Disability Legislation Update as of March 18, 2015

AB5. This bill requires the Division to give preference to potential providers of jobs and day training services who will employ persons with intellectual disabilities or persons with related conditions at or above the state minimum wage. Sponsored by Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. Not yet scheduled to be heard.

AB6. Removes $36,000 cap and removes requirement that in order to be paid by private insurance paraprofessionals must be certified by the state as CABIs. This bill was heard on March 6th. The hearing went well, and we are currently meeting with the Insurance Commissioners and in the process of setting rates that we hope will attract quality out-of-state providers.

AB29. This bill requires facilities to register with Aging and Disability Services Division to provide jobs / training and prohibits the use of aversive interventions except under specific circumstances and requires such facilities to make a report when restraints are used. This bill passed out of the Assembly and the Senate without amendments.

AB38. Revises provisions governing the admission of persons with certain mental conditions to and the release of such persons from certain facilities. This bill has not yet been heard.

AB91. This bill expands the list of persons authorized to file an application for the emergency admission of a person alleged to be a person with mental illness to facilities and the release of persons deemed not to be mentally ill. This bill is sponsored by Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson and has not yet been heard by Ways and Means.

AB 128. Creates a durable power of attorney for healthcare decisions to be used by adults with intellectual disabilities. Heard in Assembly Judiciary on 2/23. Opposed by Mark Olsen in Las Vegas. Amendments prepared and submitted to the sponsor by Mary Bryant, Jon Sasser and Sally Ramm. Passed out of assembly judiciary with amendments on March 9th.

AB157. Revises provisions relating to service animals to only include dogs and miniature horses. Assemblymen Oscarson, Ellison and Goicoechea are the sponsors. Commission supported this bill, it was passed with an amendment in the assembly health and human services on March 13th.

AB200. This bill revises provisions relating to the program funded through the PUC impose surcharge to provide devices for telecommunication to persons with impaired speech or hearing and funds related centers. No hearing yet. Preliminary discussion with Chairman and Assemblywoman Benitez Thompson. Supreme Court ruled against PUC, they plan to appeal but have expressed that they are okay with a cap being set.

AB223. This bill revises provisions dealing with elder abuse to help deal with this growing problem. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman O'Neill, and will be heard for the first time on March 19th in Assembly Judiciary.

AB284. This bill requires students with disabilities to take an adaptive behavior assessment and expands programs and referrals for students with autism spectrum disorders. The bill is sponsored by Assemblywoman Woodbury and is labeled as containing an unfunded mandate. The bill has not been scheduled to be heard.

AB307. This bill expands services for children with intellectual disabilities to include preventative services and the creation of a new wrap-around pilot program. Sponsored by Assemblywoman Spiegel and Assemblyman Ohrenschall. This bill has not been scheduled to be heard.

AB310. This bill expands Medicaid managed care programs in the State. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Paul Anderson and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

AB328. This bill makes improvements to the selection and training of hearing officers in special education due process cases between parents and the school district. This bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Elliot Anderson and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

AB341. This bill mandates enhanced screening and intervention for children with certain disabilities. This bill is sponsored by 16 assembly democrats, is listed as containing an unfunded mandate, and is not yet scheduled to be heard.

SB13. This bill deals with IEPs and provides for students with disabilities to receive standard diplomas instead of adjusted diplomas. The original text of the bill removes "best feasible" language to "appropriate," but Julie Bowers

of NDE has submitted the change to allow "best feasible" to remain in the statue. This bill has not yet been scheduled to be heard. Karen Taycher has agreed with the department on new language for an amendment.

SB35. Ratifies and enacts the Interstate Compact on Mental Health. This bill has passed in the Senate with support from the ACLU and the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Assembly Ways and Means currently has the bill.

SB132. This bill requires paraprofessionals working with students with disabilities receive necessary training. This bill is sponsored by Senator Kieckhefer and was heard by Senate Education on February 19th. No action taken.

SB177. The "CARE Act." This bill allows a person to designate a caregiver when admitted to a hospital or in an advance directive. This bill has been heard once by HHS on February 25th. The Commission unanimously supported this bill and was joined at the table by many other organizations. The bill has passed with an amendment in Senate Health and Human Services.