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First of the Month

June 2011

CDSA CONFIDENTIAL

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CDSA Calendar

June 7

PR Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

June 14

Inland Empire Caucus
OPARC
10:00 am-Noon

Upstate Caucus
North Valley Services
10:00 am-Noon

Institute Board
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm

June 15

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

June 16

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

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

June 21

Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am-Noon

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

June 22

Central Valley Caucus
ARC Fresno
10:00 am-Noon

Membership Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

June 23

San Diego Caucus
TMI
10:00 am-Noon

June 24

Dynamic Solutions Board
Teleconference
11:00 am-Noon

June 27

CDSA Board
Teleconference

The News

Budget Trailer Bill Language

The Governor and leading Democratic legislators continue to push for a budget by June 15. As a result, last week they rolled the trailer bill language (TBL) that affects disability service providers through both the Assembly and Senate budget subcommittees as "placeholder" language. Doing so allows Legislative staff more time to work out the implementing details before the budget package is finalized. Both houses committed to sunseting the parent fee after two years. In the coming week, we will continue to hammer on key concerns:

Individual Choice Day Services - Trailer Bill #663

- While the term "half-day" is used in the language, a consumer must be present for 75% of the day or payment is reduced in half. We believe a 50% participation rate should be aligned with a half-day of participation.
- If the partial day is caused by someone other than the provider (such as medical/health and safety exception, voluntary leave, emergency, illness, or unexpected personal crisis) then the discounted payment should not be applied.

Supported Living Services - Trailer Bill #662

- The cost level that would trigger the assessment requirement is unclear - it combines median and mean rates.
- It will be very expensive to reassess more than 3,000 existing consumers immediately, and then every three years and for all new consumers prior to entry into the system. Assessment is already performed as part of the IPP and part of the development of a providers' individual service plan for each consumer. This proposal suggests a need for enhancing the assessment within the existing process, not the creation of an entirely new and separate process.
- It's not clear who the assessors will be. The assessor should not be someone in competition with the existing support agency. Perhaps there should be a requirement that the assessment be done by a provider from a different catchment area.

You can see CDSA's letter to the budget subcommittees by [clicking here](#).

The More-Money-Is-Out-There Message

Another important message we continue to push is that DDS can secure additional federal funds through the Home and Community Based System Waiver or through the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment. DDS continues to say they've accounted for everyone on the waiver or the SPA, but our calculations indicate there's more to be done.

Legislation Update

Your presence at hearings had an impact! CDSA has withdrawn its opposition to AB 889 (a bill to regulate the wages, hours, and working conditions of domestic work employees) after an amendment that exempts any person who is employed by an organization vendored through a Regional Center or DDS.

This leaves us opposing seven bills. The most important of these are probably **AB 350 (Solorio)** and **AB 508 (Swanson)**. AB 350 would require you, as a new contractor for janitorial, food service, window washing, and landscaping services to hire the workers of the previous contractor rather than bringing your own employees (people with disabilities) onto the job. AB 508 is similar to AB 350 in that it takes away a bid preference for any organization seeking a recycling contract that does not agree to hire the workers with the previous contract. Both bills address areas of employment common to people with developmental disabilities and would significantly limit employment opportunities for the people we serve.

To learn more about these bills and others we oppose, support, or are watching, [click here](#).

Plans for 2011-12

The Board held its planning meeting in May to refine plans for the coming year proposed at the Leadership Retreat in April. After

10:00-11:30 am

July 1

New Administrative Year Begins

July 4

Independence Day

July 5

PR Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

July 12

Inland Empire Caucus
VIP
10:00 am-Noon

Upstate Caucus
North Valley Services
10:00 am-Noon

Institute Board
Teleconference
3:00-4:00 pm

July 19

Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am-Noon

July 21

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

Public Policy Committee
Teleconference
3:00-4:30 pm

July 25

CDSA Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:30 am

July 27

Central Valley Caucus
ARC Fresno
10:00 am-Noon

Membership Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

August 17

Public Policy Planning Day
USC Building
Sacramento
10:00 am-3:00 pm

September 14-16

CDSA Annual Meeting
Westin Emerald Plaza
San Diego

considerable debate and analysis, here are the objectives for the year:

- Communicate to decision-makers the impact of the loss of community-based services on consumers and families, as well as the economic impact.
- Develop an Employer Award program.
- Develop a "From CDSA" column for use in local agency communications with families.
- Develop an annual scorecard of lobbying activities and successes.
- Propose legislation and regulatory changes beneficial to existing programs.
- Increase consistent local contacts with legislators.
- Provide additional resources to caucuses.
- Institute annual contact from caucuses to members who are dues paying but remain inactive.
- Develop a new member category.
- Standardize recruitment processes, working with regional caucuses.
- Develop a "Craig's List-type" program for sharing among members (a classified ad section on website).
- Develop presentations related to current concerns of members.
- Provide a bulk purchasing program for members.
- Complete policies and procedures.
- Reconsider a C-27 license.
- Provide best practices/structures for bid processes to make sure contracts are profitable.
- Devote staff time to CARI field work. (And coordinate with corporate development, caucus meetings, and member contacts.)
- Adapt/expand CARI contract system for corporate contracts.
- Increase number of members, families, and consumers who attend legislative conference.
- Update website.

Some of these continue from the current year, and some of the new ideas will take more than a year to complete. The greatest challenge for several is funding, and the Board has taken an attitude that we should do as much as we can--but within our means. The Board will address several of these questions in June when it finalizes next year's budget.

The planning for next year will continue August 17 with the Public Policy Planning Day in Sacramento. If you have an interest in shaping our agenda for 2012, plan to attend.

Help Us Save You Money!

The more exhibitors we get to our meetings, the lower the registration costs can be. So, please help us convince vendors you're worth paying to meet!

We have a little survey about your business services whose data totals should persuade vendors like Verizon and Pitney Bowes that our members represent significant sales in the coming year. Individual data will NOT be shared.

So, if you haven't participated in the business services survey please answer the 12 multiple-choice questions. Here's the [link to the survey](#).

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Committees You Can Join for 2011-12

Do you ever think that, if everyone listened to you, the world would be a better place?

If you answered "yes" then we want you on a CDSA Committee for 2011-12! Actually, we also want participation by the people who answered "no." Please look over the committees below and [click here](#) to submit your name.

- CARI and Business Services Committee
- Membership Committee
- Public Policy Committee
 - Public Policy Subcommittee on State Budget
 - Public Policy Subcommittee on Legislation
- Public Relations Committee
- Research and Development Committee

Safety Seminar Registration Ends Soon!

There's only a week left to register your staff for Mary Vreeland's three-hour safety seminar on:

1. Drivers safety for vans and personal owned vehicles,
2. Work positioning for landscape, care providers and janitorial workers.

The safety seminar is June 15 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the San Gabriel Valley Training Center in La Puente, near the intersection of

I-605 and I-10. The training comes with lunch for only \$10. To learn more about the seminar topics, training objectives, and the presenter, visit the [event homepage](#). Registration ends June 7.

[Register Now!](#)

[Click here](#) to be notified when this seminar comes to northern California.

Save the Date - CDSA Annual Meeting

The 2011 Annual Meeting is September 14-16 at the Westin San Diego Emerald Plaza, located a few blocks from the Gaslamp Quarter, Seaport Village, and Little Italy.

This year's conference will feature an evening reception on September 15 for state legislators from San Diego county. CDSA members and families from the area will be asked to help participate in the event.

If money is tight, look for the DSI scholarship application with the registration email announcement July 6! There are funds for first-time attendees and multiple registrations from one organization, too.

The Institute is working on speakers and workshop topics and welcomes suggestions or volunteers to make presentations. What sounds good to you? What else would you suggest? Send your comments to [Chris Rice](#).

CARI and Work Contracts

Current Projects

The CARI program is working on contract renewals and compiling compliance reports for distribution to State Agencies that contract with the program. CARI is also working on new contract opportunities throughout the state, as well as two joint venture opportunities.

New Opportunities

We research 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.

Employment Classifieds

CDSA Employment Advertisements

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

The Board held its annual retreat May 11-12, at Project Independence. The group devoted its first day to reviewing the Leadership Retreat input on the strategic plan and discussing the budget for 2011-12. The group held a formal board meeting on the second day at which they approved:

- The 2011-12 objectives for the strategic plan.
- Committee chairs for 2011-12.
- An endorsement of Heffernan Insurance.
- A resolution on SCIF pool premium payments.

The Committee Chairs for 2011-12 are:

- Audit - Wendy Rogina
- CARI & Business Services - Joan McKinney
- Caucus Steering - Kirk Spry
- Membership - Sylvia Anderson
- Nominating - Sylvia Anderson
- Public Policy - Nancy Batterman
- Pub Pol Subcomm on State Budget - Nancy Batterman
- Pub Pol Subcomm on Legislation - Diana DeRodeff
- Public Relations - Cindy Burton
- Relocation - Sam Seaton

- Research and Development - Will Sanford



California Disability Services Institute Board

The Institute Board did not meet in May.



Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The DSI Board did not meet in May.



CARI and Business Services Committee

The CARI Committee did not meet in May.

Caucus Steering Committee

The Committee did not meet this month.

Membership Committee

The Committee reviewed the objectives generated at the Leadership Retreat and suggested changes to two.

Public Policy Committee

The Committee refined responses to the trailer bill language proposed by DDS. (This material was sent to budget subcommittee members in both the Assembly and Senate.) The Committee identified the following concerns:

Federal Funding

- Significant dollars may still be available through both the Home and Community Based Services Waiver and the 1915(i) State Plan Amendment.

Individual Choice Day Services (Trailer Bill Number 663)

- If a consumer plans for half-day programming, then the tailored day service discussed earlier in this trailer bill should be considered, with a new rate developed, and not the simple application of a prorated payment based on the hours of attendance.
- While the term "half-day" is used in the language, a consumer must be present for 75% of the day or payment is reduced in half. A 50% participation rate should be aligned with a half-day of participation.
- If the partial day is caused by someone other than the provider, such as medical/health and safety exception, voluntary leave, emergency, illness, or unexpected personal crisis, then the discounted payment should not be applied.
- Tracking the partial attendance by consumers could add a great deal of administrative record keeping. There should be a possible exception for financial hardship to the agency.

Supported Living Services (Trailer Bill Number 662)

- The cost level that would trigger the assessment requirement is unclear.
- It will be very expensive to reassess more than 3,000 existing consumers immediately, and then every three years and for all new consumers prior to entry into the system.
- Assessment is already performed as part of the IPP and part of the development of a providers' individual service plan for each consumer.
- It is not clear who the assessors will be. An assessor should not be someone in competition with the existing support agency.
- There is concern that this assessment could have much greater weight than other input during the IPP meeting.
- If the findings of the independent assessor differ from the needs for support assessment done by the provider, how will that impact the actual service plan to be delivered?

Annual Family Program Fee (Trailer Bill Number 659)

- This proposal starts down the slippery slope of means testing in the world of developmental disabilities.

Prevention Program (Trailer Bill Number 665)

- We want to make sure that the role of Family Resource Centers are clear and that they are not exposed to expectations or liabilities that FRC's are not set up to meet.

The Committee also reviewed activity on legislation.

Public Relations Committee

The Committee continued discussion of an economic impact report that member agencies could complete and use.

Relocation Committee

The Committee reviewed a staff report on options in downtown, midtown, and outlying areas. The locations that met all the prerequisites approved by the Committee are two buildings downtown. As with all downtown locations, these locations are built out and will require some modifications. The next step is to negotiate lease costs for three and five years. The Committee will be able to tour the final two or three locations.

Business Advisory Team

The team did not meet this month.

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TBA

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



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