

*The Resource -- March 2019*

**Legislative Updates**

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**Training Schedule**

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**MN Autism Conference**

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## **2019 Legislative Updates**

The 2019 legislative session is half way through and MRCI wants to make sure you are well informed.

Here are several priorities that MRCI is tracking:

## **Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)**

### **[Senate File 4](#)**

**Authors: Sen. Relph, Sen. Abeler, Sen. Hoffman and Sen. Nelson**

Electronic Visit Verification will require a Direct Care Worker or PCA staff to electronically sign in and out of each of shift worked. The federal government signed EVV into law back in 2016 with a one-year delay in 2018 making the required effective date January 1, 2020. The Department of Human Services is required to have a bill passed through the state legislature for EVV.



Sen. Matt Little with Joe Inserra, Tanya Mott, Carol Malm, Melinda Wedzina (MRCI COO), and Debbie Palm (MRCI Rosemount Branch Manager)

- MRCI is currently working on an EVV system. We will make sure to keep everyone as informed as possible.



Sen. Eric Pratt with Meghan Lannon

## **SEIU Healthcare Agreement Rarified** **[Senate File 2284](#) and [House File 2122](#)**

**Authors: Sen. Howe, Sen. Pappas, Sen. Miller, Sen. Eaton, Rep. Nelson, Rep. Kresha, Rep. Schomacker and Rep. Koegel**

The SEIU collective bargaining agreement will set the new hourly wage floor to \$13.25/hr. and a change in the amount of PTO earned to 1 hour for every 40 hours worked by a staff. The agreement also discusses a continuation of the Enhanced Rate for those individuals who qualify for 12 or more hours of PCA, CDCS or CSG services. SEIU has also requested \$750,000 for trainings and orientation for workers. At this time, we do not have details as to what the training and orientation requirements are, we will continue to monitor and share more information as it becomes available.

- Governor Walz does have funds within his budget for the contract negotiations but the two files will still need to be approved by both the House and Senate.

## **Parental contribution fees for services for children with disabilities eliminated**

### **[Senate File 480](#) and [House File 748](#)**

**Authors: Sen. Relph, Sen. Abeler, Sen Hoffman, Sen. Clausen, Sen. Bigham, Rep. Mann, Rep. Zerwas (total of 31 Authors in the House of Representatives)**

These two bills will eliminate the fee parents have to pay when their disabled child (under the age of 18 years old) is

receiving services, most commonly known as a TEFRA payment. The TEFRA payments are on a sliding scale based off the parent income when the child qualifies for Medical Assistance.

- Currently, these bills have been referred to the Ways and Means committee in the House and to the Human Services Reform Finance and Policy committee in the Senate for further review.



Rep. Jack Considine and Sen. Nick Frentz with Quinn Metcalf and Dallas Kroon



#### Increased Access to CDCS

[Senate File 1250](#) and [House File 1285](#)

Authors: Sen. Abeler, Sen. Utke, Sen. Hoffman, Rep Moller, Rep. Zerwas, Rep. Mann and Rep. Morrison (there are also 8 other Representatives who have agreed to co-author the bill).

Within this bill the authors have introduced written language for shared care under Consumer Directed Community Supports (CDCS) program option. Currently shared care is not allowed under the CDCS option. Shared care will allow one staff to work with two participants at the same time. This bill also has a component of education built in to educate greater Minnesota on CDCS.

Both bills are currently being heard within the Health and Human Services Policy committee in the House and Human

Services Reform Finance and Policy in the Senate.

#### PCA Rate Reform

[Senate File 968](#) and [House File 1225](#)

**Authors: Sen. Relph, Sen. Utke, Sen. Hoffman, Sen. Hayden, Sen. Abeler, Rep. Schultz, Rep. Gruenhagen, Rep. Noor (along with 11 other Representative co-authors)**

The Rate Reform bill is written to take the current PCA program and add the unit rates into the Disability Rate

Management System. The rate system currently establishes rates for Day Services or Employment Services as well as 245D services like Personal Supports and Respite. Including the unit rate in to the rate system will monitored the unit rate every two years and allow for increases to the unit rate that are not legislatively tied.

- Currently these bills are in the Health and Human Services Finance Division in the House and the Human Services Reform Finance and Policy committee in the Senate.



If you are interested in learning more about the legislative session or different bills that have been introduced please visit [www.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.leg.state.mn.us) MRCI will continue to monitor the session for updates but your representatives are always want to hear from you. If you do not know who your local House of Representative or Senator is please visit [Who Represents Me](#)

### Training:

All 245D staff are required to complete 12 hours of training annually. Under the licening requirements the training needs to be completed within the same month each year.

MRCI has designed a training program for the year with the first assignment in April. MRCI will assign the training the 1st of the month and will need to be completed by the end of the month.

Please remind your staff the training needs to be completed within the same month of assignment or MRCI will suspend employment. MRCI utilizes the College of Direct Support for all trainings and at this time MRCI will not accept trainings from other providers.



Month	Subject	Paid Hours
April	Vulnerable Adults, Universal Precautions	2.5
June	HIPPA/Data Privacy, First Aid	2.5
August	Client Rights	1.0
September	Positive Supports Rule - Refresher	4.0
October	CSSPA Review, Person Centered Planning and Communications	2.0

### 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference

The 24th Annual Minnesota Autism Conference is where we'll join our voices as a passionate network to connect and inspire innovation.



The conference, April 24 - 27, gives expert speakers, educators, professionals, caregivers, and individuals

with autism a platform to exchange knowledge and ideas with one another - all with the goal of enhancing the lives of those on the autism spectrum.

Click [HERE](#) for more information or to register.

MAKING THE DIFFERENCE



MRCI is one of Minnesota's largest human service non-profit organizations providing meaningful opportunities for individuals with disabilities or special needs to remain in their homes.

Visit our website at [www.MRCICDS.org](http://www.MRCICDS.org)

Reach us by phone at 800.829.7110



MRCI is "creating innovative and genuine opportunities for people with disabilities or disadvantages at home, at work and in the community."

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