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First of the Month

July 2009

California Disability Services Association

A Message from the CDSA President

I attended my first CDSA (then called Cal-Arf) meeting in September, 1982, as a newly-minted work center manager with a background in behavioral psychology and a vague understanding of the rehabilitation industry. At thirty-four years of age, I was impatient with my elders in the field and can recall thinking, as I walked through the halls of the old El Rancho Hotel in Sacramento, just how much "grey hair" there was in the association's leadership. Ironic that now, after twenty-seven additional years attending CDSA events, I am one of the "fossils" I used to wonder about! ([Click here to Read More!](#))

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CDSA Calendar

July 4
Independence Day

July 8
Public Policy
Committee
Teleconference
3:30-4:30 pm

July 14
Institute Board
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm

July 15

The News

Budget Battle Continues

As this article is written, the Senate considers the 11 bills passed by the Assembly to close the budget gap to \$2 billion - and the Governor promises to veto them. For those who want to read the current bill language affecting disability services, go to [Trailer Bill ABx345](#).

The good news: Our pressure has persuaded DDS to discover they *can* collect more federal funding and *can* close a small Developmental Center during the next fiscal year.

The bad news: We still face \$254.4 million in cuts.

Here are some of the changes in service we face:

- No payment for specialized transportation if is public transportation available.
- Clients will go to the "least costly" day or work program.
- Social recreation or camping services will be eliminated for thousands of people.
- Up to 11,000 infants and toddlers will lose all or part of their services.
- All non-residential programs will not be paid for 14 days of services.
- There will be different holidays for people with disabilities.
- Respite services will be reduced by as much as 80%.
- Authority to select the type, amount, and location of many services is being shifted from the consumer in their IPP to the regional center.

This is why we need you to make phone calls or send faxes. Our basic messages are:

- The cuts to our community services will be devastating if they are implemented the way the Department of Developmental Services proposes!
- The Legislature has been misled that these cuts are agreed upon by the

Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00

July 17
Dynamic Solutions
Board Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

July 20
CDSA Board
Teleconference
1:30-2:30 pm

July 22
Membership and
Development
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

July 23
CARI Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

August 2009

August 11
Institute Board
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

August 12
Public Policy
Committee
Teleconference
3:30-4:30 pm

August 17
CDSA Board
Teleconference
1:30-2:30 pm

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

August 21

stakeholders. They are not!

- We accept the need to reduce the impact on the General Fund, but we have identified better alternatives - alternatives that have not been adequately studied or submitted by the Department.
- The approved cuts haven't been equitable - 93% of the cuts come from direct service dollars.

[Click here for more details and legislators' contact information, and informative charts.](#)

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 through June 29, 2009.

- [Story on closure of Sierra Vista in Yuba City](#). KOVR CBS 13 Sacramento, Monday, June 15, 6 pm broadcast.
- [Story on Sierra Vista Closure and the success of a former resident](#). KXTV ABC -News10 Sacramento, Tuesday, June 16, 5 pm broadcast.
- [Story on Sierra Vista and the cost savings associated with community based living programs](#). KHSL CBS Chico, Wednesday June 17, 5 pm. KNVN NBC Chico Wednesday June 17, 5 pm broadcast.
- [Story on developmental centers and budget waste](#). CTNS (Capitol Television News Service), Wednesday, June 24. CTNS is similar to the Associated Press for Television. It provides daily satellite feeds of television stories to more than 20 stations across California, from Redding to San Diego. Without an expensive tracking service, we do not know exactly where it aired, but we do know it made it into dozens of TV stations.
- [Spanish language wire story](#). Wednesday, June 24. Spanish Language wire story focusing on how state budget cuts will impact Californians with developmental disabilities. It was distributed through "EFE," which is the fourth largest wire service in the world, behind services like AP and Reuters. We know it appeared on Yahoo news, Terr.com, Orlando Sentinel and other publications across the state and country. Many local community Spanish newspapers do not publish on-line, so it is difficult for us to track. The story will help us gain additional coverage in Spanish language TV. For those who may not know, Spanish language news in LA actually has the highest ratings, higher than the English stations.
- Media Action Alert. Friday, June 26. Distributed media action alerts to coalition members, offering tips that consumers, providers and family members can use to spread messages within their own communities.

Marcey has also made great progress compiling and organizing contact lists for agencies and consumers across California. Building this infrastructure will help with our current and future media efforts, providing reporters with specific examples of how budget cuts will impact real people in their own geographic areas. If you have news or stories that can help us communicate with the public, [contact us](#).

DSI Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

August 26
Membership and
Development
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

August 27
CARI Task Force
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

September 2009

September 16-18
Annual Meeting
Irvine

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.



PR - Time to Write to the Editor

You can contribute to our PR effort in another way: write letters to the editor. Marcey has provided [instructions](#); sample letters [one](#), [two](#), [three](#), and [four](#); and a [media contact list](#).

Membership Renewals

We have changed the system on membership renewals. We have sent out billings for the new year, with paperwork for a new dues calculation. This process will keep your membership current while the new dues paperwork is being submitted and processed. If you have any questions about dues billings, contact Jim Scott at 916-441-5844 or by [e-mail](#).

Committees for 2009-10

As the year begins, we are organizing committees for 2009-10. Please contact the CDSA office ([link](#)) if you would like to participate in a committee:

Committee Chairs

CARI - Ron Killingsworth, Chair
Caucus Steering - Sam Seaton, Chair
Membership - Sylvia Anderson, Chair
Public Policy - Will Sanford
>>Business Services - Crystal Nevosh, sub-committee Chair
>>Legislative - Terry Colborn, sub-committee Chair
Public Relations - Joyce Hearn, Chair
>>Employer Recognition - Lindsey Smith, sub-committee Chair

Legislative Advocacy

CDSA Stances on Bills

Of the bills we continue tracking, we support 4, watch 2, and oppose 1. Find more details, [including descriptions of the bills here](#).

CARI and Work Contracts

The 15% Cut

The Governor's Executive Order (EO) S-09-09 requires all state agencies to reduce 2009-10 contract expenditures by at least 15%. The Department of General Services has released a notice that explains: If a contract has been signed and goods or services have been provided, the state will pay according to the contract.

- If the services have not yet been provided, agencies will cancel or suspend the contract.
- Once the 2009-10 budget has been passed, state agencies will have 30 days to reduce contract costs by 15%, by "cancellation, suspension, renegotiation, or otherwise." Otherwise?

CDSA is working diligently to protect existing CARI contracts and renewals that are in the queue. Most state employees are waiting for specific instructions, but

departments aren't responding. To advocate more effectively, we asked all members with state contracts through CARI to provide some statistical information. If you haven't completed the form, please do so now.

Staff Changes

Skip Covell has decided to leave the Dynamic Solutions Insurance Services brokerage. Insurance questions should be directed to the CDSA office, 916-441-5844. We wish Skip well as he moves on to new opportunities.

Melissa Smith has joined the CDSA staff as Office Manager to hold things together while Andrea Gallippi has her second child. (Birth statistics will be duly reported, sometime in August.) Melissa has run her own event management firm and worked for the California Lighting Technology Center, a nonprofit research laboratory at UC Davis. She will be managing CDSA's Annual Meeting, supporting CARI, helping to update our websites, and providing administrative support on other projects. Her ambition is to know as much about CARI as she knows about light emitting diodes.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Annual Meeting

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 guaranteed to be shorter than the state's budget debate-much shorter. Further details are just days away.

Save the Date
September 16-18
CDSA's Annual Meeting
Irvine, CA

Board & Committee Meetings



California Disability Services Association Board

At its retreat, the CDSA Board approved the 2009-10 budget and the 2009-14 strategic plan. The budget projects lower income from dues, conferences, and CARI contract management. The Board reduced expenses in conferences, contracted services, travel, and office operations, but put in funds to support public relations activities.

The Board approved the new strategic plan, which addresses building the disability services industry, lobbying, public relations, membership development, member services, and increasing CDSA's income. [See the whole plan here.](#)



CDS Institute Board

The Institute Board approved Vic Wursten as a member and accepted the resignation of Pamela Hayes.

The Board discussed possible topics for workshops at the annual meeting and later presentations around the state. Here are the topics that will be developed into workshops:

- Grassroots Work: Engaging Parents and Consumers
- Meals and Breaks
- Layoffs and Terminations
- Autism: How it Affects, How We Work with It, Best Practices
- Impact of Budget Cuts & New Opportunities: Planning for the Future
- Supported Living Issues
- Better Mousetrap
- Dysphagia: Feeding, Swallowing, and Dealing with Choking
- Morale Building
- Media training



Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The Board approved the 2009-10 budget, with a conservative estimate of income and increased sponsorships for CDSA. Director of Business Development Skip Covell reported he provided a sponsorship to the Arc of California conference

and is working on several quotes for the July 1 renewal period. He has written a summer edition of the DSIS newsletter and updated the website with safety information.

The Board approved renewing its safety and risk management contract with Aon Risk Insurance Services West. Aon has completed all 10 safety requirements for the State Compensation Insurance Fund pool for this year. Two consultants worked on safety issues with five organizations in the pool and will work in the coming year with other organizations whose ratings indicate the greatest need.

Caucus Steering Committee

The Central Coast Caucus organized a rally at their local city hall on April 30. Six to seven service providers and 200 people attended. There was good media visibility (three television stations, two radio stations), providing an opportunity to explain positions on current legislation.

The San Diego Caucus held another very successful Legislative Breakfast on March 20, with 400 in attendance. The caucus conducted a survey regarding the 3% and 7.1% cuts and distributed the results broadly but didn't catch media attention.

The Capitol Caucus is in the process of identifying a new Chairperson. Potential CDSA members are actively participating in the caucus. The caucus would like to increase participation at Legislative Breakfasts and is asking for templates, outlines, promotional material or anything else that other caucuses have that may assist with increasing attendance/participation.

Kirk Spry agreed to provide an outline of the promotional material and logistics for their very successful April 30 rally. The Caucus Chairs will also be sending their caucuses' templates for successful Legislative Breakfasts. CDSA will compile the material and make it available to other member organizations. On July 1, Sam Seaton will move into the Caucus Steering Committee Chair position.

CDSA's plans developed from the Leadership Retreat can now be reviewed and discussed at your next caucus meeting. The Committee discussed the need for a closer link to the Public Policy Committee (PPC). Effective immediately, all future PPC meeting agendas will include an action item to capture pertinent information to be sent to the caucuses.

Membership and Development Committee

The Committee is close to finalizing a "Membership Benefits" piece but is still seeking photographs from caucuses for use in promotional materials. The Committee discussed how non-members are benefiting from CDSA's work and will explore limiting the forwarding capability of Listserv items and labeling of CDSA materials with "CDSA Confidential." The CDSA office will research and provide the caucuses with a list of potential (target) members for their respective areas. The caucuses will add to the list based on local knowledge, prioritize the combined list, and then proceed with the recruitment process.

The Committee also reviewed a document titled "Caucus Guidelines - CDSA Membership Event" and the new 30 day delinquency clause within the delinquent dues policy. For FY09, CDSA has received 29 renewals, which is 27% of our goal

(goal is 107; 97 in FY08, plus 10 new members) and commitments for 36% of FY08 revenue. At this time, renewals are coming in at a faster pace than last year.

Public Policy Committee

In response to Terry Delgadillo's misleading comments, the participants in the small stakeholder process are signing a letter to legislators to indicate they don't support the recommendations from DDS on the \$100 million cuts.

The Committee discussed approaching CARF to request that they extend the 3 year accreditation to a 5 year in the interim. CDSA can send a letter urging CARF to change the length of the accreditation directly since it does not require any legislative approval. The CDSA agenda is still to urge the department and regional centers to further efficiencies within their bureaucracies. The committee does not want to give all authority to DDS and the Regional Centers.

Licensing and Regional Centers both visit for quality and safety of CCF programs without communication between the two entities. CARF did a crosswalk between 17 and 22 to show that accreditation could do the work for both, but it was left by the wayside. Conversations should be opened to DDS about who gets licensed by whom. Licensing is more for facilities than for Day Programs where there isn't a facility. ICF is licensed and regulated by DHS. If it is not facility based licensing, CDSA can put DSS's involvement on the table for discussion. CDSA needs to look further into the ramifications on consolidating 17 & 22.

DDS has rejected the unanticipated rate adjustment protests (due to adult education cuts) even though they were clearly submitted in the appropriate time frame. This represents millions of dollars for our programs. CDSA may need to look into an appeals process. The first step is to develop a mass letter for an appeal. More to come on this.

Who's Who & How to Contact

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For more information regarding CDSA's monthly newsletter, please contact Bailey McCann at bmccann@cal-dsa.org.

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