



Monday Morning Memo

January 12, 2009

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Week in Review

Monday January 5, 2009

We consulted with advocates from New Jersey involved with studying their provider rate system to give them a history and context of the rate system in California and how our service system operates. There is great variation among the states on how services are provided but it is often useful to look at alternative methods of supporting people with disabilities. Though it was shocking for them to learn about our rate structure and difficult to understand how providers survive, their system does not allow the providers to fund raise to pay for services (chapters of The Arc of CA raise 20-60%+) and the state system only supports adults (around 30,000 people).

Tuesday January 6, 2009

We participated in the AAIDD presentation, Autism May Be Caused by Thyroid Deficiency Early in Pregnancy, by **Gustavo Roman, MD**, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio. This was a very interesting (but very scientific) presentation and it can be heard in the archive at:

<http://www.ehinitiative.org/Roman%20Audio%20Jan%206%202009.mp3>. The doctor's take home messages from the presentation were:

1. The American Thyroid Association (ATA) recommends a supplement of 150 mg iodine/day during pregnancy and lactation, in addition to the use of iodized salt.
2. T3, T4, fT4, TSH and iodine in urine must be determined in women considering conception, as early as possible in the pregnancy, and during the 2nd and 3rd trimesters
3. However, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. does not recommend routine screening for subclinical hypothyroidism "because there is not good evidence that identification and treatment improves maternal or infant outcomes" (Casey & Leveno Obstet Gynecol 2006;108:1283-92).

Senate Pro Tem **Darrell Steinberg** and Speaker **Karen Bass** held a press conference in response to **Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's** statement that we will veto the budget approved in the legislature last month. This proposal was approved without the 2/3 votes under the belief that since there was no net tax increase the legislature would not hold to that standard. They said their proposal is the only example of leadership trying to solve the problem and that the Governor should sign their budget because it gets them \$18 billion closer

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to closing the \$41 billion gap. When asked if they would be willing to just take the cuts portion and continue to work on the remaining deficit the Democrats were not willing to do it. The leadership also said they would consider a proposal to completely close full deficit right now but that would take more work and this \$18 billion could be done now. Click here to view the press conference: <http://www.calchannel.com/MEDIA/0106A.asx>

Wednesday January 7, 2009

We participated in the conference call for the Disability Policy Collaboration of The Arc and UCP and received updates on national public policy and the environment in Washington DC. Our director **Paul Marchand** and his staff reported that the 111th Congress is now back and the sniping has already begun after **Nancy Pelosi** introduced new rules on the motion to recommit (to send bills back for further work in committee) because this will limit the minority party's power. There will also be no term limits for committee chairs or subchairs, and finally the Democrats reinstated the Pay Go rule requiring any action to have funding identified before approval. This week the Senate confirmation hearings begin with **Tom Daschle** (SD), tomorrow (DPC will be in attendance) this will be followed by Sec of Education **Arne Duncan** (IL) and Dept of Labor Secretary **Hilda Solis** (CA). The Arc does not take positions on nominees though we are occasionally consulted and provide suggested questions. Economic Stimulus is now around \$700 billion to a \$1 trillion which can be viewed in three sections. First there are tax cuts for the middle class and small business community, then infrastructure projects (roads, bridges, etc.), and third will be the Medicaid FMAP increase, estimated at \$20 to \$40 billion dollars, school renovation, law enforcement expansion, and many other human service program. While there is no published detail on this there have been discussions that there might be a tier system that would allocate funds to states with an enhanced amount to states with large financial problems. Hearings will begin next week with the House Ways and Means committee. **President Obama's** office is now looking at mid February as the anticipated goal for completing the stimulus package. Another area of activity includes the expansion of SCHIP and the completion of the 2009 Appropriation bills (currently working under continuing resolution probably done by late February early March). The CBO published that the annual deficit is now over \$1.2 trillion projected for this year. Obama Administration Transition: This morning he made it very clear he is serious about reforming government entitlement programs. He announced a new direct report position, Chief Performance Officer, with the purpose of getting rid of waste and increasing efficiency, **Nancy Kellifer**. Tomorrow Obama is scheduled to make his economic address that will reveal some of the stimulus approach. **Arne Duncan** is proving to be the most concerning appointment so far. Mr. Duncan from Illinois is under high scrutiny because of very poor performance in Special Education in Chicago. State representatives reported on the status of the state budgets with all reporting large budget deficits though large institutional closures are now being planned - North Dakota was the only state reporting a surplus. The DPC's Legislative Goals will be sent in the mail soon though it is currently on the website for a download at:

<http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/page.redir?target=http%3a%2f%2fwww.thearc.org%2fNetCommunity%2fpage.redir%3ftarget%3dhttp%253a%252f%252fwww.thearc.org%252fNetCommunity%252fDocument.Doc%253fid%253d1450%26srcid%3d209%26erid%3d0&srcid=209&erid=0>.

Thursday January 8, 2009

I completed budget report preparations for the National Conference of Executives of The Arc Board of Directors. The NCE board will be meeting next week in Arizona.

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Friday January 9, 2009

During the week we worked with several colleagues from the advocacy community and the administration to confirm their participation in our upcoming Advocacy Training for the Board of Directors and Executive Directors of The Arc, and the graduates of Partners in Policymaking. The training will be all day Monday at the California State Association of Counties conference center (1020 11th Street, 2nd Floor • Sacramento, CA 95814). This is going to be a great training that will start off with a key note address by **Marty Omoto** of CDCAN, then a discussion on Family Support throughout the Lifespan featuring **Kathy Kelly** of the Family Caregivers Alliance, **Fran Chasen**, of the Infant Development Association. Next **Leslie Morrison**, from Disability Rights California will give an overview of the issue of crime against people with disabilities and how the budget might effect this problem. Then **Bob Baldo** of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will cover the status of regional centers and ARCAs view of the budget cuts, followed by our friend **Mike Herald** from the Western Center on Law and Poverty (WCLP) who will help advocates understand the proposals to cut SSI/SSP and other county support services. **Lisa Jackson** (ARCA) and **Shella DuMong** (The Arc) will cover issues related to housing in California and what advocates can do to increase housing. After the lunch break **Terri Delgadillo**, Director of Dept of Developmental Services, will provide a "State of the State of Developmental Services" overview. This address will be followed by a presentation on the current status of In Home Support Services by **Deborah Doctor**, and other home care options by **Jordan Lindsey** of the CA Association of Health Services at Home. The Mental Health Association of California will give us an update on the state of Mental Health services and the budget proposals. Topics related to the state's efforts on meeting the principles of the Olmstead decision will be addressed by **Deborah Doctor**, DRC and **Megan Juring**, Assistance Sec of Health and Human Services assigned to the Olmstead committees. The last hour and half will focus on Special Education featuring **Jim Bellotti** of the California Department of Education and a local school board official (and Partners Graduate) **Steve Weaver**. Then a discussion on work with **Dwight Hansen**, California Disability Services Association, **Marcie Good**, Chair & **Alan Kerzin**, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The final topic will be a presentation on Medi-Cal and how the governor's budget proposes to cut this important program by **Elizabeth Landsberg**, WCLP. Afterwards we will take a deep breath and enjoy the rest of the evening with a reception. Thank you so much to the many friends who given their time to help our advocates understand these complex issues and assist them in their advocacy.

Saturday January 10, 2009

We worked throughout the day to prepare the packets from the estimates reports for the Public Policy committee of The Arc of CA. Special thanks to **Mark Hutchinson** for making sure we had the documents as soon as possible and to **Mary Lou Esteveda** and **Mary Lee Penning** and all the staff at DDS for their dedicated work throughout the week to get these reports to the public. The Arc of CA's Public Policy committee is a very hard working committee who works on the association's budget advocacy documents and later on the bill file: **Peter Bowers** (Contra Costa), chair, **Pat Heineke** (Southeast Los Angeles), **Shella DuMong** (Santa Barbara,), **Connie Lapin** (At-Large), **Kim Olson** (Santa Barbara), **Shirley Dove** (Ventura), **Jim Stream** (Riverside), **Sandy Waterbury** (Ventura), **Pat Napoliello** (San Francisco), **Kevin MacDonald** (Southeast Los Angeles), and **Barbara Maizie** (Contra Costa).

The Week Ahead

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We'll be meeting with a vendor, Data Solutions, to review fund raising software.

Meeting with **Peter Bowers**, The Arc of CA Treasurer to work on the finance reports in preparation for the executive committee on Tuesday.

Tuesday January 13, 2009

The US Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) – Advisory Panel on Medicare Education will be meeting at 8:30 a.m. (EST). The deadline for registration, presentations, and comments was 1/5/09. Register by contacting Lynne Johnson at 410-786-0090. The meeting will be at the Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. This panel advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HHS and the Administrator of CMS on Medicare consumer education strategies. On the agenda are a recap of the previous meeting, outreach and education strategies, public comment period, and next steps. For more information about the panel, go to: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/FACA/04_APME.asp. For more information about the meeting, contact Lynne Johnson at the telephone number given above.

The State Executive Directors of The Arc movement will be meeting by conference call.

The Executive Committee of The Arc of CA, chaired by President **Pat Heineke** will meet during the lunch hour.

The Arc of CA Public Policy Committee, chaired by **Peter Bowers**, will be meeting in the evening by conference call.

Wednesday January 14, 2009

The Partners in Policymaking California Collaborative will be meeting for a status report on the application process for the class of 2009 in Los Angeles County

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities will be meeting on Tuesday 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM* and Wednesday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM* at the Doubletree Hotel, 2001 Point West Way in Sacramento. The Tuesday meeting will focus on the business of the council and its committees and the Wednesday meeting will feature several administration officials and advocate community representatives discussing the state budget. The administration departments will include: Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Department of Aging, and the Department of Health Care Services. The advocates participating include: **Tony Anderson**, The Arc, **Catherine Blakemore**, DRC, **Bob Baldo**, ARCA, **Joe Meadours**, People First of California, **Debbie Saramento**, FRCN-CA, **Marty Omoto**, CDCAN, **Henry Contreras**, CFILC. The public is welcome and encouraged to come early, you won't want to miss this engaging meeting.

Thursday January 15, 2009

Today is the deadline for the application for applications under the YouthBuild Grants Program from the Dept of Labor Employment and Training Administration. The estimated available

funding is \$47 million. Authorized in the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), YouthBuild's purpose is to aid disadvantaged youth, including youth with disabilities, to navigate the education and employment systems by providing basic skills instruction, occupational skills training, community service activities, leadership development, and counseling services. Public nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for funding, and are encouraged to form a consortium with other organizations. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-23684.htm>.

I will be participating in a discussion with leaders of Easter Seals from throughout California on the State Budget.

Friday January 16, 2009 – Saturday January 17, 2009

Today is the effective date for the DOL Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division Amended rule governing the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) (see the 2/11/08 “Proposed Rules” section of the Federal Register Summary or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-2062.htm>). Effective date: 1/16/09 FMLA provides 12 weeks of unpaid leave during a twelve month period for eligible employees of covered employers to care for a newborn or newly-placed child, a spouse, parent, son or daughter with a serious health condition and for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care. Also, an employee is covered for 12 weeks if found eligible under the “serious health condition” provision. This final rule addresses issues such as public and federal agency coverage, “eligible employee,” “serious health condition,” and “joint employer coverage” just to name a few. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-26577.htm>.

I will be attending the board of directors meeting of the National Conference of Executives of The Arc in Arizona. This will be our first meeting of the new board. **Kevin MacDonald**, The Arc of Southeast Los Angeles and Tim Hornbecker, The Arc of San Francisco (2nd Vice President) will also be participating.

Action Alerts

The Arc of California

Join the “sidewalk protest” organized by the California Disability Community Action Network on January 15th 10 AM and make sure the world knows what the policymakers are about to do. Don't let the Governor blame people with disabilities for the problems in the budget during his “State of the State” Address. While the Governor delivers his annual “State of the State” address to a joint session of the Legislature in the Assembly Chambers, advocates will conduct the sidewalk protest gathering at 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM outside the Capitol on the sidewalk along L Street (facing 11th Street) in front of the State Capitol building where the Assembly chambers is located. See CDCAN website for more information at www.cdcan.us.

The Arc of the United States

Help Bring the Waiting List Crisis to the Attention of the **Obama Administration**
<http://capwiz.com/thearc/utr/1/DBQWJOOPCM/NAPXJOOTNC/2758536196>
Second Round of Voting - January 15 deadline!

Background

Ideas for Change in America is a citizen-driven project that aims to identify and create

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momentum around the best ideas for how the Obama Administration and 111th Congress can turn the broad call for "change" across the country into specific policies. The Arc is again using this great resource to bring attention to the waiting list crisis for Medicaid home and community based services. We ask that you vote for the "change" below:

National Priority for the Economic Stimulus Package: Fully Fund Medicaid Waivers for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. Funding health care and services for individuals with developmental disabilities, disabilities and the elderly creates jobs, careers, business opportunities while filling a critical need. I propose that the federal government:

1. Fully fund the Medicaid Waiver Program as part of the next Economic Stimulus Package.
2. Consider this as an increased federal match so that states are not put into an impossible situation.
3. Create portability of services across states and counties as is allowed with Medicare and Social Security. [More....](#)

Status of this "change"

1. December 20, 2008 - The first round of voting began.
2. January 1, 2009 - The first round of voting closed. The Medicaid waiver issue made it to the top 3 ideas in Health care, which was needed in order to make it to the second round.
3. January 5, 2009 - The second round of voting began.
4. January 15, 2009 - The second (and final!) round of voting closes.
5. January 16, 2009 - Change.org will co-host an event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC to announce the top 10 rated ideas and their plans for supporting the formation of a national advocacy campaign behind each idea in collaboration with their nonprofit partners. For more information see: <http://www.change.org/ideas/faq>.
6. January 20, 2009 - The top 10 rated ideas will be presented to the Obama Administration on Inauguration Day as the "Top 10 Ideas for America." A national campaign behind each idea will then be launched.

Take Action

1. Please vote on the waiting list crisis at: http://www.change.org/ideas/view/fully_fund_medicaid_waivers_for_the_developmentally_disabled. Click on the "vote" button. You will then need to create an account (or sign in if you already have one) for your vote to be registered. * Important Note: Make certain your vote registers. You must click on the number to the left of the title that says "VOTE" under it in order to have your vote actually count. Once you have done that, it will say "VOTED". Registering on the site and entering a comment DOES NOT count as a vote! About 1/3 of our votes in the last round were lost this way!
2. Feel free to post a comment on this change, noting what state you live in to show that this is a national crisis.
3. Please ask your family and friends to do the same. Every vote matters!

We will keep you updated on the results

Project Status Report

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Partners in Policymaking

Jim Lockwood, Coordinator (funded by the State Council Developmental Disabilities)

To date, we have only received 28 applications from qualified candidates however, we usually get a rush of application in the last week. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Self-Advocates and Parent Advocates of school aged children from the Los Angeles County area so please pass on this information to people you know who be interested. Applications are due by 5:00 PM Friday January 16, 2009 and can be completed or downloaded at:

<http://www.pipcalifornia.org/2009-application/>. Because of the due date being this coming Friday, I recommend faxing or emailing applications.

The priority for the week of January 11-16 will be to promote the 2009 training and receive more applications. I will also be spending time compiling the applications and material for review by the Collaborative in preparations for selection of the 2009 participants. The collaborative will be meeting on January 27th to select the participants for 2009 and I will be contacting everyone that applied by February 6th to inform them of the Collaborative decisions.

Here are some stats from the applications we have received:

Regional Centers

North L.A.	25%
Eastern L.A.	14%
Lanterman	14%
Westside	10%
Harbor	7%
San Gabriel/Pomona	3%
South Central L.A.	0%
Not served by a R.C.	25%

We have already confirmed both **Colleen Wieck** and **Jayne Chase** for our opening session in March. Colleen will be presenting on the history of the disabilities movement and Jayne will be presenting on the use of People's first language. Jayne will also be working with us on a presentation of what it means to be a Partner in Policymaking. Since we launched our website a month ago, www.PIPCCalifornia.org, are have an average of 50 visits a week.

Partners in Policymaking Testimonials...

"My role is no longer just inside our home but also the world...what an important part WE all have for families and individuals living with disabilities nothing is going to stop us." Amber

"I learned a lot & it will be quite valuable with my work in the community and up in Sacramento." Denise

"This was an amazing experience for me." Joan

"To the Self-advocates, thank you for sharing your life story with the parents. You are our children's role models. I will share your pictures with my children and tell them about the greatest advocates I have known. I hope one day my children will be strong, brave, determined, and as wise as you." Rosa

“This is such a powerful training, I hope that it continues for years to come.” Susan

Partners in Policymaking is a statewide collaborative project of The Arc of California, Family Voices of California, the California Association of Family Empowerment Center, Family Resource Centers Network of California, and People First of California.

California College of Direct Support

There is still time left to register for Taft College and get real transferable college credits using the College of Direct Support courses. The College of Direct Support is great work based training with a valuable learning management system but the Taft College degree is another important step in The Arc of CA's workforce initiative. Most professions have a major or track of coursework in colleges and Taft College is totally dedicated to working with us to develop the same approach similar to other professionals such as nurses, police, firefighters, paramedics, radiology techs, respiratory therapists, etc. The Arc of CA is teaching a course called Documentation and Individual Rights and Choices that will provide guidelines for documentation and confidentiality and review major public policy laws effecting people with developmental disabilities. In addition to our course there are three other courses in semester conducted by instructors connected to the nationally renowned program, [Transition to Independent Living](http://web.taftcollege.edu/student_services/independent_living.shtml) (http://web.taftcollege.edu/student_services/independent_living.shtml) known by many as the “TIL Program”. Below are the course description and a link to register. If you're a DSP looking to advance your skills and knowledge or you're from an local provider agency that would like to help their workers to get their college degree and advance the profession please consider this option.

Available Courses for the Spring Semester 2009 (January 20th – May 21, 2009):

DSE 1502 - Documentation and Individual Rights and Choices: The student will gain an understanding of why it is important to record specific activities or events, different types of documentation, ways of effectively completing documentation, and the importance of maintaining confidentiality in documentation. This course will also provide an overview of rights and issues as they relate to individuals with developmental disabilities and recipients of services. The student will gain knowledge of the rights of people with disabilities including an overview of relevant laws and their historical roots. The students will explore the balance of the right to take risks with the right to be protected from harm, and the course will develop skills in facilitating choice making by people with disabilities. The course will then take a detailed examination into significant laws that have been passed to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, to remove barriers to access and full participation, and remedy significant violations of civil and human rights.

DSE 1501 - Introduction to Developmental Disabilities: This course will provide a background in the history, language, the basic concepts of services for persons with developmental disabilities, and terms and vocabulary that are important to the field of developmental disabilities. In addition, students will become more effective communicating with others and in understanding the system that is part of the developmental disabilities field. The course will also detail ethics, confidentiality, and mandated data privacy and how they tie together.

DSE 1503 - Introduction to Medication Support: This course helps students understand how to support people in effectively and safely managing their medications. Information on how to work with medical professionals and safely store, administer and handle medications is included. Since not all DSP's have the same responsibilities in medication support due to different regulations and the varied needs of the persons being supported, the course provides concepts and tools that help students understand and address their unique situations.

DSE 1504 - Cultural Competency: This course helps students develop cultural awareness and to understand how to work with people who have a wide variety of personal perspectives, cultures, and life circumstances. The student will develop increased cultural competency by learning about the five elements of cultural competence: 1) valuing diversity; 2) understanding your own culture; 3) understanding when culture may be affecting interactions between persons and among groups; 4) knowing where to find good resources; and 5) knowing how to change your behavior to meet the cultural needs of others.

Apply On-Line at: http://www.cccapply.org/applications/CCCApply/apply/Taft_College.html

Prevention Activities

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released the Childhood Injury Report: Patterns of Unintentional Injury among 0 -19 year olds in the United States, 2000 – 2006. This data report provides an overview of child injuries related to drowning, falls, fires or burns, transportation-related injuries, poisoning, and suffocation, among other causes. The Arc of California supports the new CDC initiative “Protect the Ones You Love: Childhood Injuries Are Preventable”, which is a new initiative designed to raise parents’ awareness about the leading causes of childhood injury and how they can be prevented. To read or download a copy of the report, please visit www.cdc.gov/safekid/Child_Injury_Data.htm.

As part of the initiative, CDC's Injury Center offers resources to help parents keep their children safe from injuries, including fact sheets, podcasts, e-cards, and media outreach and event planning guides. All materials are available free of charge at www.cdc.gov/safekid.

The Arc of California continues to build upon our new Prevention section. We have also extended our awareness efforts through the addition of myspace and facebook pages. To join either page see us at: www.myspace.com/partners4prevention or www.Facebook.com/partners4prevention.

The Arc of California is committed to reducing the incidence of developmental disabilities through education, research, advocacy and the support of families, friends and the community.

Upcoming Events

February 1, 2, 3 2009

The Arc of California Board of Directors training and legislative visits will be held in Sacramento from Sunday Tuesday. Training will take place on Sunday and Monday and include presentations on budget issues by a variety advocates and government officials, with a reception scheduled for Monday evening. Tuesday’s activities will include making visits with legislators in their state capitol offices to discuss issues concerning people with developmental

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disabilities and their families. While the event is a board training for The Arc and graduate training for Partners in Policymaking anyone from our community is welcome. To reserve a spot in the training call the state office at: (916) 552-6619.

February 5-6, 2009

A New Day is coming... The Association of Regional Center Agencies Proudly Presents, A New Day 2009 - Living and Working in California at the San Francisco Marriott, 55 Fourth Street, San Francisco, California. Join us for our third conference on transforming services and supports to meet the goals and needs of people with developmental disabilities. This conference will be focused on employment and housing. Breakout sessions will include: (1) Transition from school into adult life; (2) Understanding non-profit housing corporations; (3) Best practices and corporate culture for companies employing people with disabilities; (4) Establishing Special Needs Trusts; (5) Updates on Senate Bill 1270 Update on Agnews housing models; (6) Role of post-secondary education for consumer job training and workforce development ... and more! Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy participating in this exciting event in beautiful San Francisco! Detailed registration information to be available at a later date. To get on the mailing list for our brochure, contact ARCA at (916) 446-7961 or arca@arcnet.org.

April 3rd & 4th, 2009

SAVE THE DATE: The Arc of California State "Mini Convention" in San Diego. Association business on Friday April 3, 2009 and training and other convention activities on April 4th, 2009. Details to follow...

April 27- 29, 2009

The Disability Policy Collaboration of The Arc and UCP will be holding its' annual Disability Policy Seminar from April 27- 29, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, NW Washington, DC. Hotel room book quickly so be sure to reserve your room now at: <http://washingtonregency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp> .

Recently Released Reports, Studies, etc.

The following were announced by the AAIDD F.Y.I. January 2009, Vol.9, No.1

Living with Autism Study by the Autism Society of America and Easter Seals.

"Over 2,500 surveyed parents of children with autism and typically-developing children about daily life, relationships, independence, education, housing, employment, finances, and healthcare. Results showed that nearly 80 percent of families are extremely or very concerned about their child's independence as an adult; only 14 percent feel that their child will be able to make life decisions; and only 17 percent think their child will make friends. Further, families report that they're "financially drowning," with concerns for their child's financial future. To learn more about the "Living with Autism Study" and its findings, [click here: http://www.responsetrack.net/lnk/easterseals/1870698/?1407508OMDX](http://www.responsetrack.net/lnk/easterseals/1870698/?1407508OMDX)."

People Planning Ahead: A Guide to Communicating Healthcare and End-of-Life Wishes

by Leigh Ann Creaney Kingsbury. *"This is a new planning guide that helps families as well as professionals in developmental disability, geriatric care, and social work develop healthcare and end-of-life care plans in a way that is respectful and person centered. Published by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD), People Planning Ahead is a 61-page step-by-step planning guide that comes with a CD-ROM with electronic forms from the book to record and store information on the individual. People Planning Ahead is based on the principles of Essential Lifestyle Planning, an approach that ensures that the person's wishes remain the chief focus, not their medical condition or other matters. <https://bookstore.aaid.org/BookDetail.aspx?bid=94>"*

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A solution to limitations of cognitive testing in children with intellectual disabilities: the case of fragile X syndrome by David Hessel et al. "Researchers at the UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute have come up with a new method of scoring IQ tests taken by children with fragile X syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes intellectual disability and autism in children. The new method shows promise of revealing more information on the long-term learning potential of the child. The study identifies limitations of current IQ tests in terms of gathering information on the strengths and weaknesses of the individual. The study is published in the *Journal of Neurodevelopmental Disorders*.
<http://www.response-track.net/lnk/springerlink/1870693/?14Q7508OMDX>"

Increased Risk of Adverse Neurological Development for Late Preterm Infants by Petrini et al. "After studying more than 140,000 babies born between years 2000 and 2004 ranging from preterm (30-37 weeks) to full term (37-41 weeks), Dr. Joann Petrini of the March of Dimes and her colleagues across the country found that late preterm babies were more than three times as likely to be diagnosed with cerebral palsy as full term babies. They also found that late preterm babies were at an increased risk for developmental delay or intellectual disability. Late preterm births, or births that occur between 34 and 36 weeks (approximately 4 to 6 weeks before the mother's due date), account for more than 70% of preterm births. Published in the *Journal of Pediatrics* and is available as a free download:
<http://www.response-track.net/lnk/jped/1870695/?14Q7508OMDX>."

News Articles

Autism test 'could hit maths skills'
BBC News January 7, 2009

Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, Director, Autism Research Centre, Cambridge University

The prospect of a prenatal test for autism, allowing couples to choose whether to have a baby with the condition, is coming closer. And with it also comes the possibility of a prenatal drug treatment being developed. But in this week's *Scrubbing Up*, leading autism expert Professor Simon Baron-Cohen warns caution is needed to ensure associated talents, like numerical abilities, are not lost if the test or a "cure" become available. Males, maths and autism. On the face of it, these three things don't appear to be linked. And yet they are. Males are much more likely to apply to university to study maths, for example. In 2007, three quarters of applicants to read maths at Cambridge were male, as were 90% of applicants for the computer sciences degree.

...It seems as you move to the extremes of mathematical excellence, autism becomes more common. The search to understand why led scientists to genetics. Fathers and grandfathers of children with autism are more likely to work in the field of engineering, a field that needs good attention to detail and a good understanding of systems, just like mathematics. Boy with autism Autistic traits have been linked to levels of the male hormone. Siblings of mathematicians also have a higher risk of autism, suggesting the link between maths and autism is genetically mediated. And parents of children with autism show male-typical brain function in tests. But genetics may not be the only explanation. Research published this year showed a link between higher levels of the male hormone testosterone in the amniotic fluid surrounding a foetus and autistic traits when the child was eight. And animal studies have shown foetal testosterone levels influence brain development, masculinising it. ...Caution is needed before scientists embrace prenatal testing so that we do not inadvertently repeat the history of eugenics or inadvertently 'cure' not just autism but the associated talents that are not in need of treatment.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7736196.stm>

Lawmaker: Shut most institutions for the mentally disabled
The Record North Jersey Thursday, January 8, 2009
By Elise Young

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TRENTON BUREAU: Thousands of New Jerseyans with mental disabilities would move to their own residences under legislation to shut most state-run developmental centers within five years. The new accommodations would include private apartments, group homes and assisted-living setups, conceived to streamline once-institutionalized individuals into neighborhoods. In that setting, supporters say, they could participate in community life and have more choices for medical care, therapy and other special needs. "The time has come for us to put an end to the warehousing of human life," Assemblyman Louis Greenwald, D-Camden, sponsor of the bill, said at a news conference Thursday. "New Jersey has not adopted a progressive stance for those in need." Greenwald criticized the slow rate of deinstitutionalization as overseen by the Department of Human Services, which operates the centers. As a result of a 1999 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, the department devised an eight-year plan to send residents to community-based homes. So far, 176 individuals have been placed.

The state's seven developmental centers currently house 2,861 people. Human Services Commissioner Jennifer Velez called Greenwald's proposal "a complex bill." "It is an aggressive model and timeframe distinctly different from our current plan to help individuals ready and able to move to the community," Velez said in a statement. "[Our] framework, under way now for two years, will continue to guide our efforts to best serve the consumers who reside in our residential centers." Greenwald said a panel would decide which five of the centers should close. Two locations, in North and South Jersey, would operate for those who would prefer such a setting, or whose families decide they are the best option. The centers have as few as 91 and as many as 567 residents, according to Human Services figures. The North Jersey Developmental Center in Totowa has 404 residents. The bill envisions fewer dollars being needed to support a higher quality of life for the estimated 80 percent of the clients who would be relocated.

... http://www.northjersey.com/news/aroundnj/Lawmaker_Shut.html

Early C-sections pose risks: Women choosing elective cesarean section births would do well to wait the whole nine months, a new study shows.

Science News Wednesday, January 7th, 2009

By Nathan Seppa

Babies delivered by cesarean section a week or two before the recommended 39 weeks of pregnancy face a heightened risk of respiratory problems and other complications, researchers report in the Jan. 8 New England Journal of Medicine. Being born late isn't good either, the study finds. Scientists consider normal human gestation to be 39 to 40 weeks, which is about nine months. Doctors have adopted some leeway in this calculation, considering a baby to be "full term" if delivered at 37 weeks or later. But past research had raised questions about early deliveries, and practice guidelines urge women to hang on until 39 or 40 weeks before delivering. Mainly, this extra time allows for full development of the fetus' lungs. In the new study, obstetric gynecologist Alan Tita of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and his colleagues collected birthing data at 19 medical facilities in the United States. The team identified more than 13,000 cases in which a woman had delivered by elective (nonemergency) cesarean section at 37 weeks or later, having had a previous cesarean delivery at some point. The researchers excluded from the analysis women who had medical problems, had an emergency cesarean or had already begun labor before undergoing a cesarean.

...A closer look at these women shows that those delivering earlier were more likely to be married, white and privately insured than those delivering at 39 weeks or later, says obstetric gynecologist Michael Greene of Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who didn't participate in the study. The early deliverers may have placed a premium on having their own doctors perform the cesarean, which requires planning and scheduling, he says. The risks of such early

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deliveries are now clearer, Tita says. "This study brings some of these problems to the fore. Hopefully, with this publication, some of these practices will change," he says. But there remains at least one major confounding factor in all this: The risk of stillbirth is greatest at 39 weeks or more. Roughly one in 1,000 full-term births end in stillbirth. These cases of fetal death can be traced to many factors, including bacterial infections, umbilical cord problems, trauma, drug or alcohol consumption by the mother or high blood pressure in the mother...

http://www.sciencenews.org/view/generic/id/39758/title/Early_C-sections_pose_risks

Ohio agency banned restraint used on girl who died

Daily Jeffersonian January 10, 2009

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) -- A state agency recently banned the face-down position used to restrain a girl who died last month at a Cleveland treatment center. The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer reported Saturday that the Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities banned the face-down restraint in November after finding it dangerous and potentially fatal. The restraint is blamed for at least 40 child deaths nationwide since 1993.

Seventeen-year-old Faith Finley of Barberton died in December while being restrained by staff of the church-run Parmadale Family Services. A coroner has ruled her death a homicide, saying Finley suffocated and choked on vomit. The teen's mother has urged authorities to investigate Parmadale's procedures.

<http://www.daily-jeff.com/news/article/4502898>

It's About Hope – Again

California Progress Report Friday January 9, 2009

By Marty D. Omoto, California Disability Community Action Network

I didn't think back in late 2001 that in 2009, we would have fought and still be fighting every year against major spending cuts over and over, year after year. It isn't just the perverse feeling of history repeating itself – it is more like history is stuck in the same place. This commentary below – titled "Its About Hope" was written and originally sent out December 1, 2003 (five years ago!) as an alert to thousands of people across California and the media. It was the first commentary I wrote...

IT'S ABOUT HOPE

By Marty Omoto (originally written and sent out December 1, 2003 – 5 years ago)

In the midst of approaching winter and continuing bad news on the California budget for people with developmental and other disabilities, it may seem that our efforts are more about fighting despair in a never ending losing struggle. It may seem that this is more about feelings of helplessness and panic for hundreds of thousands of families with children with disabilities. It may seem that it's all about outrageous spending cuts harming California's most vulnerable children and adults. It may seem that it's just about still more terrible proposals eliminating needed services and programs like respite - or even suspending the landmark civil rights act for people with developmental disabilities - the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, passed over three decades ago. But it is so much more than that. It's about a promise this state has made to people in California. And most important of all - it is about hope...

http://www.californiaprogressreport.com/2009/01/its_about_hope.html

Funding Opportunities

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ED - U.S. Department of Education Center on the Effective Delivery of Rehabilitation Technology by State Vocational Rehabilitation Agencies to Improve Employment Outcomes CFDA 84.133A-4 Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44523>

ED - U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools; Overview Information; Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program CFDA 84.184L Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44532>

USDOJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention OJJDP FY 09 National Mentoring Programs Modification 2

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44539>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources & Services Administration Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities Modification 1

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44578>

To view additional funding opportunities on an ongoing basis visit the Funding News Section of the Quality Mall. The Quality Mall is maintained by the Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota with support from the National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Human Services Research Institute and the Administration on Developmental Disabilities - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<http://www.qualitymall.org/funding/index.asp>

Career Ladder

The Arc of California posts job announcements in the Career Ladder section every week because we would like to contribute to steering quality candidates to professional positions that support people with disabilities and we are trying to communicate to Direct Support Professionals and People with Disabilities that there is a real "career ladder" in their chosen profession.

Position: *President/Chief Executive Officer The Arc of San Diego*

Description: The President & CEO shall have corporate powers and authority as shall reasonably be required to enable performance of the duties; directs the operation and administration of a large, complex, non-profit, charitable association within the guidelines and budgetary limits established by the Board of Directors, as well within federal, state and local laws and regulations. This position provides executive leadership, guidance, and support for the successful operations of The Arc of San Diego as administered by assigned managers and related employees. The President & CEO is the public face of the organization promoting the vision and mission of The Arc of San Diego to all levels of the community, including individuals, political entities, the media, and related health and human services organizations. The President & CEO is fundamentally responsible for the fiscal health of the organization through careful budgeting, planning, program implementation/tracking, and efficiency and creativity in revenue income enhancement. The President & CEO is expected to direct a large percentage of time to fundraising activities and communicates effectively with the Board of Directors on major issues involving the organization. The President & CEO also serves as the Executive Director of the Arc San Diego Foundation.

Salary: The salary and benefits are very good and they have elevated the salary significantly to a target of \$190,000 to \$210,000 (depending on experience and history). There are a number of plus factors to this position, this location, and this organization.

How to Apply: A full position description is posted, which outlines the organization, the major focus of the position and the qualifications. You will also find links to the organization Web sites and to the region. On our Web site, choose "Current Positions" and scroll down to the listing and click on the Title. Go to: <http://www.paschalmurray.com>

Position: *Executive Director Residential Services, TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers Rockville, Maryland*

Description: TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers is seeking an entrepreneurial executive director to build on its 58-year record of providing exemplary care and services for individuals with special needs. Founded in

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1950, TLC is a multiservice nonprofit with a mission to improve lives and expand possibilities for individuals with special needs. TLC serves children and adults with a range of disabilities and provides an environment where they are cared for and challenged, allowing them to excel. Over recent years the organization has grown in both budget and programs, from a budget of \$6.6 million in 2003 to \$13 million in FY 2009. The organization also launched a highly respected high school (in 2005) and expanded other programs. TLC has three facilities: two in Rockville and one in North Potomac. Current staffing includes 205 positions. The organization is governed by an 18-member board of trustees. TLC is also guided by a Medical Advisory Board with 18 members and a 5-member Consumer Advisory Board. More information on TLC may be found at: www.tlc.org. At least 10 years of senior management experience including direct experience managing in a nonprofit, multiservice setting. Experience in organizations serving people with developmental disabilities, learning disabilities or other special needs populations. A high degree of financial literacy and experience in budgeting and financial management at a scale similar or larger than TLC. An inspirational leader with an exceptional record at maintaining and developing high-performing teams. Diverse experience and solid track record in resource development, including government grants and contracts, major gifts, individual and corporate donations, planned giving, capital campaigns and private foundation grants. A track record of building and maintaining excellent board and external stakeholder relationships. Masters degree with an emphasis in health care, developmental disabilities or related field. For a copy of the full position profile please visit www.transitionguides.com/jobs/tlc.htm.

Salary: Salary will be competitive and commensurate with experience

How to Apply: e-mail resume, cover letter and salary requirements to TLC@transitionguides.com. Resume reviews begin immediately. EOE/AA.

Position: Maintenance and Service Occupational Trainees (MSOT), California Department of Developmental Services

Description: The Department of Developmental Services is looking for people who want to be a Maintenance and Service Occupational Trainees (MSOT). A Maintenance and Service Occupational Trainee is a state employee that gets on-the-job training at a developmental center. People in these jobs do the following kinds of things:

- * Sweep
- * Mop
- * Dust
- * Clean Carpet
- * Stock Supplies
- * Wash Windows
- * Vacuum
- * Use Supplies

People working as a maintenance and service occupational trainees are appointed for up to 9 months while they get on-the-job training so they can take a test to become a Custodian. People who want these jobs must be able to learn to do the job safely, follow directions, work well with others, and read English.

Salary: Pay starts at \$1,899 per month plus benefits.

How to Apply: To apply for a job, mail a State of California application to each developmental center where you want to work. There is no deadline, however the sooner you apply the sooner you can be considered for a job. If you have any questions, call the person on the list at the state developmental center closest to you. If you need help with your application, ask a friend, family, or someone you trust to help. PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY!

<http://www.dds.cahw.net.gov/MSOT/Index.cfm>

NEW! [State Director - Alabama](#)

Salary: \$90,000

Large social service provider is looking for an experienced leader to oversee their programs and services in Alabama. The program largely provides foster care services and supports.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

NEW! [Day Program Manager - Indiana](#)

Salary: \$40,000

Salary: \$40,000

Reputable developmental disability service provider is looking for a Day Program Manager to head up their day services in Northern Indiana. Program supports consumers with medical and behavioral support needs.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[NEW! Director Residential Services- Iowa](#)

Salary: Please include salary requirements with application

We're looking for a committed disability professional to act as Residential Director of ICF and waiver supported residential programs in IA. The program provides residential and vocational supports to over 200 people with developmental disabilities.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[NEW! Program Manager- South Central Pennsylvania](#)

Salary: Please include salary requirements with application

We need a Program Manager to head up services in South Central PA including children's residential and foster care as well as developmental disability services. Position will have a \$1.5+mm budget.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[NEW! Program Manager- Southern Pennsylvania](#)

Salary: Please include salary requirements with application

Large social service provider is looking for a Program Manager to head up children's behavioral/disability services in Southern Pennsylvania. Position will oversee 200+ employees with a budget of \$4mm.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[NEW! QMRP Supervisor - Indiana](#)

Salary: \$40,000

Multi-state developmental disability service provider is looking for a QMRP Supervisor to develop, coordinate and oversee residential services for people with developmental disabilities. Position will oversee four homes with 15-20 staff.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[Regional Director - Houston, Texas](#)

Salary: \$80,000-\$100,000

Large Disability Services provider looking for a Regional Director to oversee residential (ICF and Waiver), day services, and foster care programs in the Houston area. This position will have a great support team and reports directly to CEO. Excellent salary and benefits.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

[State Director - New Jersey](#)

Salary: \$100,000-\$120,000

Salary: \$100,000-\$120,000

Large disability/behavioral health services provider is looking for an experienced leader to oversee their programs in the state of New Jersey. Provider offers a wide array of services to adults and children with developmental disabilities, behavioral needs or traumatic brain injury. Programs include residential, vocational, day services, therapeutic foster care, and in home supports. Over \$40mm budget.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Director - Wisconsin

Salary: 60s

We're looking for a Director for a residential program in WI. The program supports over 40 people and has a budget of approximately \$3mm. Programs range from group home to apartment settings. This program has a great team in place and is a fantastic opportunity to join an organization with lots of opportunity for advancement.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Sales Consultant - Remote Position

Salary: please include salary requirements with application

ONLY ONE OPEN POSITION REMAINING: Ready for a change, but want to stay in the disability field? We have an opportunity for someone to assist an organization in their marketing/sales efforts promoting a quality software system designed for the disability field. This opportunity will give you control of how much you earn with a base salary plus an excellent commission on your sales. This position can home-office. Some travel is required.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Director - Maryland

Salary: Please include salary requirements in application

Large developmental disability service provider is looking for a leader to head up their residential programs in Maryland. Programs provide services to over 200 people with a budget of approximately 16mm. The position will have an assistant in addition to a solid support team to manage and oversee the programs.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Program Manager - Maryland

Salary: \$60s

Description: Progressive developmental disability service provider is seeking a Program Manager to head up their day programs. These programs serve approximately 150 people with developmental disabilities. Specialized services include supports for people with significant behavioral and medical challenges as well individuals of retirement age.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Clinical Psychologist/Autism Clinician - Illinois

Salary: Please include salary requirements in application

Progressive developmental disability services provider is looking for a Clinical Psychologist /Autism Clinician

Progressive developmental disability services provider is looking for a Clinical Psychologist /Autism Clinician to develop a program that will provide comprehensive diagnostic evaluations and family based therapies for children with autism and their families. Position will have administrative support.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Manager Behavior Services/Autism Specialist - California

Salary: \$81,000-\$110,000

This position is a part of a multi-disciplinary team of therapists and specialists. Will assist service coordinators with clinical referrals and advise Intake unit on best practice guidelines for the screening, diagnosis, and assessment of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Program Director - Wisconsin

Salary: \$33,700

Large, progressive developmental disability service provider is seeking a Program Director. The Program Director will be responsible for overseeing residential services. The Program Director is expected to hire/supervise/evaluate direct support staff and perform QMRP related duties. This organization offers excellent opportunities for advancement.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Director - Washington, DC

Salary: Upper-60s

Large disability service provider is looking for a Director to oversee the start-up and continued growth of residential programs in the area.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

Director - Eugene, Oregon

Salary: \$60,000-\$63,000

Large disability service provider is looking for a Director to head up and grow their programs in the Eugene area. Director will oversee residential and day services and will directly supervise three Program Directors and a Behaviorist.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)

QMRP - Chicago Suburb, IL

Salary: excellent salary and benefits

Description: Illinois provider looking for experienced professionals to oversee services supporting adults with developmental disabilities in a QMRP capacity. Strong values, good people and a great place to work in Chicago's south suburbs.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



You want to provide quality services to people with disabilities... *We can help*

Human Service Connections provides real solutions for the issues facing disability organizations today.

If your organization is facing an immediate need for leadership, HSC provides **nationwide executive level recruitment searches**. We can help your organization find qualified individuals that fit your agency's culture and will lead your organization toward providing excellent supports to people with disabilities.

If your organization's leadership changes will be in the future, HSC provides assistance with **succession planning** to ensure a seamless transition of leadership for your organization. In addition, HSC provides **other consultative services** in the areas of strategic development & implementation, business development, executive coaching, turnaround assistance for agencies in crisis, and training on various topics for audiences from direct support to executive level leadership.

[Contact us](#) to learn how HSC can help you fulfill your mission