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First of the Month

August 2009

California Disability Services Association

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CDSA Calendar

August 2009

August 7

Central Coast Caucus Meeting

Anderson's

Restaurant, Buellton

9:00 - 11:00 am

August 10

Public Policy Committee Meeting

CDSA Office,

Sacramento

10:00-3:00 pm

August 11

Inland Empire Caucus VIP

10:00 am - Noon

Upstate Caucus
Green Barn

The News

Budget Done, But Fight Continues

The State of California now has a budget, but our battle isn't over. We have had positive conversations with several legislators who support cleanup of some of the technical implementation provisions of the new law that affects disability services. This is a result of more than 40 visits to legislators' offices by a coalition we formed with seven other organizations. These visits helped key legislators understand that there are several changes with no impact to the official budget that are very important to CDSA members.

Our allies in this effort include Arc of California, United Association of California Care Providers, Aging Services of California, California Supported Living Network, People First of California, Infant Development Association, and California Respite Association.

New Pitch

In a few days, we will be sharing with you details about our efforts, which will focus on the holiday schedule, respite, supported living, and other "technical" changes. It's going to be very important that everyone helps deliver this updated message to legislators and their staff. We want everyone to know that a clean-up bill has to happen.

For details on where we are, see a recent [Status Brief](#).

PR - The Stories Are Getting Out

Marcey Brightwell of R&K Grayling has been busy supporting our lobbying efforts with PR. Here's a quick rundown of our media coverage and public relations efforts in July.

- Steinberg Action Alert. July 6, 2009. Wrote and distributed action alert focusing on Sen. Steinberg's live internet chat on Sacramento ABC-TV Station KXTV-News10. Our efforts resulted in multiple questions being posed to the Senator about how state budget cuts will impact Californians with developmental disabilities.
- Fresno Bee guest editorial. July 9, 2009. Marion M. Karian, ED of Exceptional Parents Unlimited of Fresno, criticized the bonuses at the RCCV. [Click here.](#)
- Inland Valley Daily Bulletin story on successful transition out of Developmental Center. July 11, 2009. "Budget crisis will affect how state helps developmentally disabled population." Worked to include the perspective of disability services providers in this story about budget cuts and the future of State Developmental Centers. [Click here.](#)
- Columnists Matier & Ross in San Francisco Chronicle criticize bonuses at

Restaurant, Red Bluff
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Institute Board
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm

August 18
Orange County
Caucus Meeting
Project Independence
11:30 am-1:30 pm

August 19
Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

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

August 21
Dynamic Solutions
Board Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

August 24
CDSA Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:30 am

August 25
Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am - Noon

August 26
Central Valley Caucus
ABLE Industries
10:00 am-Noon

Membership and
Development
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

August 27
San Diego Caucus
T.E.R.I.

CVRC. July 12, 2009. [Click here.](#)

- Central Valley Business Times. July 16, 2009. Interview with INALLIANCE Executive Director Diana DeRodeff. Working with developmentally disabled adults in the community cost about one-third of the state hospital tab, she says. [Click here.](#)
- Bay area NBC affiliate story on budget cuts. July 21, 2009. The Faces of California's Budget Cuts Counties: residents prepare for major loss of funding. [Click here.](#)
- Sacramento ABC affiliate on impact of cuts on young children. July 22, 2009. [Click here.](#)
- KABC Los Angeles story on service cuts for young children. July 24 at 11 pm. The 11 pm newscasts in LA are typically the highest rated newscasts. [Click here.](#)
- Sacramento Bee Op-Ed column: Good Social Programs Make Good Sense. July 26, 2009. Does a good job making points that we have continued to advocate. [Click here.](#)
- NBC and CBS affiliates in Chico. July 28, 2009. Budget cuts could take toll on autistic children. [Click here.](#)
- Regional Contact Lists. We have made great progress compiling and organizing contact lists for agencies and consumers across California. There's still work to do, but building this communications infrastructure will help with current and future media efforts, providing reporters with specific examples of how budget cuts will impact real people in their own geographic areas.
- KFSN-ABC Fresno. July 29, 2009 at 5 pm. The lead story presented the impact of the governor's last-minute budget cuts on children with developmental disabilities. [Click here.](#)

If you have news or stories that can help us communicate with the public, [contact us.](#)

Two New Members

We are pleased to introduce two new members of CDSA. Please be sure to welcome them.

Learning ARTS

Justin McCoy, Executive Director
6400 Tupelo Drive
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
(916) 729-3098
jmccoy@learningarts.com

Vocation Plus Inc.

Judy M. Rogers
Fresno, California
5271 N. First Street
Fresno, CA 93710-7007
(559) 221-8019
vocationplus@yahoo.com

Membership Renewals

We have commitments from 91 organizations for the 2009-10 year. If you have not yet renewed, or you have any questions about dues billings, contact Jim Scott at

10:00 am-Noon

September 2009

August 8

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

September 9

Public Policy
Committee
Teleconference
3:30-4:30 pm

September 16-18

Annual Meeting
--Institute Board
Meeting
--Committee
Meetings
--CDSA Board Meeting
Irvine Crowne Plaza

September 23

Membership and
Development
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

September 25

Dynamic Solutions
Board Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

To join a
teleconference, call
1-888-909-7654 and
use PIN 499666#.

If you are not a
member of the
board or
committee, please
announce your
presence on the
call.

916-441-5844 or by [e-mail](#).

Committees for 2009-10

Most committees have started meeting, and others will soon - but it's not too late to join the party. Please contact the CDSA office ([link](#)) if you would like to participate in a committee:

Chair

Audit

CARI

Caucus Steering

Membership

Public Policy

(2 subcommittees)

>>Business Services

>>Legislative

Public Relations

(1 subcommittee)

>>Employer Recognition

Committee

Karen Jones

Ron Killingsworth

Sam Seaton

Sylvia Anderson

Will Sanford

Crystal Nevosh

Terry Colborn

Joyce Hearn

Lindsey Smith

Governmental Affairs

Relief from Loss of Subsidized Staff

The process of jumping through appropriate hoops continues. If you have been informed by your local school district or community college that they are removing funding, staff, facilities, or other support from your program, submit a request for relief. [Instructions](#) from earlier this year and a [form](#) are available on the [CDSA website](#). And please let us know when you file!

The first hoop came earlier in the year. We advised everyone receiving funding or staff (for day, infant, independent living, and respite programs) to submit a claim based on the possibility that funds from adult education would be cut - in case the state started counting the application deadline from the date the original 2009-10 budget passed. In a confusing letter of denial sent by DDS in February or March, one issue centered on whether any harm had fallen on you. Using the actual date when a district withdraws support, you should file a new claim, following the instructions.

CDSA Positions on Legislation

CDSA has requested amendments to AB 287, which addresses transition planning and employment (authored by Assembly Member Jim Beall, D-San Jose). The amendments protect consumer choice and eliminate provide reasonable accommodation in wage-setting to protect people with disabilities from having to compete directly with those without disabilities.

Of the other bills we continue tracking, we support 4 and watch 2. [Find more details, including descriptions of the bills here.](#)

CARI and Work Contracts



Reminders for CARI Participants

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to sign and return all original CARI Administrative Agreement and Contracts. Also, please take a moment to send a copy of your signed state/city/county contract to the CARI office for recording.

New Opportunities

We have identified more than 153 new contract opportunities in the following areas: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Mohave, Monterey, Napa, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Jose, San Louis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Trinity, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo. The contracts are for janitorial, landscape, food service, tree trimming, auto detailing, printing and mailing, general mailing, housekeeping, waste removal, and park maintenance. If you're interested in bid packets or information about any of these bid opportunities, please e-mail Melissa Smith at msmith@cal-dsa.org. More opportunities coming soon.

Staff Changes

Lisa Bramasco has joined the staff and taken charge of the Dynamic Solutions Insurance Services brokerage. She comes to us after working for Aon Insurance for seven years. You can reach Lisa at 877-800-8748 or through the CDSA office number, 916-441-5844. Her e-mail is LBramasco@dynamiccsols.com.

As many of you know, Andrea Gallippi will be going on maternity leave in mid-August. Until then, she'll be working from home and can be reached on her cell: 916-549-2798.

And, because many of you call Andrea for answers to ALL questions, it may be time for a brief review of who else you can talk to at the CDSA office:

[Melissa Smith](#), ext. 113 -- Annual meeting, CARI, listserv, mailings

[Lisa Bramasco](#), ext. 112 - Insurance

[Jim Scott](#), ext. 110 - Membership, dues billings, caucus activities, member services

[Chris Rice](#), ext. 106 - Anything you want to discuss, including board activity, planning, public relations, advocacy

[Dwight Hansen](#) is available for public policy issues at 916-798-0550.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Annual Meeting: September 16-18

Attend training sessions that address key issues for your organization!
Participate in a discussion that will set our public policy agenda for the coming year!
Join others in destroying an effigy of an unnamed government official!

CDSA's annual meeting, September 16-18, at the Irvine Crowne Plaza, will feature scintillating speakers, workshops on a dozen topics, networking opportunities, committee meetings, and a business meeting at which important votes will be taken - at least they're important to people who think we should follow our bylaws.

The registration fee is \$275 (reduced 15% from last year) and the hotel rate is \$149 - but these rates go up on September 2. [Register today!](#)

Encourage non-members to attend - or share their names with us, and we'll invite them!

Pre-Conference Training for Your Managers and Board Members

To educate your managers and board members about the unique world we operate in, CDSA is offering sessions titled "The Lanterman Act" and "The Financial Landscape" on Thursday afternoon, as pre-conference sessions. Registration is only \$25, so members in the area can send several people.

Fred Robinson, who has experience both working for a Regional Center and running the Arc of Ventura County, will provide a history of the Lanterman Act. Will Sanford, of Futures Explored, will explain how funding flows to disability services providers.

By the time this daring duo is done, your board members and staff will have a perspective it takes most people years to develop. [Register your group today!](#)

Board & Committee Meetings



California Disability Services Association Board

End of June financials indicate that CDSA will finish the year with a surplus of more than \$100,000, due in large part to the termination of the contract with Signature Consulting to manage CARI contracts. The Audit Committee reviewed and approved RINA for auditing fiscal year 2009. RINA is scheduled to come in August to perform the audit.

The Board has formed a committee that is developing standards and expectations for our lobbyists, which will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting. The Board discussed the issue of allowing exhibitors or affiliates that compete with DSI's insurance broker and concluded that the policy should be to refuse competing organizations access.

The Board discussed with CDSA member Judy Rogers her proposal that the CDSA pursue legal action to protect the Lanterman Act. She provided an e-mail from her lawyer, Bill McLaughlin, outlining some of the legal precedents. CDSA representatives will meet with Mr. McLaughlin. Pursuing legal action will be discussed at the Public Policy Committee meeting on August 10.



California Disability Services Institute

The Institute Board developed plans to conduct four seminars across the state during this administrative year. At two sites each (one north, one south) it will offer four hour sessions on Autism Programming and on Aging, Alzheimer's, and Dementia. To help make these sessions affordable, the Institute is asking members to host the seminars, with an offer of free registrations. Organizations interested in hosting should contact Chris Rice ([link](#)).

The Institute Board revised the agenda for the annual meeting and officially requested a \$15,000 sponsorship from Dynamic Solutions to support expenses of the training events at the annual meeting.



DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS
INSURANCE SERVICES

Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The Board learned that Lisa Bramasco will assume responsibility for customer support and insurance sales. Aon, the Safety and Risk Management Consultant, is preparing its training activities and outreach to pool members with high experience rates. The Board approved expenditures for computer equipment and a \$15,000 sponsorship of the CDSA Annual Meeting.

Caucus Steering Committee

Members of the Upstate Caucus, led by Lynn DeFreece, met with Assemblyman Jim Nielsen to discuss the Developmental Centers and impacts of the cuts on service providers. The next move will be to have him come to a caucus meeting in September or October. US Congressman Wally Herger has a daughter with a disability who enrolled with WTC.

Members of the Inland Empire Caucus met with State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, who said he didn't agree with DDS and provided positive feedback. Jim Scott was at their last meeting.

The Central Coast Caucus hasn't held a formal meeting since the April rally. A small group met with Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee's staff to explain that the DDS proposal doesn't represent a stakeholder consensus. The next caucus meeting is August 7.

The Central Valley Caucus prepared a letter on the \$500,000 given to RC staff as bonuses. There was no response, until CDSA's PR people got involved. Senator Dean Florez is now involved, and the RC has asked staff to return the money (which they can't make the staff do). Dwight Hansen pointed out that, because of an amendment last year, the RC doesn't have to report how it spends its Operations budget and

doesn't have to share its salary scale with DDS.

In the Bay Area, Carin Lawrence and Cami Weaver organized a rally in Santa Rosa that involved 250 people. Representatives from Evans and Chesbro's offices attended.

The Capitol Caucus has a new chair, Justin McCoy, Executive Director of Learning ARTS.

The Committee reviewed the monthly calendar and checklists and concluded they are good guidelines for caucuses. Each caucus was charged with reviewing the [strategic plan](#) and the Caucus Steering Committee Description. Feedback will be collected next month.

Membership and Development Committee

The Committee reviewed the sections of the strategic plan assigned to it and embraced objectives to develop a new member category, implement a membership campaign, integrate new members, maintain contact with current members, and follow-up with non-renewing members. The Committee felt that the objective to develop corporate commitments should be handled by another committee.

Public Policy Committee

The 2009-10 Public Policy Committee will have its first meeting in Sacramento on August 10, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee will have its first teleconference in August.

Personal Care Items

Clearance Sale

ABLE Industries needs to clear out overstock of personal care items, everything from hand lotion and shampoo to dental powder and razors, at cost plus shipping. For more information, contact Ron "The Deal Maker" Killingsworth, ron@ableindustries.org or (559) 651-8150.

Who's Who & How to Contact

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Assistant Executive Director

Andrea Gallippi, x 111 agallippi@cal-dsa.org

Membership Manager

Jim Scott, x 110, jscott@cal-dsa.org

Office Manager

Melissa Smith, x 113, msmith@cal-dsa.org

Dynamic Solutions Insurance Broker

Lisa Bramasco, x 112, lbramasco@dynamicssols.com

Caucus Chairs

Bay Area Caucus

Steve Crabel, (415) 733-0990 x 617, scrabel@toolworks.org

Upstate Caucus

Carl Ochsner, (530) 343-7994 x 104, carlo@ewtc.org

Capitol Caucus

Justin McCoy, (916) 729-3098, jmccoy@learningarts.com

Central Valley Caucus

Wende Leigh Ayers, (559) 651-8150 x 103, wende@ableindustries.org

Central Coast Caucus

Kirk Spry, (805) 928-5000 x 324, kspry@vtc-sm.org

Inland Empire Caucus

Andrea Wells, (951) 780-8444 x 223, andreaatexceed@aol.com

San Diego Caucus

Mark Berger, (619) 681-1999, mberger@pwiworks.org

LA County Caucus

TBA

Orange County Caucus

Tim Chervenak, (714) 549-3464 x 242, tim@proindependence.org

Committee Chairs

CARI

Ron Killingsworth, (559) 226-6268 x 15, rkillingsworth@arcfresno.org

Caucus Steering

Sam Seaton, (916) 788-2114, sseaton@prideindustries.org

Tim Chervenak, (714) 549-3464 x 242, tim@proindependence.org

Membership & Development

Sylvia Anderson, (909) 428-3833 x 11, programs@industrial-support.org

Wendy Rogina, (909) 483-5924, wendyr@vipsolutions.com

Public Policy

Will Sanford, (925) 284-3240, willsanford@futures-explored.org

Sub: Business Services

Crystal Nevosh, (805) 238-6630 x 25, cnevosh@nciaffiliates.org

Sub: Legislative

Terry Colborn, (916) 485-6711, terryc@essuperior.org

Public Relations

Joyce Hearn, (714) 744-5301 x 101, jhearn@yahoo.com

Sub: Employment Recognition

Lindsey Smith, (916) 643-1656, LindseySmith@futures-explored.org

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Chris Rice, (916) 441-5844 x 106, crice@cal-dsa.org

For more information regarding CDSA's monthly newsletter, please contact Melissa Smith at msmith@cal-dsa.org.

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