



# First of the Month

April 2010

CDSA CONFIDENTIAL

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## CDSA Calendar

**April 2**  
Sonoma County  
Legislative  
Breakfast

**April 5**  
DDS Holiday  
Easter Monday

**April 6**  
PR Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

Legislation  
Subcommittee  
Teleconference  
2:30 - 4:00 pm

**April 8**

## The News

### Legislative Affairs Conference

March 17  
55 CDSA members  
114 legislators' offices  
8 hours

Like the 300 Spartans, they marched bravely into the Capitol building. They returned feeling more like the Dirty Dozen. Some folks had a dozen appointments, and everyone had at least one partner. There were no casualties.



Assembly Member De La Torre addresses CDSA membership during lunch

Our grassroots lobbyists were armed this year with some new and updated materials. Each legislator's packet included a list of the CDSA members operating programs in the district and statistics on the number of employees and clients served. To give legislators the big picture, there were:

- A new funding flows chart
- A pair of charts showing that purchase of service took too big a hit this year
- A set of three pie charts that show what percentage of services CDSA members provide
- The CDSA talking points

These documents are available on the CDSA website. [Click here](#) to log in and download.

CARI  
Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

San Diego  
Caucus  
Legislative  
Breakfast

**April 13**  
Inland Empire  
Caucus  
OPARC  
10:00 am-Noon

Upstate Caucus  
Green Barn  
Restaurant,  
Red Bluff  
11:30 am-1:00  
pm

Institute Board  
Teleconference  
3:00-4:00 pm

**April 15**  
Bay Area  
Caucus  
Contra Costa  
Arc  
10:00 am-Noon

Public Policy  
Committee  
Teleconference  
3:00-4:00 pm

**April 16**  
Orange County  
Legislative  
Breakfast

**April 20**  
Capitol Caucus  
InAlliance  
10:00 am-Noon

Orange County  
Caucus  
Project

Reports from participants were very positive. Legislators heard the message that disability services gave disproportionately last year and have already given 3% this year - so cut bureaucracy. Here are a few of comments from the contact reports:

- Very sympathetic. Interested in Lanterman closure savings.
- Extremely positive. "You have an advocate."
- Very supportive of issues. Flow chart of funding helpful.
- Wants to cut government waste. Loves direct private nonprofit service system.
- Requested information about DC closure.
- Understands the nature of our cuts and said he would fight for our system. Responded to discussion of nature of people we serve.

Of course, not every meeting was perfect:

- Could care less about Arnold's legacy. Cares more about Diana Ross's legacy. Asked for support to change 2/3rds vote.
- Blank stare but appeared to take good notes.
- This was a Twilight Zone experience.

It wasn't the Twilight Zone . . . just Sacramento. What's needed are a few more CDSA members to share their stories next year. We need a constituent for every legislator!

Other news from the conference:

- Assembly Member Hector De La Torre spoke to the group at lunch about the audit of the Regional Centers.
- Assembly Member Jared



Senator Leno at CDSA reception with Mark Melanson, Liz Sutton, and Mary Biggs



Assembly Member Huffman addresses CDSA members during the Reception



Assembly Member Skinner, Josh Sullivan & Barbara Maizie at the Reception



Huffman accepting award with Cami Weaver, Liz Sutton, Carin Lawrence, and John Rumsey

Independence  
11:30 am-1:00  
pm

CDSA  
Leadership  
Retreat  
Long Beach  
3:00-9:00 pm

**April 21**  
CDSA  
Leadership  
Retreat  
Long Beach  
8:00 am-3:00  
pm

CDSA Board  
Meeting  
Long Beach  
3:00 -5:00 pm

Caucus  
Steering  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

**April 28**  
Central Valley  
Caucus  
Able Industries  
10:00 am-Noon

**April 29**  
San Diego  
Caucus  
TMI  
10:00 am-Noon

**May 4**  
PR Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

**May 7**  
Central Valley  
Legislative  
Breakfast

**May 11**

Huffman received CDSA's  
Every Day Hero Award and  
spoke at the reception.

- The bylaw amendments passed, so we now officially have a respite care affiliate membership group.



Fred Robinson leading the electric slide



Mike Huckins belting out a tune at the Reception

## Respite Care Affiliate Group

The new affiliate group has five members:

**Bay Respite Care**, Mike Huckins, Executive Director  
(Bay Area Caucus)

**Respite, Inc.**, Diane Toevs, Program Director (Central Coast  
Caucus)

**Rest and Relax Respite Agency**, Lupe Echavarri, Director  
(San Diego Caucus)

**Respite Inn**, Maureen Wright, Executive Director (Bay Area Caucus)

**Tri-County Respite Care Service**, Dianne Rose, Executive Director  
(Capitol Caucus)

## Another New Member!

CDSA also is delighted to welcome as a member Artistic Endeavors, Inc., Judy Mannino, Director. Artistic Endeavors will participate in the Upstate Caucus.

## Surveys & Signposts

Thanks to all of you who recently have taken the time to complete a CDSA survey. We appreciate your help, and we'll be asking for it again.

This association, like many others, relies on member surveys for many things, from gathering ammunition for the next round of legislative legerdemain to plotting the course of the organization. The two surveys on the strategic plan ([09-10 Objectives](#) and [Goal Evaluation](#)) were for the latter purpose, to serve as signposts for the leaders who will gather for two days to define our plans for 2010.

Upstate Caucus  
Green Barn  
Restaurant,  
Red Bluff  
11:30 am-1:00  
pm

Complete results of the surveys will be presented at the Leadership Retreat, April 20-21, but this seems like an opportune time to share some of what we are learning. By last Thursday, 110 people had visited the "09-10 Objectives" survey. It immediately scared 28 people away, but we'll welcome them back at any time.

Institute Board  
Teleconference  
3:00-4:00 pm

The challenge with any survey is to sort out what it really means - and in the sort of membership poll we conducted, the responses need to be measured against a number of factors. Accepting that most people will recommend continuing activities, it's important to look at the strength of minority opinions.

May 13  
CARI  
Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

For instance, more than a third of the respondents felt CDSA has achieved:

- A simplified renewal process.
- Earlier development and announcement of events.

May 17  
Board Retreat  
CDSA Office  
Sacramento  
10:00 am-5:00  
pm

More than a quarter felt CDSA had achieved:

- Regular dues reminders.
- Updated website.

May 18  
Capitol Caucus  
InAlliance  
10:00 am-Noon

The most unique response came on limiting material distribution only to members. While 56% felt this should continue, 22% felt it had been achieved and 22% felt it should be stopped.

Some 15 to 20 percent felt CDSA had achieved:

- Development of a new membership category.
- Full coverage and response on public policy issues.
- Revision of policies and procedures.
- Placement of large meetings in convenient locations.
- Development of a cadre of CDSA representatives.

May 19  
DSI Board  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

Caucus  
Steering  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

On the other end of the scale, 15 to 20 percent also felt CDSA should stop developing:

- A health insurance program.
- Training for CARI participants.

May 20  
Bay Area  
Caucus  
Contra Costa  
Arc  
10:00 am-Noon

The activities that respondents felt most strongly should be continued (85% or more of the votes):

- Develop a communication plan to organize partners (families, consumers, employers) at both local and state levels.
- Develop relationships with school age families.
- Connect members to CDSA.
- Organize Public Policy Committee, lobbyists, and staff to ensure full coverage and response.
- Provide timely and effective communication from lobbyists to members regarding legislation, regulations, hearings, meetings with key stakeholders, other issues.
- Maintain contact with all members.

Public Policy  
Committee  
Teleconference  
3:00-4:00 pm

May 26  
Central Valley  
Caucus  
Able Industries  
10:00 am-Noon

## Board Election Soon

We are mere days away from the 2010 CDSA Board election. The voting process will be through the same portal used for surveys, but we can e-mail an alternative version of the ballot that can be printed out, marked by hand, and either faxed or US Mailed.

Membership  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

Two director-at-large positions and the office of vice president are open on the Board. The candidates are listed below.

### For Vice President

Sylvia Anderson, Fontana Rehabilitation Services/ISS (Inland Empire Caucus)

May 27  
San Diego  
Caucus  
TMI  
10:00 am-Noon

### For Director

Wendy Rogina, VIP Solutions (Inland Empire Caucus)  
Kirby Wohlander, Toward Maximum Independence (San Diego Caucus)

Voters will have an option to write in alternative candidates. Each organization can vote only once (and we actually check that). A simple majority of votes will elect a candidate. The quorum requirement is one third of the members - but we'll pester folks until we get far more.

Barring unforeseen electronic circumstances, voting will begin Friday, April 2 and end Friday, April 30. The bylaw requirement for an election period is at least 20 but no more than 35 days.

## Health Care

No one claims to have a comprehensive view of the health care reform bill, and your humble editor is clearly unqualified to provide analysis. The best bet is that there will be unintended and probably expensive consequences.

We will need to work with people who can help us understand how the bill will affect CDSA members. Based on the blithe analyses of in a few articles, here's what's coming in 2014.

If your organization doesn't offer health insurance and:

- Has more than 50 employees.
- Has at least one full-time employee receiving a federal subsidy to purchase health insurance.

THEN, you would have to pay \$2,000 for every full-time worker. (But subtracting the first 30 employees from the assessment.) Companies with fewer than 50 employees won't face penalties.

If your organization offers health insurance:

- You might need to help low/middle-income workers who want to buy insurance through an exchange. (This involves calculations of four times the poverty level and sizes of insurance premiums.)
- And if your organization has more than 200 employees, you will have to automatically enroll workers in the plan. (Unless the employees specifically opt out of the coverage.)

And in the promised time, there will be Small Business Health Options Programs in which small business with 100 or fewer employees can work together to buy health insurance.

## Leadership Retreat

Caucus Chairs, Committee Chairs, and Board Members will gather in Long Beach for the annual Leadership Retreat on April 20-21. The meeting will start at 3:00 pm on the 20th and end at 3:00 pm on the 21st. The group will review committee recommendations, evaluate progress on the strategic plan, and develop 2010-11 objectives.

## Governmental Affairs

### Current Issues

New language has been inserted into AB 1260, sponsored by Gloria Negrete McLeod, so it now provides for a portion of the asset value of Lanterman to stay in the system to support housing costs for residents moving into the community. The focus is not on the DDS plan but on making sure that funding follows the residents.

The Legislation Subcommittee will be reviewing bills in early April and will submit recommendations to the full Public Policy Committee. You'll receive an update when the positions are established and you'll be able to read all about it on the [CDSA website](#).

### DDS Budget Advisory Committee

The BAC will be meeting in mid-April. Diana DeRodeff says that Acumen is supposed to be presenting its refinement of the CDER as a step toward defining cost allocations for participants in the proposed Individual Choice Budget program.

## CARI and Work Contracts

### CARI Activity - March 2010

	In Process		Wins	
	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Renewals	18	\$2,376,014.09		
New Business	6	\$7,680,000.00	4	\$828,866.00

### New Opportunities

We are working on identifying more contract opportunities weekly. New contract opportunities are sent out on Tuesdays. If you're interested in receiving these notifications or would like bid packets or information about any of the current bid opportunities, please e-mail [Andrea Gallippi](#). More opportunities are coming soon.

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

### CDSA Annual Meeting

The CDSA Annual Meeting will be held at the Downtown LA Sheraton, September 7-9. A unique feature of the conference will be a reception for state legislators from LA County. CDSA members and families from the area

will be asked to help plan that event.

## Members' Noteworthy News

The following are gleaned from newsletters received at the CDSA office.

### Desert Haven Enterprises

- Desert Haven was recently honored as a community hero.
- Jenni Moran was elected to serve on the Vendor Advisory Committee, representing Antelope Valley, and is chairing the Adult Services Board, which presents the Board of Trustees with information regarding the impact of the budget trailer bill. Congratulations Jenni!

### Vocational Visions

- Vocational Visions' annual fundraiser, "An Enchanted Evening ... April in Paris," will be held on April 24 at the Irvine Marriott.
- Their first annual piano concert was held in November: "From Bach to the Beatles"

### Hope Services

- HOPE's Alfred Street Leadership Group completed their annual fundraiser, "Candy for the Troops" and sent more than 132 pounds of candy to the troops in Iraq.

### PathPoint

- 45 Years of "Connecting People, Purpose & Communities" - congratulations!
- With American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding, PathPoint increased the number of low-income seniors able to get back into the workforce, ran a summer youth program for low-income and foster youth in Ventura County, and expanded their employment services to adults with mental illnesses.

### Toward Maximum Independence

- Working through a partnership with Job Options, Inc., TMI has been able to place people with disabilities into good paying jobs at the Marine Base at Camp Pendleton.

### Villa Esperanza Services

- Through the support of the Weingart Foundation, Villa Esperanza executed the major goals in their three-year strategic plan with a 41% increase in services to individuals with disabilities.

### Pomona Valley Workshop

- 2009 contract income for the Work Program achieved 113% of goal!
- The PVW County Thrift Store celebrated its tenth year of operations with an anniversary celebration and Grand Re-Opening. With this came the Re-Opening of the PVW eBay Store.

### Humboldt Community Access and Resource Center

- After 28 years with HCAR, 18 as Executive Director, Donna Shipley

has decided to step down to spend more time with her garden, her dogs, and her husband. Ross Jantz has been tapped by the Board of Directors to take over the company's reins. Ross is in his 20th year with HCAR and has spent the last 14 as Operations Manager. Congratulations to Donna and Ross!

## Board & Committee Meetings



### California Disability Services Association Board

Board members committed to completing a review of the strategic plan. The Board Retreat has been rescheduled for May 17 in Sacramento.

Staff is now preparing for CARI field work in April prior to a string of contract renewals. A part-time temporary employee will work on contract research and compliance reports. Notable contract work includes a Caltrans litter abatement project, a Department of Child Support Services support desk, and a food service contract at the military base in San Luis Obispo.

With the addition of Artistic Endeavors in Redding (thanks to Carl Ochsner), CDSA has 97 service provider members.

The database is now providing useful reports. This includes total clients served by CDSA membership for each service category and a report showing member agency staff and clients by legislative district.



### California Disability Services Institute Board

Work continues on the autism workshop.



### Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

Dynamic Solutions approved 10 health and safety grants totaling \$8889 and eight training and support grants totaling \$3550. Skip Covell has promised to push Jim Davis to send a check from NCI. Jan Richmond has communicated with the lawyer representing NCI and is trying to set up a meeting to explain the complexities of the situation to her.



### **CARI Committee**

The primary focus of the CARI Committee is working out the mechanics of securing a C-27 landscaping contractor's license for CDSA to hold. The Committee has concluded that CDSA needs to have regional qualifiers for the Responsible Managing Officer (RMO) or a Responsible Managing Employee (RME). These individuals will be employees of member agencies and will provide on-site expertise if needed. CARI has helped secure four new state contracts in the past month.

### **Caucus Steering Committee**

Caucus legislative breakfasts and similar events are going well. Staff is working on the family listserv. The next Committee meeting will focus on reviewing the strategic plan.

### **Membership Committee**

Five respite care agencies have joined CDSA under the Respite Care Affiliate Group. Directors from two of these agencies (Mike Huckins, Diane Toevs) attended the Legislative Affairs Conference. First time attendees to the Legislative Conference had dinner with the Membership Committee. The Committee has asked staff to put all the materials from the new member kits on-line. The Committee has now begun the analysis of other potential groups that may be considered as candidates for joining CDSA.

### **Public Policy Committee**

At its last meeting, the Committee worked on the talking points that will be used during the Legislative Affairs Conference. The Legislation Subcommittee will be meeting in April.

### **Public Relations Committee**

The Committee asked that a letter be sent to DDS in support of the Lanterman DC closing and offering help in the process. This was co-opted by Public Policy. The Committee has worked on a case statement but is now going back to square one. Chairperson Hearn is pleased that statistics have been gathered from the member reports but believes they need further analysis; and she wants to pursue non-reporting agencies.

## **Who's Who & How to Contact**

### **California Disability Services Association**

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### San Diego Caucus

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### LA County Caucus

TBA

### Orange County Caucus

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[Melissa Smith](#).

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