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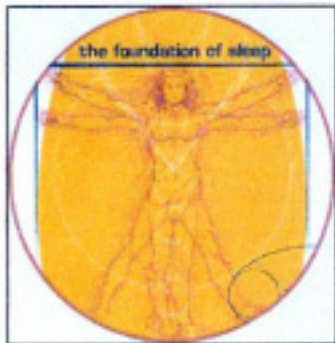
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CHIROPRACTIC ROUND-UP continued from page 6

protection. In contrast to the hardship and unfairness the cut would precipitate, the estimated savings in the current budget period is only \$43,000.

Vermont's Medicaid program was far from chiropractic friendly even prior to the current controversy. According to Medicaid Regulations M640, coverage of chiropractic services (Medicaid), "is limited to treatment by means of manipulation of the spine and then only if such treatment is to correct a subluxation of the spine... Medicaid does not cover an x-ray ordered solely for the purpose of demonstrating a subluxation of the spine. Any charges incurred for the chiropractic x-ray must be borne by the recipient, recipient's family, friends or such other community resources as may be available. Chiropractic services for recipients under the age of 12 require prior authorization from the Medical Review Unit, Medicaid Division, Waterbury. Clinical review data perti-

nent to the need for treatment must be submitted in writing. Coverage is limited to ten treatments per patient per calendar year.

The misspelling of Chiropractic cited above is actually in the published regulations. For more information on this important patients' rights and equity battle, contact the Vermont Chiropractic Association, 245 Stratton Rd., Rutland, VT 05701, Tel: 802-775-6961 Fax: 802-773-9668.

WISCONSIN

Court summarily dismisses case against Dr. Dale Strama

A state court in Wisconsin has summarily dismissed a suit brought against the State Board of Chiropractic Examiners as being unfounded and without merit. The suit was filed on July 19, 2002 charging conflict of interest on the part of some on the board in the matter of continuing education programs. Specifically, the suit charged that the Examining Board had approved continuing education programs that benefit Allied Health of Wisconsin even though the chairman of the Examining Board, Dr. Dale Strama, was a member of Allied. The lawsuit asked that the Examining Board properly enforce the ethics rule and that CE hours not be allowed for CE programs that have been improperly approved.

On October 2, 2002, the Circuit Court for Dane County dismissed as wholly inappropriate the lawsuit by the WCA, stating that "all claims against Dr. Strama be, and hereby are dismissed without prejudice." Likewise, on October 30, 2002, the Court dismissed all claims that the WCA filed against the Board of Examiners.

Following this court action, Dr. Strama stated: "I believe that the WCA has hurt the reputation of all chiropractors in the state by the filing of this lawsuit, which clearly lacked merit. In actuality, at no time did I approve any chiropractic continuing education seminars which Allied Health co-sponsored or in which Allied Health was involved. To avoid any conflict of interest, I have never voted on any matter involving Allied Health. Instead, such approvals were entirely granted by others without my participation in any way."

In the court proceedings leading to the dismissal, the WCA itself is reported to have requested dismissal and told the Court it "will not meet its burden of proof against this defendant."

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