

JANUARY 2008

Legislative Management Team (LMT) Report:

This Report includes 3 Sections:

1. Recently Introduced Bills – Federal & State
2. The LMT at Work
3. The LMT 2007 – 2008 Sub-Committees

1. Recently Introduced Bills: State

S-2728 (Vitale,Buono)/A-4044 (Conaway) "New Jersey Health Information Technology Act"

This bill which was signed into law by the Governor establishes a electronic medical records infrastructure which will be overseen by the Health Information Technology Commission. The goal is to reduce duplication of tests, medical errors and paperwork and thus reduce cost.

S-607 (Vitale,Buono) Mental Health Parity

The bill revises statutory mental health coverage requirements and requires all health insurers and SHBP to cover treatment for alcoholism and other substance-use disorders under same terms and conditions as for other diseases or illnesses. The bill was referred to the Senate Budget & Appropriations Committee on 1/24/08.

A-2085 (Cohen)

Requires certain disclosures from carriers; establishes new health care claims payment and appeals process; limits use of utilization management under certain circumstances

A-2091 (Cohen)

Revises criteria for determining health claim to be "clean claim" for purposes of promptly remitting payment.

A-2196 (Cohen)

Requires managed care companies to pay health care claims based on assignment of benefits and disclosed fee schedules; requires coverage under certain conditions; authorizes civil actions against violators.

A-2219 (McHose/Karrow)

Revises definition of religious employer in statute concerning insurance coverage of prescription female contraceptives.

A-2238 (Prieto/Roberts/Voss)

Requires health benefits coverage for certain therapies and applied behavioral analysis for the treatment of certain autism disorders.

.Federal Legislation

Last week Congress passed **H.R. 976**, the expansion of the SCHIP Program. The President has indicated that he will veto the bill.

There are many Federal healthcare reform proposals that have been introduced, many of which focus on universal healthcare and single payer programs. Among those bills are **S.334, S.325 & H.R. 506, S.1218 & H.R. 2043**, and **H.R. 1841**. All of these proposals will be posted on our website should you want to reads them.

2. THE LMT AT WORK

UPCOMING EVENTS

2008 Capitol Conference – JW Marriott, Washington, D.C. February 4th – February 6th

ONGOING WORK

1) Many members of the LMT continue to meet with their legislators in an effort to educate them as to who we are and what we do. We also are attempting to form coalitions with other organizations to present a united front in the ongoing healthcare debate.

2) NJAHU's new Public Relations firm. Jaffe Communications out of Westfield, New Jersey holds a bi-weekly teleconference with members of the LMT and Media Committees in an effort to get out name out there in print media. Several of our members have done op-ed pieces and editorials.

3. 2007 – 2008 Legislative Management Team (LMT) SUB-COMMITTEES

HIAPAC/HUPAC	Theresa Semple, Jim Stenger
CAPITOL CONFERENCE	Dave Mordo
MEDIA RELATIONS/COMMUNICATIONS	Jack Kalosy, Joe Torella, Frank Ruggiero, Lisa Holck
LIAISON TO THE WEBSITE	Jack Kalosy
WHITE PAPERS/POSITION PAPERS	Joan Fusco, Eileen Shrem
ADOPT A LEGISLATOR/MEETINGS/TESTIMONY	Doug Lubenow, Jim Stenger

If you would like to volunteer your time for any of the LMT sub-committees, please contact Dave Mordo at 732-936-0100.

NJAHU employs:

- ***Princeton Public Affairs Group*** as their lobbyist; and,
- ***JAFFE COMMUNICATIONS*** as their Public Relations firm.

The LMT is hoping to recruit at least 1 volunteer from each chapter to assist those working on the sub-committees.