

MAINE COUNSELING ASSOCIATION NEWS & VIEWS

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SPRING 2014



Sketch by Martin Gallant - MeCA Historian

From the President - John Parkman: *A dedicated and caring professional*

By Jill Cairns

The Maine Counseling Association celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. Now, this is no ordinary accomplishment. And, it hasn't been just any 50 years....it's been 50 strong years of advocacy for the counseling profession, 50 years of dedicated volunteers coming forward to serve, 50 years of building a strong reputation at the national level, and 50 years filled with incredible people doing incredible work!

Incredible people have been at the heart of our successful organization for 50 years. There is one individual in particular who I would like to recognize. Long time board member, John Parkman, sadly announced his retirement from the MeCA Executive Board this year. John Parkman spent over 40 years in education. His career began as an intern at Chapel Hill Junior High in North Carolina. John's career took him many places – Guidance Director in North Carolina, Guidance Counselor in Dover, NH, Director of Guidance in Wolfboro, NH, Headmaster and Counselor in Hollis, ME, Executive Director

at the Mid-Coast Teachers Center in Rockport, Guidance Director for 16 years at Medomak Valley, Director of Guidance at Oxford Hills for 4 years and Guidance Counselor at Camden Hills Regional HS for 8 years....just to name a few! He has been an active member in MeCA, MeSCA, NAR, MCCA as well as ACA. John received the Humanistic Leadership Award from the Association for Humanistic Counseling. And, John has played an active and leading role in developing the 20/20 vision for the future of counseling with ACA.

John's dedication to the profession of school counseling and to professional organizations have been truly inspirational. His level of knowledge, dedication and passion will absolutely be missed on the Executive Board as well as the conference committee. John is the definition of volunteerism at its best.....always giving and willing to lend a hand.

Many, many thanks to you John Parkman! You will be missed!

From the President-Elect

By Dean Collins

Greetings! As I write this, our Annual Conference is complete, the snow is disappearing fast and we are all anxiously awaiting for the warm weather to arrive. I would like to thank each and every one of you who attended. I think there were a variety of presentations for all the counseling professions throughout the state and for those who attended. David Kaplan, our keynote was excellent and thanks to both David and Summer Reiner, North Atlantic Region President for attending the conference with us as we celebrated our 50th Anniversary.

Each year, the conference committee commences planning for our annual conference in July by reviewing the evaluations that have been submitted by you all that attended. We look at the good, the bad, and the ugly, and try to improve on each to provide everyone a fantastic event. So, if you have not already done so, please fill out the evaluation survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MECA2014>. Some of you will mention items that we just cannot change or implement. However, we have changed our meals trying to please the majority of our attendees. We would love to have Bob Marley, we did investigate it, but was cost prohibitive. If you would like to be a presenter at next year's conference, you will need

to look out for the "Call to Program" that will be sent out in September, or contact Marty Gallant.

As the new year commences, we will be moving to our new website. The address will remain the same, www.maineeca.org and you will see a variety of new features that we look forward to implementing. One feature for members will be the access of a database such as a counselor directory. Until we transfer the domain name, you can check out the new website at www.tmca.wildapricot.org which we hope to be complete at the beginning of September. Check it out – let us know what you think. The nice feature we are looking forward to utilizing is the event notification through our membership list. We can send reminders to you about membership payments, newsletter release, important updates that may have some effect on one of our counseling professions.

Once again, Thanks for all those who attended the conference. Thanks to all of you that are a member of The Maine Counseling Association. It is your membership that keeps us strong and allows us to provide YOU an advocate at the STATE and NATIONAL level.

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FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Lisa Manter

Please do not hesitate to send articles for our next newsletter. As a counseling organization we believe it would also be exciting to hear from some of our students of any age. Additionally, if you would like to submit an advertisement, send or email a camera-ready ad. Your advertisement will run in 3 consecutive issues of News and Views. Please send your check for \$100.00 (made payable to MeCA) to:

Lisa Manter, John Bapst. Memorial High School, 100 Broadway, Bangor, ME 04401. If you have any ideas, articles or questions you can email Lisa at:

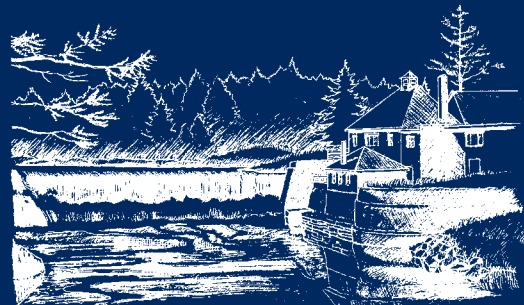
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Maine Counseling Association

Visit our

Website at

www.maine.ca.org



Post-Conference Reflections

John Yasenachak

It was great to see so many wonderful counselors at the MeCA conference in April. Thank you to all who attended. But also, thank you to those who were not able to attend for your continued membership and support.

The conference this year was a great experience. Keynote speaker David Kaplan, Chief Professional Officer of the American Counseling Association, talked about the state of the counseling profession. He also provided an introduction to the new ACA Ethical Guidelines that were approved by the Governing Council in March. The guidelines are available on the ACA website and it is suggested that all counselors, both school and mental health, review the new codes and become familiar with them. ACA has posted several resources on its site to help understand the important changes including a great podcast. There are several important areas to check out: the ACA mission statement, the section on values, and the new codes regarding technology.

In addition to a host of fine workshops, we had several that were focused on international counseling. This is an area that ACA is committed to developing in the next few years. We are right in line with that interest.

As usual, we had a good number of graduate student attendees. MeCA offers a scholarship to students who qualify, and we were happy that so many took advantage of the opportunity. Our graduate students are the future of our profession and we welcome them with open arms.

Several board members met with David Kaplan to discuss strategies for a public relations project that would educate folks across the state about professional mental health counselor identity. The result was the creation of a joint committee between MeCA and MEMCHA that will address this effort. As a result of an initial meeting, we will be present as a vendor at the June Maine Physician's Assistants Annual Conference in Portland, providing information to interested attendees. Any MeCA members interested in helping with this project are welcomed.

As I exit as past-president of MeCA, I would like to thank you and all of the board members for a great three years. It has been both an honor and privilege to serve. I am looking forward to continuing service as the chair of the North Atlantic Region of ACA starting this July. Involvement at the leadership level is a great experience. I see it as an opportunity to give back to a profession that has nourished me for many years. I would encourage you to think about getting involved. I completely believe that to be a professional means "to profess" something; to stand up and profess what you truly value the most. Our professional values and identity as counselors contribute so much to the world. I encourage you to get involved in any little way you can and would be happy to talk with anyone about how to do that.

Have a great summer everyone!

Global Exploration for Educators Organization

By Jesse Weisz

Global Exploration for Educators Organization (GEEO) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that runs summer professional development travel programs designed for teachers and school faculty.

GEEO is offering the following travel programs for 2014: India/Nepal, Italy, Amalfi Coast, Greece, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Thailand/Laos, Cambodia, China, Turkey, South Africa/Mozambique/Zimbabwe/Botswana, Morocco, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Peru, and The Galapagos Islands. The registration deadline is June 1st, but space is limited and many programs will be full well before the deadline.

Educators have the option to earn graduate school credit and professional development credit while seeing the world. The trips are 8 to 24 days in length and are designed and discounted to be interesting and affordable for teachers. GEEO provides teachers educational materials and the structure to help them bring their experiences into the classroom. The trips are open to all nationalities of K-12 and university educators, staff and administrators, as well as retired educators. Educators are also permitted to bring along a non-educator guest.

Detailed information about each trip, including itineraries, costs, travel dates, and more can be found at www.geeo.org. GEEO can be reached 7 days a week, toll free at 1-877-600-0105 between 9AM-9PM EST.

Annual MeCA Spring Run-Off Road Race

It was not quite the warm, balmy day that the weathermen had forecasted but, the hardy folk that came out to participate in this year's Annual Spring Run-Off Road Race held during the MeCA conference at the Samoset Resort on April 14 all seemed to have a good time.

The laughter and camaraderie was contagious and the colder temperatures helped many "pick up the pace." The winners of this year's 5K race are as follows:

Male Runners

		Time
3 rd Place	Nick Umphrey	25.40
2 nd Place	Dale Lolar	22.59
1 st Place	Andre Anderson	20.55

Male Walkers

3 rd Place	Dean Collins	45.30
2 nd Place	Ian Reiner	44.53
1 st Place	Ron Jacques	39.15

Female Runners

3 rd Place	Nancy Eddy	29.05
2 nd Place	Amelia Palin	28.12
1 st Place	Merrily Welch	22.59

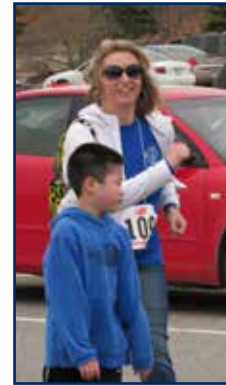
Female Walkers

3 rd Place	Summer Reiner	44.54
2 nd Place	Kathy Jacques/Jacquie Martin	43.31
1 st Place	Beth Doane	38.21

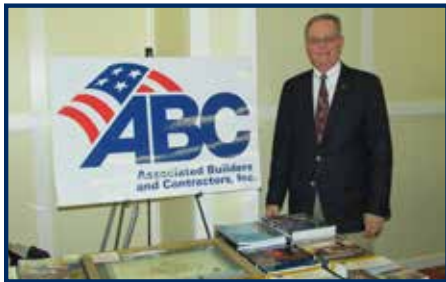
Many thanks to the health club staff who helped out during the actual race and, special thanks to FAME who, once again, donated the T-shirts worn by the participants and Kate Goupee, this year's Women's Outdoor Track and Field Coach at Husson University with her donation of the numbers.



Annual MeCA Spring Run-Off Road Race



Annual MeCA Spring Conference



Annual MeCA Spring Conference



Annual MeCA Spring Conference



Annual MeCA Spring Conference



Counselors in Retirement 2014

Marty Gallant

Jim Ippolito began his educational career in New Jersey as a PE teacher for eight years before moving to Maine. He then worked as a secondary school guidance counselor in the Rumford area for over 42 years. That's 50 years in education! Jim tells me that in retirement he plans on skiing, tending to his garden in the summer, spending time with his wife and grand kids. He sounds very happy in retirement.

Suzanne Spalding began her educational career at the University of Maine at Farmington as Director of Residential Life for 4 years. She was Admissions Director at UMA for 8 years, Graduate Outreach Coordinator at UMO for 8 years and then a school counselor in Livermore Falls from 1998 to the present. In her transition, Sue hopes to find meaningful part time work, travel, hike, walk, and have time to read. Sue has not yet submitted her final retirement letter but has submitted her letter of intent. So keep this news quiet for a day or two!

Susan Anzivino is retiring/transitioning this year. Susan earned her masters and her Ph.D. in Counselling Psychology at the Ohio State University. She began her career as a Training Coordinator at Columbus Area Community Mental Health Center. She then taught for 5 years at Ball State in the Department of Counselling and Guidance Services. In 1982 she came to U of Farmington where she has remained as a Psychology teacher and now full professor. She also did clinical work privately. She is a past president of MeCA. Susan is also known for her passion in working with Autistic children. She will begin her transition in August. She plans to marry Dr. Jack Slosky, enjoy his family while travelling nationally and internationally with him. She hopes to teach now and then, continue to dance and dabble in antiques. Her positive approach to life and her infectious laugh are admirable qualities to all of us who know Susan.

At this time I will read to you the names of several colleagues who have passed away:

Stephen Andrew passed away on December 31 at the age of 59. He received his PHD in Counselor Education from the University of Pittsburgh. Steve was a licensed clinical professional counselor and was a marital health counselor for over 30 years. He was an avid hockey fan, a devoted father and husband who possessed a strong sense of community and valued volunteerism.

Fran Berthiaume passed away on June 10th at the age of 64. Fran spent 34 years of his life dedicated to educating young people in Fort Kent. He spent the early part of his career teaching PE alongside his wife before taking over as athletic director. After earning his Masters' degree he finished his career as a guidance counselor working in both the high school and middle school setting. Fran served MeCA as our historian for several years and he was MeCA president in 1995. Fran loved following his sons sports events, golf, bird hunting, snowmobiling, and riding his Harley. He shared a special friendship with Gene Bradbury and Carlana Bean. Fran will be missed by all of us who knew and loved him.

Thomas Leroy Day passed away on September 7th at the age of 76. Tom began teaching social studies at Limington Academy and Bath Middle School but the majority of his career was spent as a guidance counselor at Bonny Eagle Middle School until his retirement in 1996. He was passionate about the families he worked with, always driven by his belief that you can find the good in everyone.

Lindley Weiden passed away on June 26th at the age of 93. After serving as a medic in World War II he taught school in Milbridge. He received his Masters at BU and then served as a guidance counselor in Vermont, Connecticut, and finally in Maine at Guilford, Livermore Falls, and Bethel. He enjoyed his summer cottage often catering to his 5 children, 12 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren.

Public Policy Update

By Ben Milster, Executive Board Public Policy

126th Legislature, 2nd Session - Bills of Interest Bills carried over from 1st Session:

LD 481 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Virtual Public Charter Schools

SUMMARY

This bill amends the laws governing virtual public charter schools to:

1. Require the authorizer of a virtual public charter school to review and approve the courses and curricula for the virtual public charter school prior to the beginning of each school year;
2. Require that education personnel operating a virtual public charter school hold valid teacher certification in the State;
3. Require that each virtual public charter school student receive at least 2 personal visits from a teacher during each school year; and
4. Provide that only 20% of the per-pupil allocation of state and local operating funds follows the student to a virtual public charter school.

4/4/2014 Dead

LD 968 - An Act To Provide Needed Psychiatric Hospitalization for Persons With Mental Illness

SUMMARY

This bill requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to make psychiatric hospitalization available to a person with mental illness who is experiencing a psychiatric crisis and who has been determined by a health care practitioner to be in need of hospitalization.

Committee Voted Ought Not To Pass January 21, 2014

LD 1213 - An Act To Reduce Costs and Increase Access to Methadone Treatment

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to decrease costs of and increase access to substance abuse treatment services by requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to increase the number of federally qualified health centers that provide methadone treatment services, to require enrollment at the clinic closest to the person's home and to work to facilitate access to services and distribution of services across the State. The bill requires the department to amend the methadone clinic rules to eliminate the requirement that the centers be open for administration of methadone treatment on Sundays. The bill designates the rules as routine technical rules. The department is required to work with stakeholders to address current rules and policies that act as barriers to achieve the intent of this legislation.

DEAD 2/13/14

Current Bills of 2nd Session

LD 1591 - An Act To Amend the Process Controlling the Transfer of a Student Between School Administrative Units

SUMMARY (Amended)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. The bill provides a standard for what constitutes a student's best interest when requesting a transfer from one school administrative unit to another; the amendment removes that standard. In current law, the superintendents of the receiving school administrative unit and the sending school administrative unit must both consent to a student's transfer. This amendment changes that provision to require that if a superintendent disapproves, that superintendent must provide the parent of the student with a written description of the superintendent's determination. The amendment also removes the provisions in the bill that direct the Commissioner of Education, or subsequently the State Board of Education, to uphold the decision of one or both superintendents to deny a transfer unless the commissioner or the board determines that the decision to deny the transfer was arbitrary and capricious. The amendment also retains the provision in the bill that extends from 30 to 45 calendar days the period of time within which the State Board of Education must make a decision on a review of a request for transfer.

Voted in Committee Ought To Pass As Amended 2/13/14 Became law without Governor's Signature 3/11/2014

LD 1593 - Resolve, To Eliminate Financial Inequality in MaineCare Reimbursement for Community-Based Behavioral Health Services

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the rules of reimbursement for behavioral health services under the MaineCare program to provide that all community-based behavioral health services are reimbursed at community-based rates. The amended rules must prohibit billing at hospital rates. The rules, which are routine technical rules, must be amended by October 1, 2014.

Referred out to Appropriations and Financial Affairs 2/24/2014

LD 1594 - Resolve, To Improve Access to Emergency Behavioral Health Services and Increase Public Safety

SUMMARY

This resolve requires the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to combine all of the Department of Health and Human Services' toll-free emergency crisis telephone lines under one toll-free crisis call-in number to be staffed by trained personnel who will assist callers or refer callers to other services as appropriate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Any money saved must be used to fund a public information advertisement campaign to inform the public about the new toll-free crisis call-in number.

Divided Report 2/18/14 Passed by House and Senate 3/31/2014

LD 1617 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Approval Process for and the Operation of Virtual Public Charter Schools in the State

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing virtual public charter schools.

1. It provides that a virtual public charter school must be approved by the Legislature before it may operate.
2. It requires a virtual public charter school to be accredited by an organization approved by the Department of Education based on a demonstration that the organization's accreditation process is rigorous and aligned with state policy.
3. It requires the Maine Charter School Commission to evaluate applications for a virtual public charter school based on certain criteria.
4. It requires the governing board of a virtual public charter school to submit annually a performance report, operations report and independent financial audit to the Maine Charter School Commission and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters.
5. It sets standards for teachers in virtual public charter schools.
6. It sets standards to maintain the integrity of student learning and assessment in virtual public charter schools.
7. It requires the Department of Education to adopt major substantive rules governing virtual public charter schools. These rules must include a method for funding virtual public charter schools based on the cost per unit of instruction provided in each subject area to each student. These unit costs may include teacher costs, based on the average cost per student to employ a teacher in this State; administrative costs; costs of facilities; and capital costs.

Public Hearing was 2/24/14 – Committee not yet reported out. Passed to be Enacted by House 4/8/2014

Senate: Placed on Special Appropriations Table pending Enactment 4/9/2014

LD 1656 - An Act To Increase Safety for Victims of Domestic Violence

SUMMARY (Amended)

The bill creates the new crime of improper contact with a family or household member prior to the setting of preconviction bail, which applies in cases of domestic violence and sexual assault. The amendment:

1. Changes the title of the bill to include victims of sexual assault; and
2. Provides that prior to criminal liability for the crime, county jail staff must notify a 8 defendant arrested for a domestic violence offense or sexual assault and prior to the setting of bail not to make direct or indirect contact with a specifically identified family or household member who is the victim of the offense. The bill permits a law enforcement agency to share confidential criminal history record information with an advocate for the sole purpose of planning for the safety of a victim of domestic violence. This amendment also allows the sharing of this information with an advocate of a victim of sexual assault for the same purpose. This amendment also directs the State Board of Corrections to establish a minimum, uniform policy by June 1, 2014 for notifying defendants detained at a county jail or other correctional facility after being arrested for a domestic violence offense or sexual assault and prior to the setting of preconviction bail by a justice or judge that it is a crime to make direct or indirect contact with a victim who is a member of the defendant's family or household. Finally, the amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

Voted Ought To Pass As Amended 3/4/14 Passed and signed by Governor 3/16/2014

LD 1683 - An Act To Improve Degree and Career Attainment for Former Foster Children

SUMMARY

This bill raises the upper age limit, from 20 years of age to 26 years of age, for voluntary participation in extended care for persons who attained 18 years of age while in the care and custody of the State. The bill also directs the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters to annually request an organization with expertise in foster care to provide to the committee a report and briefing on the implementation of the law.

Work Session Held 3/14/14 – Tabled Passed in House 4/1/2014

Senate: Placed on Special Appropriations Table pending Enactment 4/2/2014

LD 1685 - An Act To Ensure That All Maine Children Are Protected from Abuse and Neglect

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the protection of children from abuse and neglect.

1. It requires the Department of Health and Human Services, in the case of an abuse and neglect investigation involving an allegation of abuse and neglect outside of the home of the child, to investigate whether a licensing violation has occurred.
2. It requires a public or private agency or program that is administered, licensed or funded by the Department of Education that hires staff or selects volunteers and provides care or services for children to develop a written policy regarding child abuse and neglect.
3. It requires that a child protection petition, in the case of alleged abuse or neglect outside of the home of the child, include the name and address of the caregiver and the address of the place in which the alleged abuse or neglect occurred.
4. It allows a court in a protection order to order the removal of a perpetrator from a setting outside of the home of the child.
5. It provides a criminal penalty for the violation of a provision of a protection order that prohibits a person from entering the out-of-home setting of the abuse or neglect.
6. It amends the laws governing the investigative duties of the out-of-home abuse and neglect investigating team and clarifies the duty of the team to eliminate the collection of redundant information to the extent possible. It specifies that the team must complete an investigation of issues involving licensure within 6 months from the start of the investigation in most cases. It requires the team to include relevant professionals outside the Department of Health and Human Services or service center as members of the team for investigations of schools or other settings that provide supervisory care for children. It specifies that, in the case of an allegation of abuse and neglect outside of the home of a child in a facility or by a person not subject to licensure by the department, the team must refer the case to the agency or department charged with the responsibility to conduct a separate investigation to determine if licensure or certification action is necessary.

Voted Ought To Pass as Amended 2/6/14 (Amendment Summary not available) Passed and Then Vetoed by Governor
Veto Overridden by both House and Senate to Become Law 4/2/2014

LD 1702 - Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System To Study the Establishment of a Pilot Program Based on Oregon's "Pay Forward, Pay Back" Model of Funding Public Postsecondary Education

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System to study the establishment of a pilot program based on Oregon's "Pay Forward, Pay Back" model to replace the current system of charging a resident of the State tuition and fees for enrollment at a state public institution of higher education. Under the pilot program, a student who is a resident of the State and who qualifies for admission to an institution would be able to enroll in the institution without paying tuition or fees; instead, the student would sign a binding contract to pay to the State or the institution for a specified number of years a certain percentage of the student's annual adjusted gross income upon graduation from the institution. Under the resolve, the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System are directed to report their findings and any proposed implementing legislation 1 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by December 3, 2014.

Work Session held March 3, 2014 – Tabled Listed as Unfinished Business in Senate 4/10/2014

LD 1703 - An Act To Increase College Affordability and the Rate of Degree Completion

SUMMARY

This bill is a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208.

This bill would implement a comprehensive strategy to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable, thereby increasing the graduation rate from state public institutions of higher education. The comprehensive strategy may include, but is not limited to:

1. Adoption of Oregon's "Pay Forward, Pay Back" pilot project's model of funding public postsecondary education, under which a student enrolled in a public institution of higher education, in lieu of paying tuition or fees, contracts to pay to the State a certain percentage of the student's annual income upon graduation for a specified number of years;
2. Scholarships to provide incentives for degree completion with agreements to remain in the State after graduation for specified periods. Under this program, a full scholarship for the 4th and final year of school at a public institution of higher education will be provided to students who agree to work in the State for a certain period of time following graduation;
3. Tuition guarantees that ensure that students will pay the same tuition for 4 years while attending one of the State's public institutions of higher education;
4. Low interest rates for student loans issued by the State for students meeting certain criteria, such as financial need, academic merit, graduating within 4 years or agreeing to work in public service for a certain period after graduation;
5. Adoption of performance-based higher education funding that links the level of funding of a state public institution of higher education to a metric such as the graduation rate of that state public institution of higher education;
6. Transition from the provision of tax credits for higher education to the provision of state grants and other forms of financial aid for higher education;
7. Increased funding to the State of Maine Grant Program;
8. Facilitation of expedient graduation through establishment of dual enrollment programs and so-called 3 plus 1 programs, in which students attend community colleges for 3 years and transfer for the final year to a 4-year program at another of the State's public institutions of higher education; and
9. Expansion of online learning opportunities, including the use of online course providers to develop online courses.

Work Session held March 3, 2014 – Tabled Listed as Unfinished Business in Senate 4/10/2014

LD 1716 - An Act To Increase the Rate of Reimbursement for Providing Career and Academic Advising and Counseling Services to Adult Education Students

SUMMARY

Currently, career and academic advising and counseling costs incurred by local adult education programs are considered administrative costs under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 8607-A, subsection 1 and reimbursed at a rate of 70% of those costs. This bill requires that career and academic advising and counseling costs incurred by local adult education programs, because those services are provided directly to students, be reimbursed at the rate of 75% of those costs, which is the same as the reimbursement rate for courses for students.

Committee Reported out 2/19/14 - Ought To Pass As Amended (Fiscal Note)

Passed by both House and Senate – Became law without Governor's Signature 3/12/2014

LD 1730 - An Act To Assist Victims of Human Trafficking

SUMMARY

This bill proposes to assist victims of human trafficking in 3 ways. First, it creates a defense for a person charged with engaging in prostitution if the person proves that the person was compelled to do so as described in the law that describes aggravated sex trafficking. Second, it creates the Trafficking Prevention and Intervention Fund to support state and local efforts to reduce human trafficking offenses, including sex trafficking. At least half the funds must be spent on prevention, including education programs for offenders, and rehabilitation services, such as mental health and substance abuse counseling, parenting skills training, housing relief, education, vocational training, drop-in centers and employment counseling, to help individuals transition out of the commercial sex industry. The Department of the Attorney General, Victims' Compensation Board is required to administer the fund. The fund is funded through an assessment imposed on persons convicted of certain sex crimes and may receive private donations and federal and state funds.

Third, it authorizes a person to file a petition seeking a pardon immediately upon the imposition of a sentence for a crime if the person engaged in the conduct constituting the crime as a direct result of being a victim of a human trafficking offense.

Committee Voted 3/4/14 Ought To Pass As Amended

Passed to be Enacted by Both House and Senate 4/2/2014

Signed by Governor – Became Public Law 4/10/2014

LD 1736 - Resolve, To Create a State-run Virtual Academy Providing Maine Students with Access to Online Learning through Their Existing School Districts

SUMMARY

This resolve directs the Department of Education to establish a virtual academy administered by the State providing all public schools in the State access to online courses for their students and to submit implementing legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. It also imposes a moratorium on the authorization of virtual public charter schools and public charter schools that integrate online and on-site instruction until after the virtual academy administered by the State is operational.

SUMMARY (Amended)

This amendment, which is the majority report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, strikes and replaces the resolve to accomplish the following.

1. It directs the Department of Education to convene a stakeholder group to develop plans to establish online and digital learning opportunities, which may include a state-administered virtual academy and a state-administered digital learning exchange, that provide all public schools in the State access to online instruction, online courses and digital learning resources for their students.
2. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with the Department of Education, to complete the design of online and digital learning opportunities for Maine students and submit a report, including findings and any necessary implementing legislation, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters by January 15, 2015.
3. It directs the stakeholder group, in collaboration with school administrative units in the State, to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School in New Hampshire to provide Maine secondary school students with access to virtual learning programs during the 2014-2015 school year and it directs the Commissioner of Education to notify the Legislature whether or not the stakeholder group and the participating school administrative units in the State made a good faith effort to develop a memorandum of understanding in accordance on or before July 31, 2014.
4. It imposes a moratorium on the authorization and operation of virtual public charter schools subject to authorization by the Maine Charter School Commission until January 15, 2015 unless the Commissioner of Education notifies the Legislature that the stakeholder group and the participating school administrative units in the State failed to make a good faith effort to develop a memorandum of understanding on or before July 10, 2014.
5. It stipulates that the moratorium established by the resolve regarding the authorization or operation of virtual public charter schools prohibits a virtual public charter school that has not commenced operations as of the effective date of the resolve from commencing operations, regardless of whether the Maine Charter School Commission has approved, authorized or executed a contract authorizing that virtual public charter school prior to the effective date of the resolve; and it prohibits the Maine Charter School Commission from executing a contract or authorizing a virtual public charter school, including an application for a virtual public charter school pending approval by the commission on the effective date of the resolve.

Committee Voted on 2/19/14 Ought To Pass As Amended Passed by Both House and Senate, Vetoed by Governor. Veto Sustained 3/18/2014

LD 1797 - An Act Expanding Access to Early Postsecondary Education

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the laws regarding early postsecondary education programs:

1. It clarifies that adult education students, home school students and students from private schools are eligible for state subsidy for postsecondary courses as long as those students are Maine residents. It also clarifies that a student who is a Maine resident may be eligible if the parents, school administration and postsecondary institution approve;
2. It includes online courses in the courses that are eligible for academic credit and for which a postsecondary institution must grant full credit to a student who successfully completes the course;
3. It requires a school administration to inform a student enrolled in a postsecondary course of the extent to which high school credit will be granted toward graduation requirements for successful completion of the course;
4. It limits the number of secondary school students enrolled in a postsecondary course to no more than 1/3 of the total number of students enrolled in the course;
5. It requires the Department of Education to pay 50% of tuition for eligible students for up to 6 credit hours per semester, up to a maximum of 12 credit hours for the academic year, rather than only the first 3 credit hours taken each semester as in current law;
6. It adds instructors of postsecondary education courses that are offered in secondary schools to the list of personnel that are subject to the fingerprinting and background check requirements; and
7. It requires career and technical education centers to serve as sites for the administration of assessment tests to determine college-level academic skills.

The bill also requires the Department of Education to establish and maintain a single publicly accessible website with information on early postsecondary education programs and research as well as hyperlinks to those programs and the research.

Referred to Education Committee March 4, 2014

Passed in House 4/4/2014

Senate: Placed on Special Appropriations Table pending Enactment 4/7/2014

LD 1812 - An Act To Reduce the Burden Placed on Students as a Result of Requirements To Take Remedial Courses

SUMMARY

Under current law, the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy are required to report on the number of remedial courses taken by students from each school administrative unit in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics. This bill requires those higher education institutions to report the costs to the students of those remedial courses, by school administrative unit, and requires the Commissioner of Education to reduce state subsidy to the school administrative units and to pay those funds to the higher education institutions. Those higher education institutions are required to use the funds to reduce or eliminate the costs of remedial courses to their students and to report to the Commissioner of Education and the Legislature how those funds were used to achieve the reduction or elimination of costs.

Referred to Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs on 3/11/2014 Committee Reported Out as Ought Not to Pass 3/24/2014

LD 1814 - An Act To Create a Secure, Therapeutic Mental Health Unit

SUMMARY

This bill provides for the establishment of a secure, therapeutic mental health unit for defendants undergoing court-ordered assessments to determine their competency to stand trial or their criminal culpability and to provide therapeutic care for forensic patients and authorizes involuntary placement in or transfer to the secure, therapeutic mental health unit for civilly committed patients with mental illness who pose a likelihood of serious harm to others. The bill establishes the unit as follows.

1. It directs the Commissioner of Corrections and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to enter into an agreement to establish the unit with the sheriff of either Cumberland County or Somerset County.

2. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide security for the unit. Security staff must be dedicated to the unit and trained to provide security in a mental health hospital environment.

3. It directs the Department of Corrections to provide therapeutic 1 mental health care for the unit. The therapeutic mental health care must meet standards established by a national organization on correctional facilities mental health standards. The Department of Health and Human Services may also provide mental health services to the unit upon agreement with the Department of Corrections and the county jail.

4. It requires that the population in a secure, therapeutic mental health unit be separated by sight and sound from the general jail population and that forensic patients and civil patients must also be separated by sight and sound within the unit.

5. It specifies that a person under a court order to undergo a mental evaluation by the State Forensic Service must be admitted in the unit unless the Department of Health and Human Services determines that the person's mental health condition contraindicates admittance to the unit, the person is an inmate at a state correctional facility or there is not a suitable bed available.

6. It also provides that a person not in a state correctional facility who poses a likelihood of serious harm must be admitted to the unit unless the Commissioner of Health and Human Services determines that the person's mental health condition contraindicates admittance to the unit or the unit does not have a suitable bed. Inmates with mental illness housed in a state correctional facility must be treated at the Maine State Prison's mental health unit and are not eligible to be admitted to the unit.

This bill establishes a procedure through which a patient who has been involuntarily committed to a state mental health institute may be involuntarily transferred to the secure, therapeutic mental health unit upon the order of a clinical review panel and after completion of a procedure that protects the rights of the patient and provides due process. It also authorizes a court, in the process of ordering involuntary civil commitment for a person, to order placement in the secure, therapeutic mental health unit and provides for transfer of physical custody to a state mental health institute at the end of the order of involuntary placement.

Referred to Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety 3/12/2014

Committee Reported Out as Ought Not To Pass 3/24/2014

LD 1849 - Resolve, To Establish the Commission to Study College Affordability and College Completion

SUMMARY

This resolve is reported out by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs pursuant to Joint Order 2013, S.P. 721. The resolve establishes the Commission To Study College Affordability and College Completion. The commission is directed to examine and make recommendations on the development of strategies to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state-supported public institutions of higher education.

The commission is required to submit a report by December 9, 2014 to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education matters. The report submitted by the commission must include findings, recommendations and any necessary implementing legislation to keep the cost of public postsecondary education in the State affordable and to increase the graduation rate of students enrolled in state supported public institutions of higher education. The joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over education and cultural affairs may submit a bill related to this report to the First Regular Session of the 127th Legislature.

Bill Comes From Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 3/31/2014

No Hearings or Work Sessions Have Been Scheduled for This Bill

LD 1852 - An Act To Amend the Process Regarding the Transfer of Students Between School Administrative Units

SUMMARY

Current law prohibits the approval of transfer of a student from one school administrative unit to another if the receiving school administrative unit does not operate a public school that includes the grade level of the student whose parent requests the transfer. This bill repeals that prohibition, but does not allow a parent to request a review of a decision by a superintendent to deny a transfer if the receiving school administrative unit does not operate a public school that includes the grade level of the student whose parent requests the transfer.

SUMMARY (Amended)

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill to provide that the approval of the transfer of a student from one school administrative unit to a school administrative unit that does not operate a public school that includes the grade level of the student whose parent requests the transfer may not be approved unless the superintendents of both the sending and receiving school administrative units approve the transfer.

Referred to Committee on Educational and Cultural Affairs on 4/1/2014 Public Hearing Held on 4/2/2014
Work Session Held on 4/2/2014 Committee Reported Out as Ought to Pass as Amended on 4/7/2014

Additionally, from the American Counseling Association:

Mar 11, 2014

Medicare bill introduced in the U.S. House

ACA is proud to announce that for the first time in five years, a bill that calls for the reimbursement of Licensed Professional Counselors by Medicare has been introduced in the United States House of Representatives. Representative Chris Gibson (R-NY) recently introduced H.R. 3662, the "Mental Health Access Improvement Act", a companion bill to S. 562. Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) served as the co-sponsor of the bill. Representative Gibson stated that, "This legislation provides an important expansion of mental health access for Medicare recipients. By adding thousands of highly qualified licensed mental health counselors and marriage and family therapists to the provider network, the bill ensures continuity of care without adding new services or altering the scope of practice."

Thanks to Representative Gibson's work and his initiative, we are one step closer towards our goal of Medicare reimbursement. In the coming months, your Government Affairs team will be working to promote this bill with our collation partners and other groups.

If you would like to review the legislation, you can do so by clicking by visiting:
thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php and searching for H.R. 3662

EMeCA President's Report**Stan Pelletier, President Eastern Maine Counseling Association**

Hello colleagues,

It was good to see many of you at the recent Maine Counseling Association conference in Rockport. As reported at the meeting, our current official membership hovers around 20, with more folks receiving our communications and taking part in our regional gatherings. We've enjoyed robust attendance at a number of regional events, most recently the inaugural meeting of the Eastern Maine Counseling Association Diversity Series Lunch, which took place on April 29th. The focus was "international counseling" and Dr. John Yasenachak shared some of his insights regarding counseling in India and details of his recent trip there. This series will continue to meet on the last Tuesday of each month, so watch for communications. Also coming up with a date TBA; a one hour ethics workshop at Husson University with a special focus on changes to the ACA code of ethics. Graduate students in particular are encouraged to attend. We've also had the suggestion by our membership that we look at breakfast meetings, so our offering of collegial gatherings continues to expand.

As we wind up the membership year, some changing of the guard; I'll be stepping down as EMeCA president in order to take on the role as MeCA president-elect as of July 1. Rena Lolar, our current public relations officer and prime mover behind our lunch series, will take over as president effective July 1. Our treasurer Nancy Eddy will continue in her current capacity. Secretary Amy Riddell announced her resignation from the post, and she will be replaced by Heath Kuhl of Bucksport High School, who has agreed to step-up after some "reflection" on the decision. Thanks, Heather!

It has been my honor to serve as an officer with Eastern Maine Counseling Association; my thanks to those of you who have supported me on this journey. I look to maintain my involvement in numerous ways, as I pass the baton in others. Thank you,

Yours in service,

Stan Pelletier

School Counselor, Bucksport Middle School

President, Eastern Maine Counseling Association

News From the North Country

By Mary Warren

The dues increase/issue was discussed at a previous meeting and was on the September agenda under old business. The agenda was sent out over a week in advance. No absentee option was discussed or given.

One other thing, I just checked the sign in sheet for that particular meeting as I recall we always have a lot of our membership present at the September meeting (College Board is there!) We had 30 out of 36, on our mail out membership list (members), sign in for that meeting. I suppose that would qualify as a quorum. On another note, we elected our new NMCA president: Tracy Corbin - from Caribou. I know you will welcome her and that she will do a terrific job!

Maine Counseling Association
Visit our Website at
www.mainecca.org
to renew your membership!
