



This Week in New York

Covering New York State and City Government

A Publication of Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

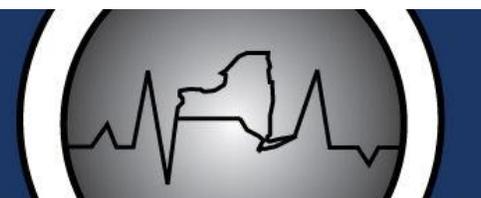
February 14, 2020 Edition



Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day
from Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

In the News – State

Redesigning THE MEDICAID PROGRAM



MRT II: Up and Running

Charged with developing a plan to cut \$2.5 billion from the State's Medicaid plan by mid-March, the Medicaid Redesign Team II held its inaugural meeting in Albany this week and began hearing public testimony today.

Over the course of the next month, the MRT II will hold three public meetings to solicit stakeholder testimony across the state (the first today in NYC). In addition, the State Department of Health has launched an online MRT Proposal Tool through which members of the public can submit proposals until Friday, February 21st (https://health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/redesign/mrt2/index.htm).

In the meantime, a separate workgroup on Medicaid long term care will meet and report to the MRT II on March 4th. The final MRT II meeting will be held in mid-March at which time they will discuss their cost-cutting proposals.

At the organizational meeting, Donna Frescore, State Medicaid Director, head of NY State of Health and Executive Director of the MRT II, outlined “areas where course correction may be needed,” including:

- **Long Term Care and Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Services:** MLTC spending between FY 19 and FY 21 is growing at an average of 13% (\$1.2 billion annually). Seventy-five percent of MLTC costs are personal care. The Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program is “a key driver of growth – accounting for a majority of the increase in personal care hours in 2018.”

- **Distressed Hospitals & other Supplemental Payments:** Distressed hospital funding increased 160 percent to \$500 million in FY2021.
- **Prescription Drugs:** NYS Medicaid Pharmacy Spending is rising faster than CPI.
- **Transportation:** Taxi/Livery in Medicaid Transportation has grown dramatically since 2016.
- **Care Management including Health Homes:** Total Care Management spending increased 149 percent.
- **Program Integrity.**

Bills Passed by Both Houses

A2625 Sponsored by M of A Dinowitz/Senator Jackson -- Establishes time restrictions for court issued consent orders for work performance to remove or remedy dangerous conditions or building code violations; permits sixty days for consent orders to be performed by an owner, mortgagee, or lienor of record and further restricts such person from using consent orders more than once.

A8949 Sponsored by M of A Cusick/Senator Lanza -- Exempts certain vessels from the compulsory state pilotage requirement. Chapter Amendment.

A8983 Sponsored by M of A Carroll/Senator Gounardes --Relates to evidence of loss of consciousness for the purposes of maintaining a driver's license.

A9134 Sponsored by M of A Lavine/Senator Salazar -- Relates to hospital domestic violence procedures. Chapter Amendment.

A9646 Sponsored by M of A Magnarelli/Senator Hoylman -- Provides that a police officer shall only issue a summons for a violation of failure to wear a seatbelt in a taxi or a livery for minors eight years of age or older but under age sixteen to the parent or guardian, if the violation by such person occurs in the presence of such person's parent or guardian and where such parent or guardian is eighteen years of age or more. Chapter Amendment.

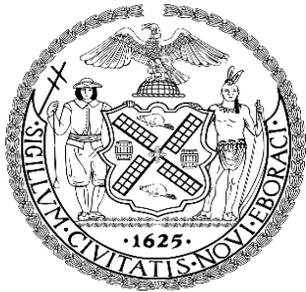
S7181 Sponsored by Senator Breslin/M of A Cook - Relates to civil immunity for information shared with the National Insurance Crime Bureau. Chapter Amendment.

S7182 Sponsored by Senator Sepulveda/M of A Weprin - Requires a report on the death and circumstances of an inmate to be sent to the governor, the chairman of the assembly committee on correction and the chairman of the senate committee on crime victims, crime and correction. Chapter Amendment.

S7185 Sponsored by Senator Carlucci/M of A Galef - Requires hospitals to order services where the identified caregivers being unwilling or unable to give proper care. Chapter Amendment.

S7190 Sponsored by Senator Rivera/M of A Gottfried - Relates to rights of residents of adult care facilities; provides that residents have a right to be informed about their condition, treatment and medications. Chapter Amendment.

In the News – City



De Blasio Administration & Council of School Supervisors and Administrators Announce Tentative Contract Agreement



The City of New York and the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) reached a tentative agreement this week, providing benefits for 6,400 employees. The CSA represents school leaders for all 1,800 public schools in New York City.

As part of the tentative agreement, the City and the CSA have agreed to pattern conforming wage increases and additional benefits including paid parental leave, an enhanced salary schedule for elementary and middle school principals, the creation of a tenure framework for supervisors, a plan to create a new evaluation system for assistant principals and establishing a hard to staff differential for principals.

The agreement with CSA would begin retroactively on April 23, 2019 and expire on January 28, 2023. The terms of the agreement must be approved by the union's membership.

“CSA members have more than earned this contract with their incredible talent, professionalism, leadership and dedication to the families they serve,” said CSA President Mark Cannizzaro. “Those who protect and educate the city’s children deserve the time necessary to welcome their own children into the world, and we are proud to secure Paid Parental Leave that provides eligible members with flexibility and security during such a significant period in their lives. This agreement also provides fair compensation and maintains benefits for our members. In addition, we have taken a significant step toward achieving more equitable salaries for principals. These advances, along with many commonsense workplace protections, will help enable our school leaders to continue to focus on their guiding priority of ensuring that all students receive a first-rate education.”

The tentative contract agreement includes:

Paid Parental Leave

Creation of a new Paid Parental Leave (PPL) benefit that allows up to 25 work days of paid leave for the employee to bond with a newborn, adopted or foster child. Employees would stay on the city payroll and have the ability to use PPL intermittently over a 6-month period of time from the date of the qualifying event. The option of intermittent usage with supervisor approval allows school level supervisors to make tailored arrangements to benefit schools.

Elementary and Junior High School Principal Salary

The creation of an enhanced salary schedule for elementary school and middle school principals in order to

narrow the gap in salary with high school principals. These salary increases are in addition to the general wage increases.

Lead Education Administrator

A stipend for selected education administrators to conduct flexible additional work that will streamline and improve management in citywide offices. This helps leverage existing staff and streamline processes for schools.

Establish a Hard to Staff Differential for Principals

A differential of between \$10,000-\$15,000 to be offered to individual principals to either attract or retain school leaders to certain schools at the Chancellor's discretion in close consultation with the CSA.

Principal Observation

There will be changes to the process intended to be more collaborative between principals and superintendents, including requiring advanced notification of meetings.

Wages:

The tentative contract agreement is pattern conforming and includes the following wage increases:

- April 23, 2019: 2.00%
- July 23, 2020: 2.50%
- September 23, 2021: 3.00%

The cost of the agreement is approximately \$378 million.

Briefs

Mayor de Blasio Signs Bills Strengthening Lead Protections

Mayor Bill de Blasio signed legislation this week to strengthen lead protections. The five pieces of legislation will expand protections in numerous areas.

Intro. 420-B (sponsored by Council Member Constantinides) codifies the Parks Department practice of testing soil for lead with certain capital projects. Projects would include areas with exposed soil that are play or recreation areas. Intro. 873-A (sponsored by Council Member Chin) codifies Department of Education practices of assessing schools annually for lead-based paint hazards. This information would then become public.

Intro. 891-A (sponsored by Council Member Levin) expands the definition of "multiple dwelling" to include 1-2 family homes in relation to lead poisoning prevention. Intro 919-A (sponsored by Council Member Torres) will require independent, EPA-certified inspectors to investigate dwelling units for lead-based paint hazards.

Intro. 904-A, sponsored by Council Member Rivera, requires the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to investigate cases of elevated blood lead levels in pregnant women. DOHMH will then conduct follow-up screenings for their children.

Comptroller Stringer Seeks Creation of Interpreter Bank

Comptroller Scott Stringer announced this week that he has asked both Mayor Bill de Blasio and City Council Speaker Corey Johnson to create a Community Legal Interpreter Bank which will recruit, train, and dispatch legal interpreters for legal services across the city.

There are 1.2 million New Yorkers who speak a language that less than 100,000 other New Yorkers speak. This interpreter bank would serve those New Yorkers. The Comptroller is seeking \$2.25 million in city funding for the interpreter bank.

The interpreter bank proposal was initially proposed by immigrant organizations including African Communities Together, Mexican American Students' Alliance, the Asian American Foundation, and New York Immigration Coalition.

City Council Approves Mayor's Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Nominee

The New York City Council approved Mayor Bill de Blasio's nominee for Taxi and Limousine Commissioner this week. Aloysee Heredia Jarmoszuk will serve as the new commissioner.

Jarmoszuk was nominated by Mayor de Blasio last month. She was previously chief of staff to Deputy Mayor Laura Aglin.

Mayor de Blasio Nominates Victor Calise and Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board

Mayor de Blasio this week nominated Victor Calise and Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez for appointment to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Board. Commissioner Calise has served as the Commissioner of the New York City Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities since 2012. Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez has led the Department of Aging since April 2019.

Commissioner Calise began his City service working with the Capital Projects Division of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Prior to working in New York City government, he was a disability advocate in the non-profit sector.

Prior to her role as Commissioner, Cortés-Vázquez worked within the Mayor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs as Senior Advisor to the Mayor. Before entering public service, Commissioner Cortés-Vázquez was Senior Vice President of Corporate Relations and Government Affairs at EmblemHealth.

Tenant Bill of Rights

New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer this week called for legislation creating a “Tenant Bill of Rights” that would require landlords to share with tenants information on housing protections, including safeguards related to applications and security deposits; anti-discrimination; heat and hot water access; habitability; rental payments; evictions and renewals, and specific laws related to seniors.

The proposed Bill of Rights would require landlords to enumerate a tenant’s right to live in a safe and sanitary home with a base level of amenities and support. The Bill of Rights would be mandated at every lease-signing.

Coming Up

New York State

The Legislature is not in session the week of February 17th

Friday February 21st

To explore the idea of establishing a “civil service pipeline” statewide in which graduating students are trained for and recruited directly into public sector jobs

Senate Hearing Room, 250 Broadway, 19th Floor, New York, 10 a.m.

New York City

There are no meetings scheduled for the City Council



Wishing you an enjoyable President’s Day Weekend
from Pitta Bishop & Del Giorno LLC

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