



First of the Month

November 2009

California Disability Services Association

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CDSA Calendar

November 2009

November 3
Seminar on Senior and
Alternative
Customized Programs
OPARC, Montclair
10:00 am-3:00 pm

November 10
PR Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

Inland Empire Caucus
VIP
10:00-11:30 am

Upstate Caucus
Green Barn
Restaurant, Red Bluff

The News

Our Brave Representative

The redoubtable Diana DeRodeff, from InAlliance, has replaced Will Sanford as the CDSA representative in the DDS Budget Advisory Committee, formerly called the stakeholder group. She attended her first meeting October 14. At the beginning of the meeting DDS Director Terri Delgadillo reported that:

- DDS is concerned about the four pending lawsuits on various budget cuts that have potential to reduce planned savings in the system.
- The Department is making progress on the Developmental Center savings, with 10 individuals at Porterville moved to active treatment (qualifying for waiver funding) and 11 individuals moved out of Sierra Vista - with 29 more people to move by December 31.
- DDS has submitted an expansion of waiver services to include day-care, optional benefits, and vouchered transportation.
- DDS is working on the "1915 I amendment" and the Federal Government is being helpful.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the Individual Choice Budget (ICB). Diana reported that people were starting to realize that this is a very difficult effort. A smaller workgroup reported on the options they have considered for an evaluation tool that will predict individuals' service costs. The key to remember is that a savings of approximately \$33 million from the ICB must be certified before the suspended services may be purchased.

Free Training for Staff and Families

Now available for download is a PowerPoint presentation that explains the rules and requirements for the "least costly provider" requirement. Staff members who attend IPPs, clients, and families need to know the questions to ask. So, [click here](#) to download the slide show and start sharing!

11:30 am-1:00 pm

Institute Board
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

November 11
Veteran's Day Holiday

November 12
CARI Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

November 13
Central Coast Caucus
Anderson's Restaurant,
Beullton
9:00-11:00 am

November 17
Election for
Nominating
Committee begins

Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am-Noon

Central Valley Caucus
BARC
9:00 am-Noon

November 18
Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

November 19
Bay Area Caucus
Contra Costa Arc
10:00 am-Noon

November 23
CDSA Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:30 am

November 26
Thanksgiving Holiday

November 27

We are also working on a brochure version of this material and hope to develop a Spanish translation. We will announce when the brochure is available on the website.

Outreach to Families

This month, the Capitol Caucus held a family forum event that educated families about the budget cuts and what they mean to families. CDSA wants to encourage other caucuses to hold such events, using the "Least Costly Provider" material mentioned above and additional material we have in development. We'll commit to sending a speaker to make the presentation if we can include a presentation on grassroots organizing for the parents.

Meal Period Waiver Research

CDSA is collecting information on all member agencies' experiences with the on-duty meal and break period issue. Please send us any complaints, from any source (regardless if it is a mere complaint to a full blown lawsuit). Send to Chris Rice at crice@cal-dsa.org.

Meeting Venues

To keep registration costs at a minimum, CDSA is planning to hold the North and South Regional Meetings, Leadership Retreat, and Board Retreat at members' buildings. Interested in hosting? Benefits include free registrations for your staff, no travel costs, and prestige among your peers. Please call Melissa Smith at the CDSA office at 916-441-5844 if you're willing to host an event.

Governmental Affairs

The DDS Summary...and Expectations

DDS Director Delgadillo, at the request of Assembly Member Wes Chesbro, developed a [summary of the DDS budget reductions](#). Interesting reading. To cheer you up a bit, we also provide [Senator Darryl Steinberg's letter to Director Delgadillo](#), which says the cuts should not go beyond what was intended.

The Audit of Regional Centers

The Bureau of State Audits will look at DDS and a sample of regional centers to:

- Examine laws, rules, and regulations.
- Review DDS's oversight responsibilities.
- See if activities paid for were allowable under law.
- Evaluate policies and practices for awarding contracts to service providers.
- Determine if regional centers retaliate against service providers.
- See if regional centers provide public access on operations.

To read the complete audit scope and objectives, [click here](#).

Black Friday Holiday

December 2009

December 1
PR Committee
Teleconference
10:00-11:00 am

December 8
Institute Board
Teleconference
2:00-4:00 pm

Inland Empire Caucus
OPARC
10:00-11:30 am

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

December 9
Membership
Committee
Teleconference
2:30-3:30 pm

December 10
Nominating
Committee Election
Ends

December 11
DSI Board
Teleconference
10:00 am-11:00 am

December 15
Capitol Caucus
InAlliance
10:00 am-Noon

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

December 16
Caucus Steering
Committee
Teleconference
2:00-3:00 pm

CARI and Work Contracts

New Opportunities

We have identified more than 105 new contract opportunities in the following areas: Alameda, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Humboldt, Imperial, Inyo, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Merced, Mono, Monterey, Orange, Placer, Porterville, Riverside, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo. The contracts are for janitorial, landscape, food service, tree trimming, auto detailing, printing and mailing, general mailing, housekeeping, recycling, 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](mailto:Melissa.Smith@cdsa.org). More opportunities coming soon.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Training Session on Senior and Alternative Customized Programs

There were rave reviews for the first Institute training session on the newly required Senior and Alternative Customized programs. The next training program is on November 3 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at OPARC in Montclair. The deadline for registering is Friday, October 30. Please contact [Melissa Smith](mailto:Melissa.Smith@cdsa.org) for more information.

If you really want the training but can't make it to OPARC, call or e-mail us. If there's enough interest, we'll offer the program again.

Mark Your Calendars

We're still working on venues for some events, but put these on your calendars:

January 20: Northern Policy Meeting

January 27: Southern Policy Meeting

March 16-18: Legislative Conference & end of election

April 19-20: Leadership Retreat

Board & Committee Meetings



California Disability Services Association Board

The CDSA Board discussed financials and likely income from CARI and DSI for the rest of the year. The CDSA office needs a new server and the PR Committee has identified needs for additional public relations support. The Board also discussed revitalizing the CARI program, Diana DeRodeff's report on the DDS Budget Advisory Committee, and renewing contracts with lobbyists.

December 17
Bay Area Caucus
Contra Costa Arc
10:00 am-Noon

San Diego Caucus
TMI
10:00 am-Noon

December 21
CDSA Board
Teleconference
10:00-11:30 am

December 24
Christmas Eve Holiday

December 25
Christmas Holiday

December 28
Boxing Day Holiday
(shifted from Saturday
to Monday)

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.



California Disability Services Institute Board

The Institute has been focused on producing the seminar on the Senior Program and Alternative Component. It is proving popular. For the October 23 seminar at InAlliance in Sacramento, 43 people registered. The November 3 seminar at OPARC in Montclair has 62 registrants. Will Sanford and Nancy Batterman conducted the seminar. They also had time to present our short presentation on the least costly provider requirement, which can be used to train staff (who attend IPP meetings). There is an accompanying brochure for families that is still in development.

The Institute plans to offer another seminar in February on autism.



DYNAMIC SOLUTIONS
INSURANCE SERVICES

Dynamic Solutions Incorporated Board

The DSI Board will meet next in December. It is seeking two additional board members.

CARI Committee

The Committee is looking at a return to some elements of its original business plan, to focus on securing large contracts. It also has communicated legislative needs to the Public Policy Committee.

Caucus Steering Committee

The Caucus Steering Committee started its meeting with updates from the CDSA President, committee chairs, and staff, to provide each caucus chair with an overview they could share with their caucus. The caucuses are active. The Inland Empire and Upstate Caucuses met with legislators and provided tours. The Central Valley Caucus is developing two legislative events. The Capitol Caucus held a parent outreach event, and the San Diego Caucus held a meeting with the Regional Center Executive Director.

Membership and Development Committee

The Committee has developed a new member orientation and retention procedure. It has reviewed possible new membership categories and is looking at service provider categories of transportation and residential. The Committee is also interested in providing an affiliation opportunity for families/consumers and

for employers. There also is progress on a simple outline for membership recruitment events.

Public Policy Committee

In a conference call and a face-to-face meeting, the Public Policy Committee divided itself into four issue-area work groups. Here's the latest from each group.

The **Individual Choice Budget Group** developed questions to take back to the DDS discussion. The group also explored using the \$309 million left for respite care (estimated from the DDS Budget) to develop a very focused ICB program that would address respite care and the suspended services. Families would choose how much of their budget would be for respite and how much for camp, horseback riding, or other suspended services.

The **Budget Group** discussed three key issues. First, CDSA needs to make sure the savings from the current cuts are counted at a full year's implementation level when the next budget is discussed. (We know that the original \$100 million in savings was expected to save an additional \$50 million in year two.) Second, on Developmental Centers, it is important that the funding for Sierra Vista be re-allocated to the community budget (as Sierra Vista residents move into the community). We need to push for a unified budget, where all services are purchased out of POS. And, we need to promote further closures/combinations at DCs. Third, we need to push for increased Federal funding support. We can look at waivers used in other states and help/facilitate/take over the enrollment of individuals on the current waiver. We need to get monthly waiver reports starting with July 2007 through the present (to look for trends).

The **System Reform Group** looked at several short-term areas for us to pursue. On current bills, we should take an active role in the RC audit and bill and should request that the whistleblower protections be expanded to protect families. We should watch the bill on least costly provider for transportation. On the audits of the regional centers, there should be examination of RCs fair business practices. We should gather examples of RFPs, contracting, and favoritism. However, we also should look at ourselves, to improve practices and differentiate reputable providers from the disreputable.

The **Legislative Group** discussed needs for CARI, adult education, and meals & breaks. For CARI, it would be helpful to develop business tax credits or establish set-asides similar to those for small businesses and veterans - unlikely in this economy. Another CARI issue is the prevailing wage requirement. We need to explore working in a coalition with other needs groups, like veterans and persons with mental illness. We can pursue legislation to strengthen what we already have and perhaps establish a certificate of compliance. In the area of adult education, we should address health and safety exceptions and develop statistics

on the number of districts that have cut adult education subsidies to members. We need to work with the Chamber of Commerce on meals and breaks, and perhaps explore conditional hiring. Another emerging issue is the stance against the sub-minimum wage taken by the Association for Persons in Supported Employment and US Senator Harkin. We will need to work with other organizations to educate people about the realities for employment.

Public Relations Committee

The Committee discussed the challenges of a comprehensive PR plan and charged staff with developing an outline.

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

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