

#SaveCDPA –The Fight Continues

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The fight to #SaveCDPA ended 2019 with a bang and has begun 2020 with a flurry of activity.

We have a renewed push to undo the cuts that threaten this program – this time with your ideas as the solution.

Right before Christmas, the Department of Health (DOH) published the call to consolidate the number of fiscal intermediaries (FIs). While some of that proposal was expected, namely that the Department would offer contracts to as few FIs as possible, some were new and unexpected.

Chief among these is the idea that FIs will become what is known as a joint employer. The new proposal turns the program on its head. Historically, much of the freedom a consumer enjoyed was possible because they are the employer of their workers.

When the FI becomes an employer with the consumer, suddenly the freedoms consumers enjoy through the program are called into doubt. For instance, the FI suddenly becomes liable for sexual harassment and discrimination, by both the worker and the consumer.

Therefore, the FI may wish to be involved in interviews. They may wish to be able to terminate or force a consumer to keep a worker if specific accusations are made.

Currently, all of these responsibilities are the consumer's alone. CDPAANYS objected to and posed a number of questions about these new rules; however, there are no guarantees that they will be pulled back.

On New Year's Eve, DOH published the draft regulations that would slash funding. The justification for these rules are filled with errors.

For instance, they maintain that all FI staff make minimum wage. They also rely primarily on information from health plans, which do not have actual cost information for FIs.

CDPAANYS has put together all of the information about the new rule and made it available at www.savedcpa.com. We encourage you to send your thoughts to DOH, so that you too can be heard on this critical proposal. But your efforts are needed beyond the proposed regulations.

We are gearing up for yet another budget year and we hope you will help us carry your ideas to the Legislature so we can undo the dangerous cuts and replace them with your savings ideas, like moving from two assessments per year to one, or allowing you worker to transport you to and from medical appointments. These will not just save money; they will improve your life.

Now we prepare for the CDPAANYS and NYAIL Advocacy Day on Feb. 10. Hundreds of advocates will gather in Albany to bring our message to the Legislature, and we hope to see you among them.

Make your appointments in advance (you can call us to find out how); go with your FI; or piggyback on other folks' appointments. We need you here in Albany more than ever before.

We will give you talking points, and a #SaveCDPA t-shirt to show off around the Capitol (and your neighborhood!).

Last year, we fought a good fight and came close to winning. This year, with your ideas for savings and our collective hard work, we will win.