

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 22nd. Space is limited so register early to ensure all appropriate staff can attend this important conference.