

Advocacy & Policy



The New York State Rehabilitation Association (NYSRA) is a statewide association providing analysis,

technical assistance, professional development, policy forums and advocacy for the disability community.

NYSRA will pursue legislation and policy directives in the following strategic areas:

- Community Inclusion through employment
- Health systems transformation
- Use of data to drive outcomes



Member Services and Benefits

Budget and Policy Advocacy

Effective advocacy on budget and policy matters are a hallmark of NYSRA member services. NYSRA's expertise in influencing policy makers within the Executive and Legislative branches of NYS Government is complemented by its professional team of esteemed lobbyists working throughout the year on issues at the NYS Capitol. Additionally, through our national affiliated organization, ACCSES, NYSRA maintains a strong presence on issues of importance to members under consideration at the Federal level.

Conferences, Summits and Policy Institutes

Members have access to information exchange forums throughout the year where networking opportunities abound and experts gather for dialogue on initiatives. Conferences, Summits and Policy Institutes are a platform to hear first-hand from policy makers and strategize with NYSRA.

Consultation

NYSRA offers its member organizations on-site consultation with Pat Dowse, Chief Operating Officer.

Colleague Would Like to Know

An electronic forum where members can anonymously pose questions to colleague organizations within the NYSRA membership and receive responses, information, and resources. This often involves inquiries regarding promising practices and procedures, which is then posted to NYSRA's website as a resource for all members.

NYSRA News

An e-publication used to provide greater detail and timely analysis on specific issues of particular interest to association members.

NYSRA Would Like to Know

An electronic advocacy tool where NYSRA survey members on issues affecting delivery of services in order to provide information that helps NYSRA influence public policies and practices.

CEO Webinar Briefing

Monthly webinar briefings for the leadership of NYSRA member organizations, providing a direct connection for dialogue with other leaders and insight from NYSRA President & CEO Michael Seereiter.

Friday Focus

A weekly e-news brief on activity in disability policy areas.

Announcements and Events

An e-news communication to keep members informed of upcoming opportunities for technical assistance, training, etc.

Technical Assistance Webinars

Technical Assistance webinars introduce, inform, update and discuss best practices on regulations and programmatic issues affecting day to day operations.

Business Partner Member Products & Services

Members have access to superior products and services from vendors supporting the mission of member organizations and adept to organizational needs of non-profit organizations.

Action

NYSRA's approach to New York State policy and legislation is a multi-pronged process involving members. Our policy and legislative priorities are identified and vetted by members for advocacy with state agencies, key legislative leaders and committees, the Division of the Budget and the Governor's Office. NYSRA works in collaboration with colleague associations, academia and the business community to advance the interests of our members. Recent activities include the following:

- Release of employment white paper entitled "Getting The Job Done"
- NYSRA's appearance on *Capital Tonight* regarding the Employment First Initiative
- Leadership role on DOH's MRT Social Determinants Workgroup
- Representation on:
 - OPWDD Rate Rationalization and Employment Projects
 - ACCES-VR State Rehab Council
- Advocacy at public hearings, including:
 - OPWDD Statewide Comprehensive Plan
 - OMH's Statewide Comprehensive Plan
- Advisory role representation for CASE project
- Advisory & Advocacy representation for Coalition for Multiple Pathways to a Diploma
- Success in producing a Direct Support Professional wage increase in the State budget
- Collaborative partnership with NYSACRA to guide a DSP credential pilot study
- Collaborative Partnership with NYSACRA on OPWDD's Regional Centers for Workforce Transformation (RCWT) grants
- Co-Leader of the Inclusive Workforce Alliance consisting of 18 trade associations
- Information exchange forums providing technical assistance on pertinent information



NYSRA Events

Community Integration
Leadership Institute
June 4 - 5, 2015

Rehabilitation Summit
September 30 - October 1, 2015

Transition Age Youth Institute
October 1 - 2, 2015

NYSRA & NYSACRA Legislative
Policy Forum
February 2016



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Michael Seereiter
President & CEO



NYSRA's Mission is to advocate for and support communities that effectively foster opportunities for independence, inclusion, employment, and life-enrichment for people with disabilities.