NYAPRS Cultural Competence Committee Minutes
October 8, 2015

Present: Casey Ciceron, Harvey Rosenthal, Theresa Hall, Jeffrey McQueen, Joel Olshewski, Onaje Muid, Colleen Sheehan, Lenora Reid-Rose

1. **Policy Update:** Harvey informed the Committee about some of NYAPRS' current policy focuses, and is open to any feedback from the Committee on what issues they feel should be added to the state budget and lobbying agenda. Joel O. wanted to know if any policy would come up regarding mental health tracking in the wake of recent mass shootings. Harvey does not know of any proposals yet, but will be following any developments in that area. Harvey did note that during the SAFE Act, Governor Cuomo strengthened Kendra's Law by adding the requirement that individuals with mental health conditions who have been involuntarily hospitalized or arrested would have their names added to a database, preventing them from possessing guns or having access to buy them. Harvey advocated for the privacy of this database (and was assured that it would be kept private).

Theresa would like to focus advocacy efforts in the state budget on raising the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18. This issue is still on the Governor's agenda, and NYAPRS will discuss it with the Governor's office. Further discussion on NYAPRS' criminal justice initiative included focusing advocacy efforts on improving the conditions of juveniles that are currently incarcerated. **Action: Harvey and Jeff will reach out to Jack Beck regarding what the conditions are in jails/prisons and any recommendations he would have on improving them.** Harvey would like to advise the Governor's office to stop requiring NYAPRS to work with the legislature in allocating funds to agencies in order to keep the CIT program, and to instead allocate funds from its own budget. Joel O. also wanted to know if any housing/job plans were being created for the large number of non-violent offenders who have recently been released from prison. **Action: Joel and Jeff will send Harvey their concerns about having appropriate discharge plans for these newly released individuals.**

Harvey shifted the policy discussion to value-based payments. The state is taking a number of steps to get providers across the healthcare system to work together in a coordinated plan to achieve real outcomes. The switch to value-based reimbursement will base payments to providers on the care that is delivered rather than the number of visits. There is a five-year focus on lowering Medicaid spending by 25% for avoidable hospital readmissions.

Theresa would like to increase the presence of the Cultural Competence Committee in issues concerning cultural competence. **Action: Harvey will send Theresa his annual report to help determine the areas in which the committee can do so.**

2. **Luis Lopez/Jeffrey McQueen:** Theresa introduced Jeffrey McQueen as the new co-chair (replacing Luis Lopez). Jeffrey announced that as the new co-chair he will give 100% of himself to the committee and its goals. Jeffrey asked Harvey if it would be beneficial to
create an objective for the Cultural Competence Committee that measures its goals and achievements. Lenora mentioned that the Cultural Competence Committee had created an objective of their goals a few years ago.

3. **Annual Conference:** Harvey informed the committee that the Annual Conference received rave reviews, internally and externally. The Annual Conference had substantive workshops, and great attendance.

**Discussion Topics:**
None

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Casey Ciceron*