

Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association

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RCPA to Mark 10th Anniversary at Annual Conference

Association has grown to become one of the largest state health and human services trade organizations in the nation.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (August 16, 2023) – The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) recently marked its 10th anniversary, having grown to become one of the largest state health and human services trade organizations in the nation, and will celebrate the milestone during its annual conference in October.

RCPA's annual conference brings together insightful thought leaders, including top administration officials and elected officials; offers invaluable networking opportunities for all participants; and presents in-depth information on a variety of health and human services-related topics through general assemblies and personalized breakout sessions.

"I can't think of a better time to formally celebrate our 10th anniversary than at our annual conference when we're all together focusing on the issues that matter most," said RCPA President and CEO Richard Edley, PhD. "There is so much to share and discuss. The last decade truly has been transformative --- both for our association and for the health and human services field overall."

RCPA officially formed on July 1, 2013, after boards at the Pennsylvania Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (PARF) and the Pennsylvania Community Providers Association (PCPA), which both shared a long history of cooperation and partnership, voted to merge. The decision was unanimous. Edley helped guide the merger and has remained at the helm since its first days.

"RCPA has become one of the most trusted and recognized voices advocating for individuals and families in need, and the diversity of our membership and the scope of services our providers offer make us the primary resource that decision-makers turn to when deciding critical policy issues related to health and human services," Edley said.

RCPA today represents well over 380 members, the majority of whom serve over 1 million Pennsylvanians annually. RCPA's diverse provider members offer mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children and youth, criminal and juvenile justice, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, pediatric rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, across all settings and levels of care.

Because of its extensive history, RCPA's annual conference is the largest health and human services event in Pennsylvania. The event, themed "*A Decade of Unity: Enhancing Lives and Shaping the Future*," will take place Oct. 10-13 at The Hershey Lodge. Online registration closes Sept. 29. Registrations with credit card information included may be faxed to the office until 5:00 pm Oct. 6.

Information is available at the RCPA Conference website: <http://www.rcpaconference.org/>.

The conference not only will address current issues and examine what policies may come down the road, but it also will celebrate the achievements the association has fulfilled over this decade of unity. Among them:

- There isn't a corner of the Commonwealth that isn't touched by RCPA's advocacy, as its broad and diverse **membership serves residents in every one of Pennsylvania's 67 counties**.
- RCPA's members serve more than 1 million Pennsylvanians annually, **meaning one of every 13 Commonwealth residents relies on the services its members provide**.
- RCPA's voice carries far beyond just Pennsylvania. **The association is a member of these national organizations:** National Council for Mental Wellbeing; ANCOR – The American Network of Community Options and Resources; ACCSES – The Voice of Disability Service Providers; and AMRPA – American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association.
- No team is better. **RCPA staff has decades of industry experience, making them the primary resource that decision-makers and policymakers rely on**, and giving them an advantage in getting the job done in any political environment. The work RCPA does is nonpartisan and focused solely on the needs of vulnerable individuals and families.
- Creating a workplace that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive is an active, never-ending process. Recently, **RCPA launched a first-of-its-kind Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee** to promote organizational diversity, not only within the association, but also to counsel members on policies and initiatives that drive inclusivity and promote the free sharing of ideas.

"We're proud of the association we have been able to build and the successes we have achieved over the years, and we're even more excited about what comes next for all of us," Edley said.

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About the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA):

With well over 380 members, the majority of who serve over one million Pennsylvanians annually, Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is among the largest and most diverse state health and human services trade associations in the nation. RCPA provider members offer mental health, substance use disorder, intellectual and developmental disabilities, children and youth, criminal and juvenile justice, brain injury, medical rehabilitation, pediatric rehabilitation, and physical disabilities and aging services, across all settings and levels of care. Visit www.paproviders.org for more information.