



First of the Month

February 2010

CDSA CONFIDENTIAL

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Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

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3:00-4:00 pm

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The News

Responding to the Proposed Budget: February Letters

A quick look at the proposed DDS budget might make it seem that the worst is over. The budget assumes a continuation for another year of the 3% rate reductions and a cut of \$25 million. Unfortunately, the budget also assumes that California will get a bucket of money from the federal government (about \$200 million) and a bucket of money from First Five, otherwise known as Proposition 10 funds (\$250 million).

Our take on this is that the administration is exuberantly optimistic in its expectation of getting \$450 million to put into the DDS budget. The federal funds require action from the U.S. Congress and the federal administration. The Proposition 10 funds will come only if voters approve the redirection of funds, a decision already rejected by voters last year!

HOWEVER, we certainly want to support getting more federal money. To this end, [CDSA has developed a letter to federal legislators](#) that we urge members to personalize and send. It asks for continued federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds as well as continued enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP/federal matching funds) at the national average of 57%.

In addition, we need to start educating state legislators about where the \$25 million (and probably larger, later cuts) should come from. So, [CDSA has developed a letter to state legislators](#) that says, "The community service system has already absorbed more than 85% of the cuts in services. We CANNOT cut more, especially in the face of no cuts to the \$300,000 per bed cost of state-owned developmental centers and few if any cuts to the bureaucracies at the state and local levels." [Please personalize and send!](#)

For the more formal statement of our positions that was distributed at the North/South Policy Meetings, [click here](#) (note member login required).

DDS New Idea: Close Lanterman

We applaud the recent announcement of the state's intent to close Lanterman Developmental Center. The message that it is not cost effective to operate an 82-year-old facility designed to house 3,000 but serving only 400 people finally was heard. Especially in the midst of service reductions in the community, the greater cost of the state service models is simply not justified. [Click here for the DDS release.](#)

Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am-Noon

The challenge now is to make sure it's done the right way:

- With efficiency in time and cost,
- With residents moving safely to the community,
- With operational savings to the overall system,
- With some of the savings going into community-based alternatives for living.

Orange County
Caucus
Project
Independence
11:30 am-1:00 pm

It's time to communicate with legislators. We support the closing of Lanterman, but we want to see it done right. [Click here for the CDSA response.](#)

February 17
Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00 pm-3:00 pm

Anyone remember "High Hopes," the Sinatra song with the ant and the rubber tree plant?

Legislative Affairs Conference

The next state budget is as solid as a house of cards, and we need to deliver messages to our legislators about preserving programs when the financial fantasies fall through. So, we need you at the Legislative Affairs Conference, March 17-18, at the Citizen Hotel in Sacramento.

February 18
Bay Area Caucus
Contra Costa Arc
10:00 am-Noon

[Register online today](#) for the early bird fee of \$365 (expires February 22nd). After that, registration is \$445. Non-member fees are higher.

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

If belt-tightening at your agency makes it difficult to attend, contact [Lisa Bramasco](#) at 877.800.8748 about the Dynamic Solutions scholarships for attending the conference.

February 22
CDSA Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:30 am

Impacts of the Current Cuts

Participants in the North/South Policy Meetings reported some of the ways Regional Centers are implementing the cuts. For example, there is at least one Regional Center where:

February 24
Membership
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

- Before an IPP, a committee meets to discuss the lowest cost options that should be presented at the IPP meeting.
- No other factors are considered in the least costly provider analysis.
- They require a service provider to define a budget for SLS after conducting the assessment.
- They use a respite assessment scoring sheet to evaluate client needs. IHSS hours and other services reduce the client's score.
- There's foot dragging and waiting for details on the alternative component and senior programs.
- Intervention during "floor time" (which has been done for years) has now been stopped because it is labeled experimental.
- They stopped transportation to an early childhood social skills group.
- Case managers are insisting clients take public transit even when there would be no additional cost to pick them up on an established route.
They have added more people to some routes, keeping clients on buses up to four hours per day.
- Because there isn't any alternative transportation, a client who doesn't wish to participate in a large activity has dropped out

February 25
San Diego
Caucus
TMI
10:00 am-Noon

February 26
DSI Board
Teleconference
1:30-2:30 pm

March 2
Public Relations
Committee
10:00-11:00 am

March 9
Upstate Caucus
Green Barn
Restaurant, Red
Bluff
11:30 am-1:00 pm

one day per week.

- There is talk of how to consolidate licensing and quality assurance.
- They're excited about the CEO program.

If you have a story that wasn't shared at one of the policy meetings, send it to [Chris Rice](#).

Institute Board
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm

Surf Sites, See CDSA Services

[California Hires the Best](#), a website that connects potential employers to CDSA members, is now operational. It explains how an agency can provide supported employment for an individual, provide a group, or contract to provide services. It offers contact information for all agencies operating in a given county or allows the employer to contact CDSA.

March 10
Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm
(tentative)

The [CDSA website](#) has transformed, now free from its long-term limbo as we disengaged from a cloud-computing database and linked website service. Updates will now be continuous, [so come look at what we've done](#).

March 11
CARI Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

Help Define Who We All Are

Identity is a two-way street. Showing that your organization belongs to CDSA defines your commitment to the industry, the association, and, most importantly, to the persons with disabilities that you serve. At the same time, the members make CDSA what it is, and we build the strength of the organization by showing who belongs.

Public Policy
Committee
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm
(tentative)

That's why we've developed a logo for our members to display on your Web site and in printed materials. We've developed a graphic standards guide to assist you in correctly displaying the CDSA member logo and advise you on the best possible format for each application. You can download the new [CDSA graphic standards](#), the Association's logos and an instructional guide [on our new website](#).

March 16
Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00-Noon

March 17
Legislative Affairs
Conference
Citizen Hotel
8:00 am-9:00 pm

10 Reminders to Board Members: Fiduciary Obligations

Here's some advice from CDSA counsel Jan Richmond. The turn of the new year is a good time for a short reminder list to boards of directors about meeting their fiduciary duties. These are simple action items, but often forgotten. The reminders hold true for both for-profit and non-profit corporations. It is also a good time for board members to review their obligations and, as necessary, receive board training.

March 18
Legislative Affairs
Conference
Citizen Hotel
8:00 am-1:00 pm

1. Review the articles of incorporation to make sure they are consistent with corporate operations (and for non-profit corporation consistency with the mission statement).
2. Have the bylaws reviewed by a lawyer if they have not been legally reviewed in the past five years.
3. Meet as often as necessary to provide strong oversight of the organization and to meet the obligations as directors, even if additional meetings must be called.
4. Commit to attending a majority of the meetings or accept another, more appropriate role with the organization.
5. Require the lead executive to provide the board with relevant

CDSA Board Meeting
Citizen Hotel
12:30-1:30 pm

March 24
Central Valley

Caucus
ABLE Industries
10:00 am-Noon

Membership
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

March 25
San Diego
Caucus
TMI
10:00 am-Noon

March 31
Cesar Chavez Day
Holiday

information (including financials) at least five days prior to any meeting for advance review in order to make meetings more productive.

6. Seek methods to improve corporate operations rather than allowing things to run the way they have always run.
7. Consider how to effectively collaborate, advocate and lobby (yes, even non-profit corporations can lobby, but know the rules) to further corporate interests.
8. Adopt or affirm a conflict of interest policy to help ensure that the board members are always acting in the best interests of the corporation.
9. Adopt other governance-related policies not simply to meet compliance requirements but to help the board and management do their jobs better.
10. Hold each board member accountable for implementing these resolutions.

Confidentiality Policy (Second Reminder)

The CDSA Board has approved a policy on confidential materials. We publish information that we would like to have distributed broadly, but most distributions fit into the category of a member benefit and should be controlled accordingly. Effective immediately, all written material from CDSA staff, contractors, and member organizations (when using a CDSA distribution channel) is considered "CDSA Confidential." Exceptions to this policy must be boldly noted as a "Public Document." The following is a partial list of common documents that are CDSA Confidential, therefore are not to be forwarded to non-CDSA members:

- Roster of member organizations
- Newsletters
- Committee meeting agendas and minutes
- Board meeting agendas and minutes
- CDSA member status briefs (normally from Lobbyists)
- Information on the CDSA Listserv
- CDSA business plans
- CDSA public policy plans

Every attempt will be made to mark documents as "CDSA Confidential" or "Public Document"; with the default always as "CDSA Confidential" if not noted. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the CDSA Executive Director or the CDSA Assistant Executive Director. This policy is a condition of CDSA membership and will be administered accordingly.

Governmental Affairs

Current Issues

In addition to that little budget gap we're worried about, the Public Policy Committee is working on an analysis of Developmental Center costs, moving AB 1260 forward (fixing the method of the respite care cut), and tracking the push by APSE to eliminate the subminimum wage.

CDSA Lobbyists Busy

CDSA's lobbyists (Dwight Hansen, Carl London, Sue North) have worked with legislators on language for meal and break periods and to suspend ratio audits unless health and safety regulations are involved. They have started presenting CDSA's views on the impact of budget cuts at a series of hearings and are contacting CDSA members to participate.

DDS Budget Advisory Committee

The next meeting of the DDS Budget Advisory Committee will be February 11. Diana DeRodeff is representing CDSA.

CARI and Work Contracts

New Opportunities

We are working on identifying more and 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 [Melissa Smith](#). More opportunities coming soon.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Legislative Affairs Conference

Citizen Hotel, Sacramento
March 17-18, 2010

Bring CDSA hot topics to the faces of Legislators and their staffs. CDSA will arrange visits with your legislators during this two-day conference. The member registration fee is \$20 lower than 2009! [Register online today](#) for the early bird registration!

Members: \$365 (after February 22nd - \$445)
Non-Members: \$485 (after February 22nd - \$535)

Scholarship

If belt-tightening at your agency makes it difficult to attend, contact [Lisa Bramasco](#) at 877-800-8748 about the Dynamic Solutions scholarships for attending the conference.

Conference Schedule

Tuesday, March 16

- 8:00 am - CDSA Golf Enthusiast Outing
- 2:00 pm - Registration Open
- 5:00 pm - Pre Conference Meet and Greet at the Grange
- 6:00 pm - Registration closes

Wednesday, March 17

- 7:30 am - Registration & Continental Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 am - Preparation for legislative visits
- 9:00 am - Legislative visits begin
- Noon - Lunch at Citizen Terrace
- 1:00 pm - Legislative visits continue
- 6:00 pm - Hosted Reception with live music at Citizen Terrace

Thursday, March 18

7:30 am - Registration & continental breakfast buffet

8:00 am - De-briefing and next steps

10:00 am - Breakout sessions

11:15 am - CDSA business meeting

12:30 pm - Lunch

More detailed conference schedule information will be distributed to registrants in February.

Accommodations

To book your accommodations at the Citizen Hotel, call reservations at (916) 447-2700 and reference CDSA Group rate of \$182 (available until February 22nd).

Training for Staff and Outreach to Families

Help your clients and families understanding how their world is changing. The following resources can be downloaded from the [CDSA website](#):

- Brochure on Least Costly Provider
- Requirement Brochure on Senior and Alternative Customized Components
- PowerPoint on Financial Impacts on the DDS System
- PowerPoint on Grassroots Advocacy

For presentation to staff:

- PowerPoint on Least Costly Provider Requirement

Our thanks to the CARE Parent Network, Consumer Action Committee of Antioch ALIVE, Barbara Maize (Contra Costa Arc), and Will Sanford (Futures Explored) for their contributions to these materials. Volunteers are working on translations of some of these materials.

We welcome assistance in creating materials for clients and families. Contact [Chris Rice](#) or [Melissa Smith](#) if you know an action committee or other volunteers who can help.

Board & Committee Meetings



California Disability Services Association Board

RINA Accountancy Corporation presented the audited 2008-09 financial statement to the CDSA Board with a clean opinion and supported all solutions to issues raised in the management letter. In February, CDSA is installing a new server to support all computer functions at the office. The server was purchased by Dynamic Solutions. The venues for the next two CDSA Annual Meetings will be downtown LA (2010) and San Diego (2011).



California Disability Services Institute Board

The Institute Board did not meet in January.



Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The Dynamic Solutions Board will review grant requests in February.



CARI Committee

The CARI Committee has completed work on a Code of Ethics that will guide the behavior of member volunteers who work for the CARI program. The Committee is updating contact lists for state contract officers. The CARI Committee would like to recommend to the Public Policy Committee that our lobbyists move forward with trying to include disability business enterprises and service providers in the DVBE participation goals in regards to contracting with the state. The Committee also reviewed staff's progress in targeting Northrop Grumman as the test case for bringing the CARI system to a private company.

Caucus Steering Committee

The **Capitol Caucus** held a family forum in Roseville on January 19, drawing some 30 family members for a presentations and discussion of the budget cuts, the least costly provider rules, the autism committees across the state, and grassroots lobbying.

The **Inland Empire Caucus'** Legislative Breakfast on January 29 (theme: THEIR LIVES, YOUR CHOICE) drew more than 120 people, featured stories of clients who have been impacted by budget cuts, and hosted one state senator, three assembly members, a mayor, a city council member, and representatives of four other elected officials. The caucus honored Wilma Carter, who became a strong supporter for AB1260 after initial objections to the bill.

On February 10, the **Upstate Caucus** will host former Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa (possibly future State Senator) for a morning of meet-and-greet, questions and answers, and a general opportunity to

learn more about Doug's ideas for more effective and efficient government. The meeting will be at the Red Bluff Community Center, 1500 S. Jackson Street, from 10:00 am to noon.

Membership Committee

After discussion at the North and South Policy Meetings, the Membership Committee plans to submit the proposal for a new affiliate member category to the CDSA Board.

Public Policy Committee

The Committee reviewed the immediate reductions to the DDS budget, which include the extension of the temporary 3% rate decrease and a new reduction of \$25 million. However the analyses of the vulnerabilities in the planned budget are much larger:

Revenue Vulnerability

- \$244 + 6 million - First Five funding
- \$25 million - Unallocated reduction
- \$200 million - FMAP to 57% & ARRA extension

If the ballot initiative fails on First Five funding, and the requested federal support does not come, the total funding hole would be in the \$475 million range.

The Committee also noted that the (Non DDS) cuts to IHSS will have a significant impact since Regional Centers will need to address the resulting funding losses for supported living.

For now, the Committee agreed that the response should be to address the budget as proposed. The CDSA response to the proposed cut of \$25 million is that it should be absorbed by:

- Regional Centers
- Centralized accounting
- DDS Headquarters
- Unified budget

In addition, CDSA should encourage members to contact their federal legislators to urge support for the FMAP increase and ARRA extension.

The Committee has set up work groups to analyze:

- Developmental Center costs and potential savings.
- Family support.
- Flexibility issues.
- Cost savings proposals for the first \$25 million cut.
- The Prevention Program.
- Transportation.
- Adult education.
- Federal minimum wage.
- Future leadership at DDS.

Public Relations Committee

The Committee continues work on a case statement as the first step in

developing a PR plan.

Who's Who & How to Contact

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