

NAPSA NEWS



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Informing Pupil Services

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WE WILL-WE WILL-THRILL YOU

The excitement is starting to build! Thrilling things are going to happen in Pittsburgh this fall. No, we don't mean the Presidential Election. We mean the NAPSA Conference to be held over the Halloween weekend, October 30—November 2. "Making Connections," our theme, will tie together the components of Mental Health and the challenges faced by educators. These challenges, as you know, are addressed only by Pupil Services personnel in schools. You are expected to open your bag of tricks to treat the troubled child. What can you put in your bag of tricks to take back to your district? Our keynote speaker Sunday will be Dr. Paula McCommons, who took on the role of Director for STAR-Center Outreach activities. Dr. McCommons also provides crisis intervention, postvention assistance and consultation to school districts and communities across the commonwealth of PA. Training and special topic presentations related to school safety, crisis prevention, intervention, management, and postvention are provided upon request. Monday starts with Ira Weiss, a nationally known public sector legal authority with across-the-board experience in municipal, education and tax law. Mr.



Weiss will address the significant legal challenges facing Pupil Services Administrators, including those presented by the recent enactment of ESSA and homeless students, Title IX and transgender issues as well as a legal review of significant developments.



Mr. Weiss has been named a "Pennsylvania Super Lawyer" each year from 2005 to present in the fields of schools and education. The status ranks him among the top five percent of the 45,000 attorneys practicing in Pennsylvania.

Executive Director's Report — Wayne Fausnaught



Wayne Fausnaught
Executive Director

counseling activities. Defense costs are paid in addition to the limit of liability for legal actions arising from a professional liability claim. Job protection benefits provide legal support, if a member is subject to job action such as termination, demotion, involuntary transfer or suspension. The policy will go into effect for the 2016-17 membership year beginning on July 1, 2016. As a result, there will be a slight increase in membership dues. More information will be made available in the near future. Within school districts, pupil services are challenged with tightening their budgets. Schools are forced to focus on school assessments and student learning performance. The needs of the whole child must be addressed. Student/Pupil Services Directors must advocate for meeting the needs of all students. Since most districts only have one student/pupil services director, it is a difficult challenge and requires collaboration with colleagues from other districts across the nation. The NAPSA conference provides an opportunity for discussing relevant problems with one another and assisting with solutions. Professional growth is essential for improvement. NAPSA continues to focus on assisting its membership. "NAPSA NEWS," NAPSA TIDBITS" and the an-

nual conference are student services' lifelines for progress. If you do not receive the NAPSA TIDBITS each month, please contact the NAPSA office at napsa@comcast.net. The NAPSA Board continues to be committed to keeping its membership current on relevant policies and issues effecting pupil/student services. We encourage you to visit the "Members Only" section of the website on a regular basis. If you misplaced the password, do not hesitate to contact me. When your email address changes, it is important for you to inform me. NAPSA continues to encourage more states to become affiliate members. The current affiliates are Ohio, Pennsylvania and the Tri-Area Pupil Services Directors, which includes Virginia, District of Columbia and Maryland. If your state organization has any questions about becoming an affiliate, please contact me. If you do not have a state organization, we are ready to help you organize one. Nationally, public education continues to experience a myriad of challenges. NAPSA is an active member of the National Alliance of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (NASISP), advocating pupil services needs with members of Congress. NAPSA is committed to assisting its membership meet the challenges. I encourage you to get actively involved in your national organization.

"The NAPSA conference provides an opportunity for discussing relevant problems with one another and assisting with solutions."





President's Message — Vernice Thomas

As the 2015-16 school year comes to a close, it's time to celebrate our accomplishments while assessing and modifying what can be improved to meet the future needs of our students. Focusing on the mental health needs of children continues to be a concern for all educators and parents as we try to determine its impact on the academic and behavioral needs of students. For many of our students, the summer months will cause emotional hardships for them trying to find food, security and emotional support. It has been shown that many students will suffer academic learning loss during the summer unless academic supports are in place to help them retain what they have learned. We cannot forget our homeless students and families who will have lesser support systems by not being in school. Contrary to what some believe, school is the best and safest place for students. Some of our students live in food deserts wherein grocery stores don't exist and neighborhood curb markets are

the only source for basic foods sometimes costing twice as much to purchase. As student support services administrators these are areas that we much keep at the forefront. Find time for self-care during the summer and build stronger partnerships with community agencies to address student needs. Take time to reach out to your NAPSA colleagues and discuss what they are doing to meet the needs of students during the summer. These are our students all year long although they may not be housed in our buildings during the day. You have years of knowledge and expertise at your fingertips as a member of this organization so take advantage of these resources. District sizes may vary but we all have the same issues and concerns that must be addressed. Thanks for your work with students and families which can be challenging but rewarding when we recognize the changes and growth in their development. A few years ago we did a



Vernice Thomas
President

district wide book read of "The Energy Bus by Jon Jordon" that helped our staff learn to work better as a team by approaching life and work with a positive and forward thinking approach to get the job done. You may find this a book to be a valuable summer read and resource for your returning staff to help your team get off to a wonderful 2016-17 school year. We appreciate and value your NAPSA membership.



Richard Scott
Legislative Liaison

What's Happening On the Hill

NASISP is supporting a national sign on letter sponsored by The American Federation of Teachers (AFT). It is hoped to be delivered in August to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) with national organizations' endorsement. The AFT is a union of professionals that champions high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. Its work on children's health, safety and well-being intersects diverse member divisions at AFT, including Nurses & Healthcare Professionals, Paraprofessionals and Support Related Personnel, and PreK-12 Educators. To address one of members' top priorities, children's access

to healthcare, the AFT promotes community schools and wraparound services, advocates for the important role of school health professionals to address the whole child and seeks robust investment in public health & education systems. The December 2014 federal reinterpretation of the free care rule has inspired many stakeholders interested in school-based health and wellness initiatives to revisit the role of federal financial participation through Medicaid. Despite some progress, such as Louisiana's approved Medicaid state plan amendment and California's 2015 legislation, it's clear that many barriers prevent states, districts, schools and school health providers from leveraging the new flexibility. With the sign-on letter from various national organizations, the AFT hopes to (1) establish national consensus around the scope of work needed to achieve excellence in school-based Medicaid programs and (2) to continue a national dialogue with key stakeholders, including CMS, about how to best support school health initiatives. Please check out NASISP website Updates!! Check out its new ESSA page: <http://nasisp.org/ESEA.html>.



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Drew Bergman is a junior at Drexel University, majoring in Business Marketing. While Drew is a successful full-time student with a bright future ahead, this was not always the case. Drew's early teenage years were filled with tremendous sadness resulting from a severe case of depression and he began to self-harm. For a brief time, he was able to hide his depression and cutting and continue to perform as an outstanding athlete and solid student. It was not until his sophomore year of high school that Drew experienced a turning point in his recovery when he attempted suicide for the second time. As things began to improve for Drew, he delivered a speech at his high school about his battle with depression, hoping to increase mental health awareness among his peers.



BESHON SMITH



Dr. Beshon Smith has spent the past 16 years of her professional career using the transformative power of education to change the lives of young people and their families. Smith joined City Schools as the Manager for the Office of Attendance and Strategy in April 2013. Prior to joining City Schools, Smith served as the Deputy Director for the Choice Program, with the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. She has also served as the Deputy Director for the Urban Alliance Foundation in Washington D.C. and prior to relocating to Maryland, Beshon was the Director of Alternative Education for New Beginnings High School at Brooklyn College.

BLOG POSTS

▶ SHOWING UP IS HALF THE BATTLE!

Posted on Jul 22, 2013 in Education and Youth

My embracing of the notion that showing up is half the battle results from my own childhood battles with absenteeism. Like many Baltimore students, school attendance was a challenge for me; I became a habitual truant and dropped out. After a year out of school, a series of personal struggles helped me realize that a better life was only possible through education.

Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg is a pediatrician specializing in Adolescent Medicine and a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. The theme that ties together his clinical practice, teaching, research and advocacy efforts is that of



building on the strength of teenagers by fostering their internal resilience. His goal is to translate the best of what is known from research and practice into practical approaches parents, professionals and communities can use to prepare children and teens to thrive.

Mary Margaret Kerr is Professor and Chair of Administrative and Policy Studies, Professor of Psychology in Education, and Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Kerr will present a 2-part session. Participants will uncover small but insidious obstacles that drain staff time, money, and good will from their student support initiatives. Part 2 will take participants through actual district-based cases, so they can adopt these strategies with ease.

