

ANCOR Government Relations Goals and Action Items 2007-2008

The ANCOR Board of Directors adopted February 2, 2007, the following ANCOR Strategic Outcomes for 2007-2009. The bolded ANCOR Strategic outcomes identify outcomes specifically related to Government Relations activities, complementing the achievement of the other strategic outcomes. Therefore, ANCOR's *2007-2008 Government Relations Division Goals and Action Items* are intended to support ANCOR's overall organizational strategic outcomes, while identifying specific priorities for the Division, the criteria for evaluating those priorities and determining deployment of staff and other resource allocations, and the strategies to meet member needs. The actual strategies and tactics employed will constantly evolve based on the current operating environment and available opportunities.

ANCOR STRATEGIC OUTCOMES 2008-11

CREATE * EDUCATE * ADVOCATE

- ANCOR will serve as a leader in effecting change on both the national and state level through the identification, development and dissemination of creative solutions, broad collaboration, and state and national efforts to advance innovative service delivery, assure provider sustainability, and promote communities of choice. ***
- ANCOR will serve as a national leader, knowledge and research broker, and source of assistance on federal public policy and regulatory matters, including federal and state funding issues. ***
- ANCOR will serve as a national leader in addressing the current and growing direct support workforce crisis.***
- ANCOR will raise awareness and provide a framework from which to offer information, education and resources regarding performance excellence and quality outcomes. ***
- ANCOR will position itself as a knowledge broker, assisting customers as well as emerging customer groups to provide the most effective leading practices.
- ANCOR will promote, educate and share information and practices on the application of new and innovative technologies that improve, enhance and expand service delivery effectiveness and capacity.

*** Top priorities

UMBRELLA STRATEGIES

- ANCOR will diversify its funding streams to increase revenue to achieve its goals, mission and vision.
- ANCOR will use technology as the main platform on which to deliver information, knowledge and networking solutions efficiently and effectively to customers.
- ANCOR will leverage existing and aggressively seek out new partnerships to achieve its mission, vision and strategic objectives.
- ANCOR will actively articulate and promote its brand to a current and future customer base.

Criteria for Setting ANCOR Priorities

In prioritizing ANCOR federal issues for 2007-2008, Government Relations will utilize the following criteria as leading markers. All criteria do not need to be present to qualify an issue for selection in any tier. An issue may shift from one to another tier throughout the year depending on the federal environment. The process of prioritizing is on-going and ANCOR Government Relations must constantly assess its resources—devoting them in a manner to achieve maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

<p>Tier ONE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medicaid ▪ Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis ▪ Housing 	<p>Tier TWO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self Direction ▪ Employment ▪ Health Care ▪ Research and Data
<p>Tier THREE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medicare 	<p>Tier FOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Other Key Issues (DRA Implementation, International Aid Funding, Transportation, Food, OSHA, Federal Disaster Plans, Medical Records Technology)

2007-2008 ANCOR GR Goals and Action Items Revised January 2008

Medicaid

Title XIX of the Social Security Act is the largest payor of health and long-term supports and services for low-income individuals with significant disabilities and is the single largest federal and state source of funding to ANCOR providers. In fact, this joint federal and state program provides the only source of any health and long-term support coverage available to individuals with disabilities who rely on Supplemental Security Income (SSI) which provides income of only 74% of the federal poverty level (FPL). Together Title XIX and Title XX (State Children’s Health Insurance Program—SCHIP) provide payment for critical coverage to ANCOR member constituents—adults with disabilities, children with disabilities, and the elderly. As the lifeline for people with disabilities and the primary funding source for providers supporting people with disabilities, it is critical that ANCOR maintain its national role in addressing federal legislative, administrative, and financing policies affecting Medicaid and evolving state responses.

- Maintain the vital federal role that Medicaid now plays in financing supports and services for people with disabilities.
- Secure temporary increased Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and Medicaid state relief funding in economic stimulus package.
- Oppose regulatory and administrative efforts that would limit or restrict, eligibility, benefits, or funding for supports and services that are harmful to people with disabilities and providers.
- Maximize use of federal funding to support choices of individuals with disabilities.
- Establish federal requirement for states to institute and annually update reimbursement rates that reflect the actual costs of providing Medicaid-funded supports and services for people with disabilities.
- Reinvest all Medicaid savings derived from improving efficiencies and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of long-term supports and services.
- Increase Federal Medicaid support to address unmet needs of people with disabilities.
- Federally fund all Medicaid requirements imposed upon and/or passed along by states to private providers.
- Develop the capacity to respond to, educate and influence key federal Medicaid decision-makers.
- Serve as a resource for ANCOR members regarding state developments in Medicaid reform and disability supports and services.
- Personalize role of Medicaid by developing and communicating comprehensive Medicaid “messaging.”
- Monitor pay for performance.
- Link quality benchmarking within ANCOR and the positioning of same to CMS quality.
- Continue to monitor the oversight activity of the HHS Office of Inspector General, Government Accountability Office, and Centers on Medicare & Medicaid.
- Ensure that managed care long term supports and services for individuals with disabilities is a voluntary (not mandatory) informed determination by the individual/representative and that managed care approaches should not reduce overall resources available to systems intended to provide long term supports to people with disabilities.

Direct Support Professional Workforce Crisis

Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities by obtaining the resources to recruit, train and retain a sustainable direct support workforce is a top ANCOR priority.

Providers are experiencing an explosive crisis nationally in the availability of qualified direct support professionals—undercutting their capacity to support the choices of people with disabilities of all ages. ANCOR must continue its national leadership role in raising awareness of this crisis, developing federal policy responses, and informing members of state initiatives regarding recruitment and retention of quality direct support professionals.

- Introduction of Senate wage bill.
- Enhanced federal Medicaid dollars to the states to pay for increased wages, for direct support workers.
- Monitor labor and employment policies and oppose policies that adversely affect the recruitment and retention of direct support professionals.
- Position direct support care jobs as a viable part of the public workforce system and support integration of training of direct support staff within WIA and One Stops.
- Support DD Act reauthorization and full appropriations of Title 2 workforce.
- Influence public policy regarding federal immigration laws to address workforce crisis.

- Secure federally funded training program to assist providers with recruitment and retention of direct support staff.

Housing —Supporting Choices of Individuals with Disabilities

A cornerstone to life in the community for people with disabilities and the providers who support them is the availability of decent, safe, affordable and accessible housing. The lack of such housing is the second greatest barrier to community integration and full implementation of the *Olmstead* decision. Rents for modest one-bedroom units in 2006 were equal to 113.1 percent of monthly SSI payments. More than 280,000 individuals with disabilities on waiting lists for home and community waiver services and 730,000 people with developmental disabilities living with aging parents (at least one of whom is over age 65). With the current demand for housing in the community, the waiting list for subsidies growing, and state rebalancing of long-term supports from institutions to the community, ANCOR believes that increased federal housing assistance is imperative.

- Guide HUD on the most effective distribution of 2007 \$33 million in additional Section 8 vouchers.
- Significantly increase funding for HUD’s Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher, Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program, HOME Investment Partnerships program, Community Development Block Grant program.
- Reform Section 8 Voucher program to streamline and improve targeting for non-elderly people with disabilities.
- Reform and restructure the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities program to increase the number of units created, improve leveraging of other affordable housing funding streams, and develop a range of appropriately sized and integrated permanent housing opportunities.
- Create national housing trust fund with deeply targeted eligibility criteria to increase the availability of affordable and accessible housing for people with disabilities.
- Oppose efforts to limit housing options, including efforts to weaken fair housing protections.

Self Direction—Supporting Choices of Individuals with Disabilities

People with disabilities, providers, federal and state governments are actively engaged in evolving support delivery systems based upon participants directing their choice and financing of health care and long-term supports. ANCOR has a national role in developing federal policies and financing mechanisms that assure successful self-directed services and supports. ANCOR has an important role in educating and training providers on state implementation of successful self-directed services and supports.

- Ensure a clear consistent definition of self direction on the national level (CMS).
- Create/complete a position statement on self direction.
- Monitor regulatory initiatives and legislation related to self-directed services.
- Monitor and ensure that there are quality and performance measures built into self-direction.

Employment/Training of People with Disabilities

Employment is an essential component to people with disabilities living full, inclusive lives in the community. While people with disabilities want to work, they remain underemployed or

unemployed—with only 19 percent of working age individuals employed. Many ANCOR members provide vocational and employment services and supports and have an important role in local, state and federal programs that support these goals. ANCOR will maintain a focus on vocational and employment related services and federal policies to enhance provider opportunities.

- Support reauthorization and improvement of the Workforce Investment Act.
- Support reauthorization and increased funding for supportive employment services of the Rehabilitation Act.
- Monitor new rules of Ticket to Work.
- Develop incentives to maximize the employment opportunities for people with severe and cognitive disabilities.
- Promote mandatory involvement of providers in WIA boards and One Stops.
- Provide a forum on models for providing employment supports.
- Expand provider participation in GR Division structure and activities.
- Develop an agenda and position relative to JWOD modernization.

Medicare

ANCOR members increasingly provide supports to individuals covered by Medicare and by the combination of Medicare and Medicaid. These two entitlement programs provide the overwhelming financing for health and long term supports to individuals with disabilities of all ages. ANCOR must continue to address Medicare policies and their intersection with Medicaid.

- Improve implementation of Medicare part D for dual eligibles.
- Monitor the blending of Medicare/Medicaid.

Health Care

More than 47 million individuals nationally—including people with disabilities and those who support them—are uninsured. The rising costs of health care and long term supports affect the availability and affordability of coverage for all Americans, place increased pressure on Medicaid, and affect providers' capacities to attract a competitive workforce. ANCOR must play a role in the growing national health care debate, its affects on state reforms and affects on providers capacity to meet their mission.

- Ensure long term health care issues are part of the overall health care debate.
- Influence policy that will lead to affordable, accessible health care—including dental care and other needed therapies.
- Support alternatives to long term care and risk pooling.
- Reauthorize and expand SCHIP.

Research/Data Collection

In order to effectively shape federal policies affecting the mission of providers of supports to people with disabilities, ANCOR must aggressively engage in the development of data and research to achieve its goals. ANCOR has placed a priority on research in 2007-2009 and assigning the Government Relations Division with a key role in developing and implementing a research agenda.

- Produce accurate and supportable information which will further our public policy efforts.
- Become a source of provider leading practices in key areas
- Urge enhanced federal and state systems data collection to develop consistent data between federal and state Medicaid systems.

- Provide ANCOR Research Committee with needed areas for research and data collection.
- Identify and distribute reimbursement and rate-setting methodologies to members.
- Provide ongoing GR Division volunteer liaisons to ANCOR's Research Committee, ad hoc rate-setting, and other workgroups.
- Work with other ANCOR Divisions to integrate data collection and research activities.

**Other Key Issues—
Key Federal Policies Important to Supporting Provider Mission**

ANCOR must maintain its national leadership and knowledge broker roles in a range of federal legislative, administrative, and financing policies that enhance the capacity of providers to support the choices of people with disabilities of where and how they live, work, and actively participate in their communities. ANCOR will work to shape federal housing, food, transportation, financing, and health and safety environments that support providers in meeting their mission.

- Influence continued implementation of Deficit Reduction Act (DRA).
- Influence public policy on international aid (funding) regarding disability programs and services.
- Reduce barriers to people living in their communities:
 - Transportation, food and other living expenses
- Assure that proposed OSHA changes do not adversely impact ANCOR providers.
- Monitor federal disaster plans to ensure it includes planning and funding for people with disabilities
- Explore medical records technology for application to field.

Revised 03/07/2008: Adopted by ANCOR Board of Directors and updated ANCOR Strategic Outcomes approved by ANCOR Board of Directors