of an Ad Hoc Task Force. Your commitment will be to participate in teleconference discussions, to identify strategies and actions for purposes of determining system change.

WE NEED YOUR HELP to ADVOCATE for our CLIENTS

PLEASE let me know if you are willing to serve on this TASK FORCE.

Call (402-968-0207) or e-mail me at patgromak@msn.com.

Please state the week day and time of day, best for you to participate in a 45 minute teleconference discussion. **First teleconference discussion to be scheduled in March.**

"You must be the change you want to see in the world" Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948)