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# First of the Month

July 2010

CDSA CONFIDENTIAL

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Manual Now  
Available

CDSA Annual  
Meeting

Members'  
Noteworthy News

## Quick Links

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## CDSA Calendar

July 1  
New fiscal year  
begins

July 4  
Independence Day

July 5  
Independence Day  
Holiday

July 6  
PR Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

July 8  
Structure &  
Resources  
Committee

## The News

### Time for More Visits

The sun is out, the temperatures are up, and Legislators are back in their district offices. It's an excellent time to call for an appointment-en masse. Legislators need a refresher course on our concerns, outlined below.

### CDSA on the Budget Conference Committee

The Budget Conference Committee is still keeping the 1.25% cut open. That's why we need an army communicating our concerns, both to Conference Committee members and other legislators. It is critically important that literally hundreds of calls, letters, and personal visits flood each member's offices, letting them know:

- You oppose the 1.25% payment cut. We cannot absorb another \$48 million hit on top of the \$500 million we have already taken!
- Your agency has already suffered (specify the amount) significant cuts in the last two years and freezes for many years before - you can't absorb more!
- You are watching the Conference Committee very closely and truly hope they will protect real and direct services supporting the lives of people with disabilities.

There is no one else who will fight as hard for these outcomes as will you, your employees, your boards of directors and the families and consumers you serve. Please act today!

If your legislator says the \$25 million cut has to happen, urge a cut in the Prevention Program. Initially, the funding for the Prevention Program was pegged at \$27 million for the initial 9-month roll-out to serve 17,000 families. For FY 2010-11, that amount was increased to the 12 month roll-out with \$36 million pegged for funding. But the enrollment has never materialized. It remains at approximately 4,100 families. To learn more in the action alert [click here](#).

### Avoid a Double Whammy

We also need your help to "divide the question." Isn't parliamentary procedure great?

There are currently two budget plans; one proposed primarily by Assembly Democrats to address more current year financial problems

Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

**July 12**  
Strategic Planning  
Group of the  
LA Legislators  
Reception  
Committee  
Teleconference  
1:00-2:00

through a series of revenue enhancements/transfers and a version by Senate Democrats that would provide a more long-term plan involving the shifting of responsibilities for some major programs to counties, accompanied by a transfer of funding for the operation of these programs.

We have a problem with the Trailer Bill Language that's in the Senate version. The budget trailer bill for DDS mixes together two issues:

1. The 1.25% payment cut.
2. Temporary authority for regional centers to modify staff requirements for providers.

**July 13**  
Capitol Caucus  
InAlliance  
10:00 am-Noon  
  
Upstate Caucus  
Green Barn  
Restaurant, Red  
Bluff  
11:30 am-1:00 pm

Here is some of the dangerous language in the bill:

*4791. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation, effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, regional centers may temporarily modify personnel requirements, functions, or qualifications or staff training requirements for providers, except for licensed or certified residential providers, whose payments are reduced in Section 2 by 4.25 percent:*

Institute Board  
Teleconference  
3:00-4:00 pm

This language lacks specificity, raises important quality considerations, and puts the authority to determine what relief will be granted entirely in the hands of regional centers. If the Conference Committee deals with the Senate version, we want these two issues separated. There's no reason to leave a potential for a double whammy on the table when the only issue most legislators see is the money.

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

Obviously, we still support the Assembly version because the Assembly rejected both the payment cut and the trailer bill language. We have not given up this position.

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

So, we ask that you write *another* letter (for the sample letter [click here](#)).

**July 21**  
Caucus Steering  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

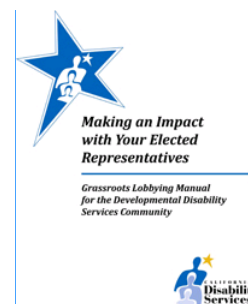
### Updated Grassroots Lobbying Manual Now Available

There is a newly updated resource for you and your employees. The CDSA grassroots manual, *Making an Impact with Your Elected Representatives*, has been updated and expanded. Electronic copies are available to download on the [CDSA website](#).

**July 22**  
San Diego Caucus  
TMI  
10:00 am-Noon

The file has been optimized for electronic distribution; contact [Melissa Smith](#) if you are interested in obtaining files optimized for printing.

Structure &  
Resources  
Committee  
Teleconference



2:00-3:00 pm

**July 26**  
CDSA Board  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:30 am

**July 28**  
Membership  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

**August 3**  
PR Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

**August 10**  
Capitol Caucus  
InAlliance  
10:00 am-Noon

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

**August 11**  
Public Policy  
Committee  
CDSA Office,  
Sacramento  
10:00 am-3:00 pm

**August 17**  
Orange County  
Caucus  
Project  
Independence  
11:30 am-1:00 pm

## And We Need Your Help On ...

We have heard that the San Diego Regional Center may have given merit pay increases to its staff. Does anyone know if other regional centers are giving raises? Even better, do you have an e-mail or printed statement to that effect?

## Governmental Affairs

### FMAP Funding Meets Perils of Pauline

U.S. Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) announced that he's introducing a new bill to "break the logjam on funding for unemployment assistance, FMAP and summer jobs." Titled the "Fiscally Responsible Relief for our State Act of 2010," it will extend the programs, paying for them with unspent stimulus money and by cutting wasteful spending. (No mention of rabbits coming out of hats.)

Brown voted against the Democrats' extension bill, which would have raised taxes and added to the federal deficit. Will the Democrats support Brown's bill? With more than 30 states assuming the federal government would extend the funding, one would think there'd be 60-plus Senators ready to move it along. Yet, this is the third rescue attempt. In the meantime, Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid is pushing for an up/down vote on FMAP alone. Did Pauline ever have to wait this long?

### Bills of Interest

The whistleblower bill is back! **AB 435** has been amended to protect Regional Center employees who act as whistleblowers. CDSA is supporting this new incarnation. You can savor every word of it [here](#).

**SB 1282** was recently amended by Senator Steinberg to become a bill focused on managed care plans to provide coverage under mental health parity law for autism and other developmental disorders. (The prior version was a bill to 'sanction' ABA therapy in treating autism and it provoked a lot of opposition.)

Our prior position had been to "Watch" this bill. It will now be reconsidered, so watch for an update. [Click here](#) to see the bill.

### Caring about Respite Care

At the second meeting of the respite care task force (subcommittee of the DDS Stakeholder Budget Advisory Group), the only respite cap alternatives that DDS seemed to support were an additional 3% rate reduction for respite (which the California Respite Association is completely against) or an immediate pilot of the Individual Choice Budget for about 500 consumers at each Regional Center who are between the ages of 3 and 22.

DDS has consistently stated that they do not see how the respite cap cost savings could be reaped with the AB 1260 alternative of a 2% reduction in respite utilization (or a slightly greater percentage reduction in authorized respite hours). DDS wants to hold onto the savings it already has realized from the respite cap, leaving respite providers stranded unless something else is offered. The Budget Advisory Group has until July 8 to provide DDS with feedback about the pilot ICB option.

**August 18**  
Structure &  
Resources  
Committee  
CDSA Office,  
Sacramento  
10:00 am-4:00 pm

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

**August 19**  
CARI & Business  
Services Committee  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:00 am

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

**August 23**  
CDSA Board  
Teleconference  
10:00-11:30 am

**August 25**  
Central Valley  
Caucus  
Able Industries  
10:00 am-Noon

Membership  
Committee  
Teleconference  
2:00-3:00 pm

**August 26**  
San Diego Caucus  
TMI  
10:00 am-Noon

## CARI and Work Contracts

### 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](mailto: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 and registration will open later this month. A detailed agenda will follow, but here are the basics.

#### Tuesday, September 7

9:00 - 3:00	Golf
2:00 - 7:30	Registration Open
4:00 - 6:00	CDSA Board Meeting
6:30 - 8:00	No Host Reception

#### Wednesday, September 8

7:30 - 5:00	Registration Open
7:30 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 - 12:00	General Session & Training Workshops
12:30 - 1:45	Lunch
2:00 - 5:00	Workshops and Committee & Caucus Meetings
6:00 - 9:00	Hosted CDSA Reception for LA Legislators

#### Thursday, September 9

7:30 - 8:00	Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00	Membership Meeting
9:15 - Noon	Public Policy
Noon - 1:30	Lunch

A unique feature of the conference will be a reception for state legislators from LA County. CDSA members and families from the area have been asked to help plan that event. To learn more and become involved, contact [Melissa Smith](mailto:Melissa.Smith).

The Institute is working on speakers and workshop topics and welcomes suggestions or volunteers to make presentations. Send your comments to [Chris Rice](mailto:Chris.Rice).

## Members' Noteworthy News

### Lincoln Training Center

Become a Facebook FAN and follow LTC client [Miguel Moreno](https://www.facebook.com/MiguelMoreno) on his NISH-sponsored trip to Washington DC. Miguel is very excited, as this is his first plane ride and his first visit to the nation's capital.

"I want to see President Obama - do you think we can make an appointment?" Stay tuned... you never know.

## PVW - Pomona Valley Workshop

It was "Hot, Hot, Hot" Caribbean style on Saturday, April 10, 2010 when PVW proudly partnered with the Rotary Club of Pomona to host a Caribbean Casino Night & Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament. More than 150 people came out to roll the dice and try their luck. The event raised \$10,000+ to support PVW programs that assist adults with disabilities.

## Hope Services

In 1995, HOPE Services and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA became training and employment partners, serving people with developmental disabilities from Monterey to Salinas. Thanks to a little-known Federal program, HOPE Services won a contract to provide janitorial services to the Naval Postgraduate School. By deploying some innovative community integration work programs for their disabled clients; many are now employed with transferable skills. Among them are 22 HOPE clients who are gainfully employed, some for 15 years.

## Employment Classifieds

### Executive Director: Kings Rehabilitation Center, Inc.

Kings Rehabilitation Center, Inc. is seeking an Executive Director. This position reports directly to the Board of Directors. The person selected will be responsible for the over all administration and supervision of a multi-faceted Adult Rehabilitation facility. Responsibilities include management of a large NISH contract, numerous outside contracts, as well as a Day Training and Adult Development Program.

A Master's Degree from an accredited school of higher education in Rehabilitation Administration, Business Administration or a related field. Preference will be given to those with at least three years experience in management of a Human Services Agency involved in care, treatment, education, and training disabled adults. Experience may be considered in lieu of Master's Degree. Must be able to demonstrate knowledge of budgeting procedures as well as personnel and client service functions. Must be able to work effectively with existing management team. Salary negotiable based on experience, with full benefit package.

Resume may be mailed to:

Kings Rehabilitation Center, Inc.  
ATTN: Search Committee  
P.O. Box 1759  
Hanford, CA 93232

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Do you need to fill a position or are you looking for a new position or career advancement?

List your open position in the CDSA Classifieds. Your open position will be posted on the Listserv, the monthly newsletter and our web site for 30 days. Service fees are \$99 for members and \$275 for non-members; contact [Melissa Smith](#) to place an ad.

## Board & Committee Meetings



### California Disability Services Association Board

CDSA has been invited to sign an amicus brief for the Robles-Wong v. California suit, which asks for declaratory and injunctive relief. The basis of the complaint is the unconstitutional manner of funding for public education. Because the plaintiffs only represent the K-12 programs, the amicus brief would be filed on behalf of adult students. That would include adults with disabilities who have been receiving educational services through adult education programs for many years. This has been referred to the Public Policy Committee for research.

Keith York (of Signature Consulting and Genesis Training and Job Development Corporation) has filed lawsuit against CDSA, a CDSA employee, and seven other plaintiffs for defamation, unfair business practices, and conspiracy. CDSA is now working with two lawyers (assigned to the case from different insurance policies).

The Board approved the 2010-11 budget, which is smaller than last year's, due to reduced support coming from Dynamic Solutions. The Board elected its 2010-11 Audit Committee: Karen Jones (chair), Wendy Rogina, and Kirk Spry. It also elected David DeLeonardis to serve another term on the Dynamic Solutions Board.



### California Disability Services Institute Board

The Institute Board continues work on the program for the Annual Meeting and urges members to suggest (or volunteer to present) workshops and speakers. It approved its 2010-11 budget.



### Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The Board approved a budget for 2010-11, which reflected a 40% reduction of income from the State Compensation Insurance Fund (SCIF) due to departures from the DSI insurance pool. As a result, the budget reduces funding for sponsorships and eliminates grants and scholarships. The Board also reviewed the insurance brokerage business plan for the coming year.

Noting the profit that DSI is realizing in the current year, the Board

approved a grant to the California Disability Services Institute to establish a fund to pay for meeting speakers and provide scholarships for the next two years.



### CARI Committee

The Committee reviewed the objectives assigned to it by the strategic planning process and made assignments to Committee members. The Committee wants to open up a dialogue with CalTrans.

### Caucus Steering Committee

The **Central Valley Caucus** is planning a rally. The **San Diego Caucus** set up a town hall meeting involving Area board, Regional board, families, and Regional Center, but legislators were not responsive. The San Diego Regional Center voted to unionize. The **Capitol Caucus** worked on their goals at the June 8 meeting. The **Orange County Caucus** held their first legislative event on March 1. It was a successful event with nine offices represented. The **Bay Area Caucus** discussed the family grassroots handbook, family listserv, and SEIU change in leadership. The caucus is seeking a new chairperson. The **Inland Empire Caucus** personalized a welcome to the new Executive Director at the Inland Regional Center. They are frustrated with the discussion of removal of the subminimum wage through Federal legislation. They also discussed issues with the new marijuana cards.

The Committee reviewed and approved the objectives in the business plan and asked each caucus to complete the "Annual Self Evaluation" by the end of July.

### LA Legislators Reception Committee

The LA Legislator Reception Committee has started planning the September 8 event - it's during the CDSA Annual Meeting. The purpose of the reception is to reach out to Los Angeles legislators and district office staff to reiterate concerns about budget cuts, put faces on the issue, and help the legislators to understand our passion. We want to send legislators off with increased knowledge, passion, a sincere desire to help, and a sense of accountability.

The format will be informal, with each LA-area agency manning a display. Volunteers will greet legislators and escort them to agencies with programs in their district. There will be 250 expected to attend, with each agency bringing representative clients, family members, employers, board members, and employees. The featured guests will be legislators, candidates, and their staffs.

The Reception Committee has formed five groups:

1. **Strategic Planning** - To help to shape the event and coordinate the work groups.
2. **Sponsorship Recruitment** - To identify and help solicit support

from local sponsors.

12. **Agency & Family Outreach** - To work with CDSA member agencies in LA to get representatives to the event. This should include clients, families, employers, board members, and employees from each agency.
13. **District Delegate** - To provide the personal invitation and point of contact for Legislators and their district staffs.
14. **Marketing & Publicity** - To develop invitation and recruitment materials to draw attendees, and to develop publicity for the event.

We are now seeking additional volunteers for these work groups; contact [Melissa Smith](#) if you or someone from your organization would like to be involved. The Strategic Planning group is meeting regularly, and both the Sponsorship Recruitment and Marketing & Publicity groups have met.

### Membership Committee

The Committee noted that 98.5% of membership dues have been collected. Two organizations have indicated they will not renew for 2010-11: Jay Nolan and Community Interface Services. The Committee learned that the Respite Care Affiliate Group met as a group, and affiliate members volunteered for the following committees: Membership, Public Policy, PR, Research & Development. The affiliate members elected Mike Huckins as their group leader. The Committee continued research on an affiliate group for the transportation industry. The Committee asked that the "Semi-Annual Self Evaluation" form be sent out to caucuses and that an updated roster be posted on the website.

### Public Policy Committee

The Committee discussed the state budget and federal funding. The CDSA message to the state legislature's Budget Conference Committee is still "no cuts." Some committee members have accepted DDS's vision of the Prevention Program, so it seems less likely that the \$25 million cut will be taken from that program.

In the Senate version, the flexibility language is still wrapped in with the rate cut. CDSA supports the Assembly version. We have huge problems with the current language, which puts all power in the hands of the regional centers. It should be "at the request of the service provider." We can urge them to divide the question. We would oppose them both, the cut and the flex language.

The Attorney General says that half of the Assembly's "triple flip" (plan to solve the budget crisis) isn't legal, so that reduces the possible income by half. And, state legislators are still hoping that the federal government comes through with a scaled back version of the FMAP increase paid this year. Our US Senators are clearly in support of continuing the higher Medicaid payments, but CDSA should be prepared to contact US Representatives to support the FMAP increase if it gets out of the Senate.

Part of your message to state legislators can be that the disability services cuts are the only ones that have taken effect. All the other human services cuts are tied up in the courts. We took a \$334 million

cut and the continued 3% cut for next year. These cuts were real, and our margins are slim. Are they prepared to see the collapse of the system? If several programs go in one area, there won't be any solution. The most effective way to get the message across is for agencies to show their financials to legislators-to show how tight things are.

We have seen the first change in DDS's interpretation of last year's trailer bill language. They are allowing conversion of in-home respite to out-of-home respite. And they are allowing out-of-home respite to be summer camp. There also has been a change for the Respite Inn. Before last year's changes, people could use the Respite Inn 40 days. This was reduced to 21 days but has now been pushed back up to 36 days.

The Committee discussed *Robles-Wong v. State of California*, the lawsuit seeking better funding for education. The suit has the support of the California School Board Association, the California School Administrators Association, nine school districts and about 32 families. They hope to restructure the funding process by getting the current structure declared unconstitutional. They expect the case to take two to five years. CDSA might push to change the funding focus to K-adult education. Another approach is to argue that the federal government has established protected classes, and services for those protected classes can't be thrown into a block grant that allows local school districts to eliminate programs for the protected classes.

AB 435, a new whistleblower bill for employees of regional centers, was heard on June 30 in Human Services. Committee members agreed that a letter of support should go immediately. ARCA is already trying to kill it. There is a whistleblower at the Inland Regional Center who has been fired.

### Public Relations Committee

The Marketing and Publicity Group of the LA Legislator Reception Committee joined the PR Committee to develop materials for inviting participation and planning publicity for the reception. The group discussed the strength of branding and logistically formatting this event as a collective effort (e.g. LA Caucus of CDSA) rather than as the individual organizations. The group reviewed and added possible incentives for the target audiences to attend. The PR Committee then reviewed the objectives assigned to the Committee by the strategic planning process and made several changes.

### Structure & Resources Committee

The Committee held its organizational meeting and decided to hold two conferences calls on July 8 and 22 and a face-to-face meeting in Sacramento on August 18. The group chose Barbara Maizie as chair, and she asked that Liz Sutton be assistant chair. (And has anyone ever said "no" to Barbara?)

## Who's Who & How to Contact

### California Disability Services Association

1029 J Street, Suite 380  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
P: (916) 441-5844  
F: (916) 441-2804

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Jim Scott, x 110, [jscott@cal-dsa.org](mailto:jscott@cal-dsa.org)

### Office Manager/Event Coordinator

Melissa Smith, x 113, [msmith@cal-dsa.org](mailto:msmith@cal-dsa.org)

### Administrative Specialist

Arlene Bennett, x 102, [abennett@cal-dsa.org](mailto:abennett@cal-dsa.org)

### Dynamic Solutions Insurance Account Executive

Lisa Bramasco, x 112, [lbramasco@dynamicols.com](mailto:lbramasco@dynamicols.com)

## Caucus Chairs

### Bay Area Caucus

Liz Sutton, (707) 585-1991, [liz@nhrs.org](mailto:liz@nhrs.org)

### Upstate Caucus

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

### Capitol Caucus

Robin Rhoades, (916) 387-8080, [robin@southsideartcenter.org](mailto:robin@southsideartcenter.org)

### Central Valley Caucus

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### Central Coast Caucus

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### Inland Empire Caucus

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

### San Diego Caucus

Bill Mara, (760) 721-1706 x103, [billm@terriinc.org](mailto:billm@terriinc.org)

### LA County Caucus

TBA

### Orange County Caucus

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

## Committee Chairs

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### CARI & Business Services

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vacant

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##### **Director**

Lane Ronnow, (661) 378-3300, [sir@jps.net](mailto:sir@jps.net)

**CDSA CONFIDENTIAL**

For more information regarding CDSA's monthly newsletter, please contact [Melissa Smith](#).

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