

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

2008 AWARDING CAO EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR EMPLOYERS OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 25, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the recipients of the 2008 Awarding CAO Excellence, ACE Awards, being recognized by Dan Beard, the House Chief Administrative Officer, CAO, for their particular contributions to the House community over the past year.

This year's award winners are Monica Barnabae, Nicholas R. Garner, John J. Heeb III, Joseph L. Adams, Saint Juan "Angel" McFadden, Angel M. Goldsborough-Lee, Susan Marone, Andrew C. Graeub, Brent S. Conran and Marie Bums. Their ACE Awards acknowledge the exceptional efforts made by these employees to provide the highest quality service to the Members, Committees and offices of the House of Representatives. Considered the highest honors awarded to CAO staff, the foundation of these awards are exemplary customer service, a commitment to delivering solutions and the highest standards of performance excellence.

These recipients of the 2008 CAO ACE Awards represent many areas of the CAO organization, perform a variety of jobs and provide a wide range of services to the House community. Whether working directly with Members or staff, supporting CAO internal operations or ensuring the technical infrastructure is operational, each serves as an exemplary role model for the entire CAO community. Collectively, and individually, they deliver solutions that fulfill the CAO organization's goal of providing a quality customer experience.

Monica Barnabae and Nicholas Garner are the recipients of the 2008 "Darrell Norman Excellence Award." This award is named after an exemplary CAO employee who died in January of 2007 and whose long-time career with the House exemplified the customer service standards, the performance excellence and the "can do" spirit of the CAO organization.

In her role as Director of the House Child Care Center, Monica Barnabae has been instrumental in directing her staff through several critical undertakings over the past year. She worked to address a number of issues vitally important to the continuing enhancement of the team and the work environment, creating additional professional development opportunities for the staff and improving their job satisfaction. Monica's commitment to, and communications with, both the staff and the parents have been instrumental in improving the Center's operations. Under her leadership this past year, the facility was awarded the revised accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children NAEYC,

making it one of the first programs in the country to go through this extensive re-certification process. The center received an 80% or better rating in each of the critical areas of assessment, including teaching, evaluation of child progress, relationships, families, health and leadership and management—all reflective of the attributes of the CAO's standard of excellence.

Nicholas Garner, a Senior Office Coordinator in the CAO/AOC Joint Service Center in the Capitol, serves as the primary point of contact for coordinating major renovation projects and events for the House's Leadership Offices and Officers. Nick regularly goes above and beyond the expectations of his customers to meet the offices' needs and to provide a quick and complete solution. He supports a very large number of clients and coordinates an extensive array of customer requests, but yet consistently manages that workload without a hitch. Nick has built and continues to foster solid relationships with the Members and staff he serves—relationships reliant on Nick's approachability, integrity, trust, knowledge, experience and problem solving skills. All of these hallmarks are criteria for selection as a recipient of the "Darrell Norman Excellence Award."

John Heeb III and Joseph Adams have been selected for the 2008 "Knowledge Award." John Heeb of the CAO Advanced Business Solutions (CABS) team is recognized for his work in developing the business process designs for the Accounts Receivable Module as part of the ongoing development and configuration process of the House's new financial system (known as ATLAS). His work has been critical in addressing and mitigating potential problem areas with the required Treasury Reports that can be difficult to transition with financial system installations. John took the initiative to master a significant amount of new subject matter and he engaged the appropriate resources in developing the desired reporting capability. He developed an independent analytical tool and drove a meticulous and detailed analysis with the project team to get to the right solution, which included the development of the training materials.

Joseph Adams of CAO Technology Infrastructure Solutions is being acknowledged with the "Knowledge Award" as the embodiment of one of the CAO organization's critical attributes: providing expertise and advice to customers. With his exceptional technical ability and his tireless work ethic, Joe seeks constant feedback from his customers by asking the right questions to get to the fundamental user requirements. He is the "go-to" person for House data network technical questions and implementation issues. Joe not only directs the day-to-day operations of nine senior engineers and five contractors, but he is responsible for reviewing and approving all network designs. He has directed the Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery, BC/DR, designs for the Alternate Computing Facility, as well as the Capitol Visitor Center, and he has personally

designed voice applications in response to the industry-wide convergence of voice and data technologies.

Saint Juan "Angel" McFadden of the CAO Payroll and Benefits team is the recipient of the 2008 "Simplify the Day Award." Angel has the reputation of going the extra mile for her customers, whether they are the staff in Member and Committee offices or her colleagues in the Payroll and Benefits office. When the Payroll and Benefits office carried out an innovations project this past April, Angel was a member of the Payroll "help desk" during the project. She was on the front lines of responding to customers by phone and in-person. Although not in a supervisory capacity, and not directed to do so, Angel took the initiative to create a set of procedures for her colleagues on the "help desk" that resulted in considerable improvements in client service. Specifically, her ingenuity and persistence in identifying unnecessary processing steps resulted in reducing average cycle time for document imaging from about 39 days to 10 hours, while also eliminating seven unnecessary processing steps.

Angel Goldsborough-Lee of the CAO Technology Support team is being recognized with this year's "One Team Award." Angel consistently demonstrates an ability to reach across teams in support of important CAO and House initiatives. Charged with the oversight of the Escalations Team, she is responsible for managing a dynamic group of support engineers who assist the Technical Support Representatives, TSRs, in the field with identifying and resolving complex problems and keeping customers informed of system outages, house-wide email delays and system failures. Angel's ability to engage and drive team collaboration has been particularly evident this past year in her work with the Exchange 2003 migration effort, the execution of the Daylight Savings Time workstation software upgrade and her coordination with the Committee on House Administration in the delivery of the "Working Smarter Series," which familiarizes House staff with information and services to enhance their day-to-day productivity.

Susan Marone of the Resume Referral/Outplacement Services office is the "Personalized Solutions" award recipient. Susan is being recognized for the practical resolutions she devises in response to the unique and varied needs of Member and Committee offices that post their vacancy announcements with the CAO's Resume Referral Service. Relying on her extensive knowledge of Capitol Hill and her exceptional understanding of the day-to-day operations of a Congressional office, and by asking the right questions to help offices identify and articulate their hiring requirements and selection criteria, Susan has been able to tailor her standard posting processes to the needs of each requesting office. This has resulted in a reduction in the time for the requesting office to not only post, but to fill, the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

vacancy. In 2007 alone, Susan posted over 486 positions for nearly half of the House Member and Committee offices.

Andrew Graeb and Brent Conran are the recipients of the 2008 "Jay Eagen Dedicated Award," renamed by CAO Dan Beard in honor of the House's previous CAO, whose years of unwavering dedication to the organization and the House have become a standard. Andrew Graeb of the CAO Technology Infrastructure Solutions team is being recognized this year for his dedication and energy as the driving force for the successful design and implementation of data networks for a critical Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery (BC/DR) project. Like so many other projects Andrew manages, this one necessitated an exhaustive identification of user requirements from across the House community as well as maintaining proficiency in current networking technologies, while anticipating and expertly evaluating emerging ones. As with most projects of this magnitude, obstacles and challenges arise. Andrew consistently manages and solves those challenges through his blend of technical know-how, customer focus, exceptional interpersonal skills and an infectious positive attitude—all reflective of his dedication to his customers throughout the House community and to his colleagues across the CAO organization.

Brent Conran of CAO Information Systems Security is our second recipient of the "Jay Eagen Dedicated" award. Brent is being acknowledged by the CAO organization for his dedication in managing his team of security engineers, responsible for keeping House production security systems up and running, 24/7. Brent is responsible for making sure the network remains secure from hacker attacks, viruses and spam. By staying current with the latest technology and through his ability to maneuver through CAO systems and processes, he has implemented new firewalls, spyware filtering and intrusion detection upgrades that have guaranteed the ongoing security and integrity of House systems. Brent has an insatiable appetite for keeping up with the newest detection technologies. The House benefits from his dedication to keep the institution's computer network secure and his desire to constantly do things better and quicker, staying ahead of the newer and more creative technology threats.

The CAO's final award recipient for 2008 is being acknowledged with the newest ACE award: the "Green the Capitol Award." This new award recognizes an employee who exhibits a commitment to the Green the Capitol Initiative by seeking innovative, cutting-edge approaches to traditional ways of doing business, promoting resource conservation and supporting an environmentally-sustainable and healthier workplace.

Marie Burns of the Office Supply/House Gift Shop is the recipient of the first CAO "Green the Capitol Award." Marie is being recognized for her commitment to the Green the Capitol Initiative and her effort to promote its goals within the CAO organization and the larger House community. Specifically, Marie has been involved in driving the purchase and availability of more environmentally-friendly products in the Office Supply Store and the House Gift Shop. As an example, by selling only 100 percent post-consumer recycled paper in the Office Supply Store, the House is helping to save 29,400 grown trees. Marie's

personal commitment to the goals of the Green the Capitol Initiative and her leadership in focusing on the sustainability of the House supply chain has been instrumental in raising environmental awareness among her colleagues and the customers she serves.

On behalf of the entire House community, I extend congratulations to Monica Barnabae, Nicholas Garner, John Heeb III, Joseph Adams, Angel McFadden, Angel Goldsborough-Lee, Susan Marone, Andrew Graeb, Brent Conran and Marie Burns for their tireless efforts and outstanding service to the Members and staff of the U.S. House of Representatives. I wish this year's group of CAO ACE Award recipients continued success in their endeavors and I look forward to their ongoing contributions in support of the vital work of "the People's House."

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID
SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5613, the "Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008." I would like to thank my colleagues Congressman JOHN D. DINGELL and Congressman TIM MURPHY for introducing this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will make vital strides toward expanding and improving access to healthcare to people in our communities who need it most.

The Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008 is critical to keeping the doors open for the patients who use the public hospital systems throughout the country. In my home State of Texas, there was statewide and national support from various stakeholders, the Physicians, Governors, County Judges, Mayors, and many others all encouraging passage of H.R. 5613.

Section 2 of H.R. 5613 amends the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 to extend until April 1, 2009, the moratorium on implementation of a proposed rule, "Medicaid Program; Cost Limit for Providers Operated by Units of Government and Provisions to ensure the integrity of the Federal-State financial partnerships under Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program, SCHIP, of the Social Security Act, SSA.

This Act will extend the moratorium until April 1, 2009, on any action by the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to restrict Medicaid payments for graduate medical education. It also, amends the Medicare, Medicaid, and SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 to extend until April 1, 2009, the moratorium on certain restrictions relating to Medicaid coverage or payment for rehabilitation services or school-based administration and school-based transportation,

This moratorium establishes additional moratoria until April 1, 2009, on specified regulatory actions concerning Medicaid: (1) treatment of optional case management services; (2) outpatient hospital services; and (3) allowable provider taxes.

Section 3 allows appropriated funds to go to the Secretary for the purpose of reducing fraud and abuse in the Medicaid program. It requires annual reports to specified congressional committees on activities funded by such appropriations, allowing for greater accountability to the people.

More importantly, this Act will direct the Secretary to contract with an independent organization to produce a comprehensive report for Congress on the prevalence of such problems: (1) identifying which claims for items and services under Medicaid are not processed through automated data systems; (2) examining the reasons why they are not so processed; and (3) recommending Federal and State actions that can make claims for such items and services more accurate and completely consistent with Medicaid requirements.

The administration has propagated Medicaid rules which would limit children's access to health care.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, President Bush and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, intend to implement seven separate Medicaid rules which would reduce Federal Medicaid spending by \$20 billion over the next 5 years.

Specifically, the regulations would be:

1. Narrowing the range of rehabilitation services covered.
2. Narrowing the range of targeted case management services covered.
3. Limiting the outreach services provided by schools and ending reimbursement for transportation to and from school for children with disabilities.
4. Narrowing the range of allowable provider taxes.
5. Limiting the definition of outpatient hospital services provided.
6. Eliminating Federal Medicaid graduate medical education support
7. Limiting State funding mechanisms, including intergovernmental transfers, and capping public provider reimbursement.

The combined effect of these actions would be disastrous to the health of all children and children's hospitals.

1. Many of these regulations threaten the most vulnerable children—children who require the specialty services that Medicaid provides.

2. Children's hospitals care for the sickest and neediest children in our Nation. On average, half of the care children's hospitals provide is to children covered by Medicaid.

3. Because children's hospitals are so dependent on Medicaid funding, any decrease in Medicaid reimbursement would have a profound impact on children's hospitals' abilities to fulfill their core missions of clinical care, training, and research. By undermining the Medicaid safety net, these rules could threaten the ability of all children to access needed health care services.

H.R. 5613, the Protecting the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008, would place a moratorium until April 1, 2009 on all of these Medicaid regulations. I am proud to cosponsor legislation that will add service before self to our leaders of tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.