



Monday Morning Memo

January 19, 2009

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Week in Review

*This week's MMM is dedicated to the memory of one our members from The Arc of Fresno **Jane Loewen** (wife of **Carl Loewen**) and our good friend and recent Partners in Policymaking graduate **Donald Roberts** (husband of **Krissi Franzone**). The Arc is about family and this week we lost two of our family members, they will be missed by many.*

Monday January 12, 2009 – Thursday January 15, 2009

We spent much of the week studying the various budget documents searching for proposals that will impact people with developmental disabilities and their families. Like every year we arrange this report into a PowerPoint presentation which will be made available on our website next week. Future events to help members and other advocates better understand how the budget proposals impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families include: two webinars for members (details to be announced) and a one day advocacy training featuring several of the state's top advocates and administration officials on February 2nd for The Arc of CA Board of Directors and Partners in Policymaking graduates.

Tuesday January 13, 2009

The Executive Committee of The Arc of CA, chaired by President **Pat Heineke** met during the lunch hour to finalize the agenda for the board business meeting on February 1, 2009. So far attendance looks good for the upcoming February meeting, training, and visits and we estimate about 40 to 60 participants will be attending.

The Arc of CA Public Policy Committee met and reviewed the Governor's proposed budget spending considerable time on the Department of Developmental Services Estimates report and beginning strategy discussion. Our annual advocacy letter will be published in time for review at the February board meeting.

Wednesday January 14, 2009

The Partners in Policymaking California Collaborative met for a status report on the application process for the class of 2009 in Los Angeles County. This being the last week of applications we were anticipating a rush of candidates and as you'll see in the Projects Update section, we received over half of all our applications that last week totaling over 70 applicants for 36 positions. Thank you everyone for your interest and best of luck.

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 1 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

We participated in the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) meeting focused on the governor's budget and the impact on people with disabilities. The session started with reports by each of the member departments on SCDD including: Anthony Sauer Director, Department of Rehabilitation, Daniel Boomer, Ph.D. representing Jack O'Connell, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Lynn Daucher, Director, Department of Aging, Jim Alves representing Kim Belshé, Mark Hutchinson representing Terri Delgadillo, Director, Department of Developmental Services, Karen Johnson, representing Director of Health Services. Department officials provided comprehensive overviews of their budget cuts (all departments have cuts) and council members followed with engaging presenters with questions and strategy comments. This was followed by a panel of advocates highlighting suggestions for strategy including: **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. Common themes from the advocates were that we need increased personal contact this year with legislators especially with local offices, the cuts this year as proposed are not sustainable, and the cuts are completely system wide and impact the same person in several aspects of their lives.

Thursday January 15, 2009

I provided a webinar presentation to the leaders of Easter Seals from throughout California on the State Budget. These leaders gathered for strategy talks for their advocacy work for this session and included consultation with several others involved in public policy for people with developmental disabilities, including **Terri Delgadillo**, DDS and **Marty Omoto**, CDCAN.

Friday January 16, 2009 – Saturday January 17, 2009

The National Conference of Executives of The Arc met in Arizona for our annual Board of Directors retreat. The meeting included the **Lynne Cleveland**, the President of The Arc of the US, **Peter Berns**, the Executive Director of The Arc, and the leadership staff from the national office. This was a productive and hopeful meeting focused on the future of our association and how NCE can contribute to our collective the success. We discussed the new optional resource for local chapters called the Standards for Excellence to serve as a guide for excellence in non-profit corporate compliance and excellence in governance. We also reviewed the finding from Grant Thornton from their research on "the Future of The Arc" and worked on planning for expanding The Arc and NCE collaboration. **Kevin MacDonald**, The Arc of Southeast Los Angeles and **Tim Hornbecker**, The Arc of San Francisco (2nd Vice President) will also be participating.

The Week Ahead

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) amended rules, are now in effect governing the verification of eligibility process for free and reduced priced school meals. Comment deadline: 3/18/09. Based on provisions contained in the Child Nutrition and WIC (women, infants and children) Reauthorization Act of 2004, the Department has revised the process by which local educational agencies (LEAs) will verify applications for free and reduced price school meals which are part of the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. In addition, the amended rule contains instructions to assist households in completing the verification process by requiring LEAs to provide ready access to information and engage in follow-up activities prior to denying an application. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-29904.htm>.

Monday January 19, 2009 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Today is the effective date for the US HHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Office for Civil Rights amended rule governing the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005. The purpose of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Act of 2005 is to respond to reports of preventable medical errors that result in death, disability, and increased health care costs. This final rule provides the framework for hospitals, doctors, and other health care providers to voluntarily report information to Patient Safety Organizations (PSOs). PSOs are responsible for collecting adverse event data, analyzing it, and assisting providers in implementing practices and rules to avoid preventable events. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27475.htm>.

Tuesday January 20, 2009 - Inauguration Day for president Barack Obama

Today is the effective date for the Department of Education Discretionary Grant Programs Final funding priorities for fiscal year 2009 (see the 8/27/08 "Other Notices" section of the Federal Register Summary or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-19893.htm>). Under the Discretionary Grant Programs, which are established by the U.S. Congress and authorized in appropriations bills, the Secretary has finalized funding priorities that are to be used in fiscal year 2009. Included among the eight priorities are "Professional Development for Secondary School Teachers" and "Student Achievement Data." See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27744.htm>.

Today is the effective date for the US HHS Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) amended rules governing the state option for a non-emergency medical transportation program under Medicaid (see the Proposed Rules section of the 8/24/07 Federal Register Summary or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/E7-16172.htm>). Based on provisions contained in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, states will now be allowed, if they choose, to establish a non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) brokerage program, and to receive the federal medical assistance percentage matching rate. States will no longer be required to get a waiver for non-emergency medical transportation. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-29662.htm>.

Social Security Administration's Notice of establishment of a new panel entitled, "Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel." Under provisions contained in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Occupational Information Development Advisory Panel's members will be responsible for analyzing and advising SSA on the occupational information used by the agency in its disability programs. Its 12 members will be comprised of members of academia, professional experts in areas of vocational rehabilitation, medical professionals, and professional experts who act as representatives or who advocate for persons with disabilities. The panel is described as "continuing." See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30589.htm>.

Today is the deadline for comments on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission is requesting or comments on the "Draft Strategic Plan Fiscal Years: 2009 Through 2014." EAC, which serves as a clearinghouse on federal elections and oversees the development of voting systems and which was authorized in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), has drafted its strategic plan that explains "an approach to create a receptive and productive agency fully capable of the unique leadership role it has been given" See the document at:

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30195.htm>.

Funding for federal transit programs in fiscal year 2009 and guidance, requirements, and program issues information. Based on provisions contained in the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009, the following transit programs of interest will continue to receive funding in fiscal year 2009: 1) Special Needs of Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities. This program provides funding to the states for capital projects for private nonprofits who work to meet the transportation needs of this population. Amount available - \$54,349,586; 2) Job Access and Reverse Commute. This program provides funding to the states to pay for the development and maintenance of the transportation needs of persons who are on welfare. Amount available - \$67,095,600; 3) New Freedom. This program provides funding to states and others for the development of public transportation services beyond the requirements in the Americans with Disabilities Act. Amount available - \$37,633,750; and 4) Over-the-Road Bus Accessibility. This program provides grants to operators of over-the-road buses to pay for capital and training costs associated with DOT's accessibility requirements. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-29645.pdf>.

Today is the deadline for comments on the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board's second draft of revisions to the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines for Transportation Vehicles. The ATBCB, an independent federal agency whose primary responsibility is to assure accessibility for people with disabilities, has issued a second draft of revisions. The draft contains: significant changes to the guideline's format; provisions that cover over-the-road buses; and revisions based on public comments. These proposals cover only buses, over-the-road buses, and vans. Guidelines for other modes of transportation will be published later. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27477.htm>.

Wednesday January 21, 2009

Policy Requirements and General Section for Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for fiscal year 2009. Applicants are required to electronically submit their applications for funding under HUD's discretionary programs. To aid in this process and to help familiarize prospective applicants with the new funding process, HUD has published information in advance of the funding notices. This year, there will not be a combined SuperNOFA. Instead, HUD plans to publish NOFAs as they become approved for publication. One of the programs listed for funding in Appendix A is the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities, with anticipated publication between February and April 2009. This program provides funding to developers of housing for persons who are disabled and who have low incomes. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30600.htm>

The Disability Policy Collaboration of The Arc and UCP will be meeting by conference call at 1 pm (PST). We will receive an update on 111th Congress, Obama Administration Transition, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act & Medicaid FMAP, SCHIP, Medicaid, Social Security, Employment, 2009 Disability Policy Seminar, and representatives will provide State Fiscal Crises Updates.

Thursday January 22, 2009

Today is the deadline for comments on the ED Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS)

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 4 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

proposed priorities and requirements under the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools Grant Program (REMS). The purpose of REMS is to provide financial resources to local educational agencies (LEAs) to assist them in the development of comprehensive emergency management plans that address the communication, medical, and evacuation needs of individuals with disabilities in schools. There are three priorities: local emergency management capacity; priority for LEAs that have not previously received funding and are located in certain security initiative jurisdictions; and priority for LEAs that have not previously received funding. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-30578.htm>.

Assessment percentage rate for direct payments made to representative payees. 2009 SSA has determined that the current assessment percentage rate of 6.3 percent will remain the same in 2009. This assessment is authorized in the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 and the Social Security Protection Act of 2004. The assessment covers SSA's services in determining and certifying payments to representative payees from the benefits due claimants under Title II (disability insurance) and Title XVI (Supplemental Security Income). Representative payees, either an individual or an organization, receive benefit payments on behalf of beneficiaries who cannot manage their own affairs and do not have family members to do so. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-31129.htm>.

I will be in the California Lobbyist training from Thursday January 22, 2009 - Friday January 23, 2009 in preparation for the upcoming session in Sacramento.

Friday January 23, 2009

Today is the comment deadline for the US HHS CMS amended rules and state allotments for payment of Medicare Part B premiums for "qualifying individuals" for fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The authorizations for these rules are contained in several federal statutes, including the Social Security Act and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. The amendments allow continued funding availability through fiscal year 2009 for "qualifying individuals," including individuals who are disabled and those who are working. The totals that the states will have to pay for Medicare Part B premiums are: 2008 - \$415 million; 2009 - \$480 million. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27810.htm>.

Today is the nomination deadline for HHS Office of the Secretary to fill vacancies on the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP). SACHRP advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HHS and the Assistant Secretary for Health on matters related to the protection of human subjects in research. This committee has two positions that will become vacant in June of 2009. Potential candidates should have expertise in fields such as health and medicine, behavioral and social sciences, health administration, and biomedical ethics. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-27851.htm>.

Today is the deadline for nomination for the ED Office of Postsecondary Education five negotiated rulemaking committees under the Higher Education Act of 2005 (the Act). The five negotiated rulemaking committees or "teams" are being formed to prepare proposed regulations under Title IV of the Act. Under Team V, General and Non-Loan Programmatic Issues, are listed the following: "Financial assistance for individuals with intellectual disabilities...and comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with

intellectual disabilities; and Hate Crimes Reporting.” The Department anticipates that negotiations for these committees will begin in February 2009 in the Washington, D.C. area. Dates and locations will be posted at: <http://www.ed.gov/HEOA>. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-31176.htm>.

Action Alerts

The Arc of California

This is going to be an extremely difficult year regarding the sustainability of supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families. Historically California has made a very serious and important commitment to its citizens with developmental disabilities and their families. However, in today’s political environment of term limits this history and commitment are unfamiliar to many policymakers. This week The Arc of CA has updated our committee assignment function on our Bill File page to assist advocates in knowing which legislators are serving on committees impacting our constituents. The cuts being proposed by the Governor and under consideration by the legislators are too deep and our system cannot endure a reduction of over a half a billion dollars. Supporting people with developmental disabilities is not a partisan concept and all policymakers must know the full extent of the impact if their decisions but they rely on us the voters to keep them informed. Please take advantage of this resource by visiting the Bill File page and scrolling down to the Committee Assignments: <http://www.arccalifornia.org/BillFile.htm>.

The Arc of the United States

Urge Congress to Support the Economic Recovery Bills

Take Action! (<http://capwiz.com/thearc/utr/1/EDWZJPTRHO/MZSNJPTXQE/2792464096>)

The House of Representatives released its version of the economic recovery package yesterday. The Senate is likely to unveil its version next week. That bill will be S.1. Both versions are being worked on in close cooperation with the incoming Obama Administration.

In addition to \$275 billion in tax cuts, the House bill, entitled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, will provide \$550 billion for myriad domestic programs to spur the economy, job growth and help state and local governments cope with rising deficits.

A substantial amount of this new spending will be available to protect and possibly expand disability services. Among the most critical increases to disability programs are:

1. \$87 billion for an increased federal Medicaid match (FMAP)
2. \$13 billion for IDEA State Grants
3. \$600 million for IDEA Early Intervention
4. \$500 million for the Vocational Rehabilitation State Grant
5. A one time \$450 (individuals)/\$630 (couples) payment to all SSI recipients (\$4.2 billion total)
6. \$900 million to improve the Social Security Administration claims process and computerization upgrades
7. \$6.5 billion for several low income housing initiatives

A more complete summary of disability related provisions can be found at:

<http://www.thearc.org/NetCommunity/Document.Doc?id=1464>

The Congress hopes to complete action on these bills so that President Obama can sign the economic recovery package into law by mid February. Clearly most states and local governments are desperate to receive this influx of federal money to prevent increasing job losses and massive budget cuts.

Many states are now in the process of deciding which disability programs to cut or eliminate. These bills will likely draw substantial bipartisan opposition due to the costs involved. It is imperative that disability advocates contact their Senators and Representatives to support these critical bills.

Action Needed

Please email your Senators and Representative TODAY. See the "Take Action" section for a sample message.

Project Status Report

Partners in Policymaking

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

On Friday January 16, 2009 I attended the funeral of one of our 2008 Partners in Policymaking graduates, Mr. Donald Roberts. Nearly 200 people crowded the small Galt church to pay their respect for the lost of a wonderful man. Donald was an active participant of the 2008 class and a devoted advocate for all persons with disabilities. His own personal experiences led him to work hard for changes in policy that would provide choice and freedom. Donald passed away on Sunday, January 11th at the age of 46. Donald had become sick and was in the hospital with pneumonia. His wife Krisi, family members, friends, and the PIP class of 2008 will greatly miss Donald.

We have received more than 70 applications for the 2009 class of Partners in Policymaking. Collaborative members will be reviewing applications for the next week and meeting on January 27th to select the 2009 participants. The due date for applications is now passed, and we are no longer accepting applications. All of those who have applied will be contacted by February 6th regarding the participant selection.

The schedule for the March session has been set and we are finalizing some of the remaining speaker arrangements. Work is beginning on scheduling for the following sessions.

California College of Direct Support

Class starts on Tuesday January 20, 2009 and there's still a little time left to register. 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

As coordinator of the California Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Taskforce, The Arc of California is in the process of scheduling a Strategic Planning Session. The aim of this meeting is to evaluate the progress of the existing goals as well as continue to develop new goals to meet the needs of the community. We are getting closer to a date some time in early

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 8 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

March. If you are interested in participating in this session please call The Arc of California at 916-552-6619 in an effort to make sure you get registration information.

As our Prevention efforts continue to evolve we look forward to the development of a State Committee, comprised of stakeholders throughout the state, dedicated to the promotion of a strategic plan for preventing intellectual and developmental disabilities in California. **We are currently seeking collaborators for this project.**

Preconception Care is the first step to Prevention. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have published a report: Preconception Health and Care, 2006, which outlines the importance of preconception care. The report defines what constitutes preconception care, why it is an important public health concern, what the CDC and its partners are doing to promote preconception care and future directions for improving programs and access to preconception care. The following highlights come from the CDC report and illustrate the need for public awareness as well as legislative attention to the issue of preconception care. To view the report in it's entirety visit : <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/preconception/documents/At-a-glance-4-11-06.pdf>

Prenatal care, which usually begins at week 11 or 12 of a pregnancy, comes too late to prevent a number of serious maternal and child health problems..... Several effective preconception interventions, such as smoking cessation, obesity control, folic acid supplementation, and some medication adjustments, take months to implement and therefore must begin long before conception. Preconception care is critical to improving the health of the nation. Healthy People 2000 set a goal of 60% of primary care physicians providing age-appropriate preconception care, yet only about one in four providers currently do so for the majority of the women they serve. Preconception care could succeed in improving maternal and child health where the current paradigm is failing, but most providers don't provide it, most insurers don't pay for it, and most consumers don't ask for it.

Correction from last week MMM

The Children's Advocacy Institute Roundtable meeting will be held on January 20, 2009 from 12:00 – 2:00 pm at the Westminster Church in Sacramento.

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 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

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 9 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

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.

Sunday, March 22, 2009

The College of Direct Support Administrators 4th Annual Forum 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please contact Donna Kosak at the CDS 1-877-353-2767 (toll free) or e-mail donna@collegeofdirectsupport.com to register. The Arc of California is proudly promoting the College of Direct Support (CDS) Administrators Forum on Sunday, March 22nd, during the opening day of ANCOR's 2009 Management Practices Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco. The Forum will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at no cost with lunch provided. The forum is open to anyone who wants more information about CDS. The session, open to ANCOR and non-ANCOR members, will provide informative updates on the CDS, a time to share best practices and insights into how other organizations are using the CDS and will also include an expanded Q&A session. Participants in the College of Direct Support Administrators Forum will receive the ANCOR member registration rate for the conference. Please contact jmccandless@ancor.org for ANCOR rates.

March 22-24, 2009

ANCOR's Management Practices Conference and Trade Show Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco. Facing challenging economic times, providers are seeking practical tips and tools, business solutions and networking opportunities to better understand how they can navigate the current financial climate. Whether providing a framework to help make sound strategic decisions, using national benchmarking data to improve supports or learning how to meet the needs of new and evolving consumers, ANCOR's Management Practices Conference and Trade Show will focus on creating sustainable organizations. During this conference, you'll have the opportunity to connect with providers from across the country, many of whom possess keen insights and expertise they can share. Specific sessions to include:

1. Hiring 'Smart' in a Challenging Economy: Tips and Techniques for Success
2. Supporting the Needs of Aging Consumers
3. ANCOR's PE Benchmarking Project: Providers Using National Data to Better Support Individuals with Disabilities
4. Consumer Self-Direction: Assessing Your Organization's Readiness
5. Diversification into Behavioral Health Services: Lessons from the Field
6. Using Technology to Address Changing Consumer Needs

Registration and official conference brochure located at http://www.ancor.org/conferences/mpc09/mpc09_brochure.pdf

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.

California Delivers State of the State Address by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Thursday, 01/15/2009 12:46 pm. ... *"Now, we meet in times of great hope for our nation, although we hear the drumbeat of news about bailouts, bankruptcies and Ponzi schemes, the nation with great anticipation is also awaiting the inauguration of a new president. Our nation should be proud of President-elect Obama's election and what it says to the world about American openness and renewal. You know, President Reagan used to tell about a letter that he got from a man who said that you can go and live in Turkey but you can't become a Turk. You can go and live in Japan but you can't become Japanese. And he went through various different countries like that but the man said anyone from any corner of the world can come to America and become an American. (Applause) I know that we know that any American child now also, no matter what corner of the world his father or mother comes from, can even become president of the United States. What a wonderful national story for us. This nation rightfully feels the hope of change. Californians, of course, desire change here in their own state as well. Yet they have doubts, if that is possible, because for months in the face of a crisis we have been unable to reach agreement on the largest budget deficit in our history. We are in our third special session and we have declared a fiscal emergency and every day that goes by makes the budget problem that much harder to solve. As a result of all of this, California, the eighth largest economy in the world, faces insolvency within weeks. The legislature is currently in the midst of serious and good faith negotiations to solve this crisis, negotiations that are being conducted in the knowledge that we have no alternative but to find agreement.* <http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?print-version/speech/11390/>

News Articles

Contesting cuts: Protest staged at Capitol

Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 | Page 1A

By Bill Lindelof

While state leaders debated California's budget, a rally outside the Capitol on Wednesday brought out several hundred people – many who said that during an economic downturn, state budget cuts are wrong: Children's resources - Steve Weaver, 43, Auburn. Parent of two children, one with a disability, and Auburn Union School District trustee. "Regional centers give us services that support our child's needs so that she can be an active part of the community. Also, schools very well may be cut. Music, libraries, computer labs could be cut again." College tuition - Whitney Thompson, 22, Fresno. Fresno State University college student and waitress. "I'd like to be a teacher. I'm in a crazy amount of debt and the fees are rising every year. I have to work more, which hurts my grades."

Medi-Cal - Beverly Griffith, 50, Oakland. Housekeeping worker at Sutter Alta Bates/Summit Medical Center "If we don't have Medi-Cal then we are going to see more cuts at our hospital and see patient care affected. We have quality care now." Home health care - Ramiro Montoya, Berkeley, 53, advisory board member In-Home Supportive Services, HIV positive "I have a terminal illness. My attendant has saved my life three times. I definitely need someone to help me with my daily routine. If they cut my attendant's salary, how will I survive?"

<http://www.sacbee.com/capitolandcalifornia/story/1543492.html>

Arc bracing for cutback in state funding

The Downey Patriot

By Mary Forney, Staff Writer

DOWNEY— Hundreds of intellectually-impaired adults are facing shrinking or loss of services this year as the State of California threatens a 10 percent cutback in funds to Arc of Southern Los Angeles County. With its main office in Downey, Arc of Southeast Los Angeles County serves 20 surrounding cities. Arc was established locally in 1956 after the Kennedy administration sought to eliminate state-funded institutions for the disabled and utilize community-based services and programs instead. What started out as a handful of parents sitting around a table sharing concerns about how they were going to care for their intellectually-impaired adult children has grown into programs that foster natural life benefits and responsibilities. Promoting self-reliance and success, today's Arc offers vocational services, job development and coaching, adult development and day training activity centers, after school programs, senior services, supported living, independent living training, food services training, transportation services, basic adult education classes, and an advocacy center.

...“Many of the seniors don't have parents anymore or siblings that can take care of them,” said Downey resident Dwight Simpson. “So they end up in institutional facilities or on the street.” His brother Larry Simpson, 58, has resided with him since the death of their parents. Larry has been an Arc consumer his entire adult life. Awarded “Senior of the Year” in 2008, he retired in 2007 after 14 years working in the Columbia High School cafeteria through the Arc program. His age and health have lowered his abilities to work, so now he participates in the Arc program designed for intellectually disabled senior citizens... “It is life changing when they get a job,” MacDonald said. “They want it so much that they show up for work everyday and try harder. Their dedication is what makes them exceptional employees.” “This isn't about the actual numbers. This will put people out on the streets or close services that are vital to someone's life.” http://www.thedowneypatriot.net/view_full.php?article=0000049312

House Votes to Expand Children's Health Care

New York Times Published: January 14, 2009

By [ROBERT PEAR](#)

WASHINGTON — With enthusiastic support from President-elect [Barack Obama](#), the House on Wednesday passed a bill to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program. President Bush twice had vetoed similar legislation. Mr. Obama will probably be able to sign the bill within days of taking office on Tuesday. The Senate might take action within a week. The House vote was 289 to 139. Supporters never mustered more than 273 votes for similar legislation in the last two years. The bill, which would extend coverage to four million uninsured children, symbolizes the shift in priorities in Washington. The vote came five days after the House, defying a veto threat from Mr. Bush, passed two bills to combat sex discrimination by employers who pay women less than men doing the same or substantially similar work. The child health bill would provide \$32.3 billion over four and a half years to continue coverage for seven million children who now rely on the program and to extend coverage to more than four million who are uninsured.

“This is a day of triumph for America's children,” Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) of California said. “We put women and children first.” After years of frustration, Democrats were exultant. “Today is a new day,” Representative Dave Loebsack of Iowa. Representative Chris Van Hollen, Democrat of Maryland, said, “Passing this bill sends a very important signal that change has come to Washington as a result of the last election.” Representative [Frank Pallone](#), Democrat of New Jersey, said the bill was a down payment on Mr. Obama's promise to make health insurance available to all Americans “In this moment of crisis, ensuring that every child in America has access to affordable health care is not just good

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 12 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

economic policy, but a moral obligation we hold as parents and citizens,” Mr. Obama said in a statement. “That is why I’m so pleased that Democrats and Republicans in the House of Representatives came together to provide health insurance to over ten million children whose families have been hurt most by this downturn. This coverage is critical, it is fully paid for, and I hope that the Senate acts with the same sense of urgency so that it can be one of the first measures I sign into law when I am President.” The Senate Finance Committee is expected to approve a similar bill on Thursday, with action by the full Senate to follow quickly. The bills would be financed by an increase in tobacco taxes, including a 61-cent increase in the tax on cigarettes, to \$1 pack...

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/washington/15healthcare.html?_r=1

California could run out of cash by Feb. 1, analysts say

Sacramento Bee Published: Thursday, Jan. 15, 2009 | Page 3A

By Kevin Yamamura kyamamura@sacbee.com

The state's nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office confirmed Wednesday that California could run short of cash as soon as Feb. 1 unless lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger immediately cut spending and raise revenues. The LAO's Michael Cohen and Jason Dickerson said the following:

- California faces the "double whammy" of a severe drop in revenues coupled with an inability to borrow because credit markets are frozen.
- The longer lawmakers and Schwarzenegger go without adjusting the budget, the more difficult it becomes to determine whom to pay.

Schools and creditors have first claim on the state's revenues, while state worker salaries and benefits, Medi-Cal claims and court-ordered payments are among those with secondary priority. State Controller John Chiang has said the first groups to receive IOUs or delayed payments will include Californians awaiting state income tax refunds and companies that do business with the state.

- A prolonged budget dispute could force parties to file legal challenges to claim their share of state money.
- The LAO recommended that lawmakers allow internal borrowing from several state funds to add \$2 billion to the state's cash cushion. It also recommended that lawmakers defer some payments to local governments and schools to preserve cash.
- A delayed budget agreement would mean the state would have to pay interest on IOUs or other borrowing. Such costs add to the deficit and have not been factored into the governor's budget. Meanwhile, the California Transportation Commission delayed allocation of \$293.5 million in funding for transportation projects because of cash problems.

<http://www.sacbee.com/capitolandcalifornia/story/1543460.html>

The latest on California politics and government

Chiang lists payments to be delayed in February

Sacramento Bee January 16, 2009

By Dan Walters

State Controller John Chiang said today that the state's cash crunch would allow him to make school, college and some welfare payments but would force him to delay \$3-plus billion in other payments, including those for state income tax refunds and many health and welfare programs. "For months, I have warned state leaders that our cash flow will be in serious danger this spring," Chiang said. "Without corrective action from the governor and Legislature, there is no way to make it through February unscathed." Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and legislative leaders have been locked into a three-way stalemate on an estimated \$40 billion budget deficit and the looming cash flow crisis. The state's reserves and internal borrowing ability will, Chiang says, expire next month...

The full list of payments to be made and delayed is available here.
<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/capitolalertlatest/018665.html>

Paid

Department of Social Services (DSS)

1. In-Home Support Services
2. Department of Health Care Services
3. Institutional and Non-Institutional
4. Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board's Healthy Families Program

Delayed 30 days...

Department of Social Services

1. SSI/SSP to Aged, Blind and Disabled

Department of Developmental Services

2. (Funding for Regional Developmental Centers that Provide Services to Individuals with Developmental Disabilities) \$280 million

Department of Mental Health

3. (Assists Counties in Providing Mental Health Treatment and Rehabilitative Services) \$77 million

Department of Alcohol and Drug Abuse

4. (Assists Counties in Providing Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services) \$19 million.

Shared Sacrifice: Alas, the needy, too, must share

Sacramento Bee Published: Saturday, Jan. 17, 2009 | Page 14A

Opinion

Many things are uncertain as California spirals toward insolvency, but this is for sure: The poor, sick, aged, blind and disabled are going to suffer. While welfare grants and other benefits to individual recipients may seem modest, the sheer number of people who rely on the state's health and social services safety net means that cuts cannot be avoided. To solve its budget problems, the state will need some sacrifice even from those at the bottom of the economic ladder. Unlike other interest groups examined in our series, the poor don't have huge campaign war chests. But it would be a mistake to assume they don't wield influence. The people who provide services to the poor – including social workers, nursing and group home providers – are well organized and well represented. Medi-Cal physicians and hospitals that treat the indigent have power. Local governments, particularly county welfare directors and their unionized work forces, lobby furiously and effectively on behalf of the most needy.

...In-Home Supportive Services, the program that provides transportation, meal preparation and household help to disabled people and frail, elderly adults, would be rolled back. Only the most severely disabled would qualify for assistance. In addition, the governor proposes to reduce funding for IHSS workers' pay, leaving counties to backfill employee salaries above the state minimum wage. IHSS workers save the state money by keeping the disabled out of more costly nursing homes. But the program has grown a staggering 11 percent per year on average over the last decade. The governor is betting that IHSS workers, many of whom are relatives of the person receiving assistance, will not abandon their patients and that non-relative caregivers will stay on because there may be no good alternatives in the current job market. In a budget with no good choices, some portion of the IHSS cuts have to be acceptable. California supplements federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments to the poor aged, blind and disabled. It isn't required to do so; most states don't. The governor proposes to reduce state support from \$233 a month currently to \$156, dropping the maximum grant amount from \$907 to \$830 a month. On the health side of the ledger, the governor wants to reduce Medi-Cal

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 14 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

eligibility; cut off all but emergency services for some immigrants; and eliminate optional services for all adults, including dental, optometry and psychology. There is no end to the list of painful choices. Advocates for the poor need to step back and collectively decide, which are the least painful? What can their clients live without? In a year of bad choices, making ones that do the least harm has to be the first priority.

<http://www.sacbee.com/editorials/story/1549569.html>

Whether you are 25 or 45, conceiving a baby can often be challenging for many couples. Medical professionals, fertility experts and women who have successfully conceived offer the following advice. San Francisco Examiner January 13, 4:54 PM

By Cindy Ferda

While some factors remain beyond ones control, making a few modifications and choosing appropriate conception aid tools may be just the ticket to pregnancy...Stop smoking According to the American Heart and Lung Association, women who smoke may reduce their chances of conceiving by 40% and their chances of miscarriage increase as well. Additionally, lower birth weight may result. In other research by fertility experts, a recent Canadian study found a higher incidence of mutations in the sperm of men who use tobacco products. Marijuana use at the time of conception or during pregnancy increases the risk of miscarriage, birth defects and ectopic pregnancy. ...Cut the caffeine There is conflicting research available regarding moderate to heavy amounts of caffeine. Play it safe and avoid the caffeine. Once pregnant, caffeine may also be detrimental to the unborn child.

Cut the alcohol The U.S. Surgeon General warns women should not drink alcohol while pregnant because of the risk of birth defects. With this in mind, women who are attempting to conceive often do not know they are pregnant for at least a month. Fetal alcohol syndrome is a critical factor worth considering when deciding to drink alcoholic beverages while attempting to get pregnant. FAS is an irreversible condition which slows the growth of vital organs in the baby due to the effects of alcohol. The risk of fetal alcohol syndrome is greatest during the first trimester of pregnancy. Fetal alcohol syndrome is one of the few causes of mental retardation that is preventable, yet it remains a common cause according to a report from the Mayo Clinic...

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2491-Pregnancy-Examiner~y2009m1d13-Secrets-of-Conception>

Funding Opportunities

IMLS - Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grants
Modification 2

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=43395>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs National
Institute of Justice NIJ FY09 Social Science Research on Wrongful Conviction Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44761>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and
Families Child Care Research Scholars Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44767>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office of
Violence Against Women OVW FY 2009 Grants to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically
Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault
and Stalking Program Grant

<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44769>

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 15 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health
National Institutes of Health Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards
for Individual Predoctoral MD/PhD Fellows (F30)Modification 3
<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=true&oppId=3177>

CDE - CA Dept of Education Funding Special Education Teacher Professional Development (SETPD) Evaluation Study. Required Eligibility Criteria: Public or private corporations, agencies, organizations, or associations may submit proposal to contract for the independent evaluation. Applicants must be legally constituted and qualified to do business with the state of California (registered with the Secretary of State). With the exception of bidders whose legal status precludes incorporation (i.e. public agencies, sole proprietorships, partnerships), bidders that are not fully incorporated by the deadline for submitting proposals will be disqualified. Funding Description: The Special Education Teacher Professional Development (SETPD) is a subset of Reading First for a pilot project to encourage professional development in reading for special education teachers. An external evaluation of this study is required. The evaluation is funded exclusively from those funds. The project is to improve reading achievement of kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) special education students in high poverty, low performing schools. View at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/fo/profile.asp?id=1471>

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*

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 16 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

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 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.ttlc.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.cahwnet.gov/MSOT/Index.cfm>

Human Service Connections (<http://www.humanserviceconnections.net/>)

1. 1/16/2009 [Day Program Manager](#) Developmental Disability Services \$40,000 Indiana
2. 1/16/2009 [Sales Consultant](#) Sales Please include salary requirements in application Multiple
3. 1/16/2009 [Regional Program Manager](#) Developmental Disability Services \$65,000.00 - \$70,000.00 Pennsylvania
4. 1/16/2009 [Director of Operations](#) Developmental Disability Services \$70s Illinois
5. 1/16/2009 [Management Coach](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements with application Indiana
6. 1/9/2009 [State Director](#) Developmental Disability Services \$100,000-\$120,000 New Jersey
7. 1/9/2009 [State Director](#) Children's Services/ Foster Care \$90,000 Alabama

*Monday Morning Memo
The Arc of California
January 19 2009, page 17 of 18
Tony Anderson, Executive Director*

8. 1/9/2009 [Regional Director](#) Developmental Disability Services \$80,000-\$100,000 Texas, Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown
9. 1/9/2009 [QMRP Supervisor](#) Developmental Disability Services \$40,000 Indiana
10. 1/9/2009 [QMRP](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements in application Illinois, Cook
11. 1/9/2009 [Program Manager](#) Developmental Disability Services \$60s Maryland
12. 1/9/2009 [Program Manager](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements in application Pennsylvania
13. 1/9/2009 [Program Manager](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements in application Pennsylvania
14. 1/9/2009 [Program Director](#) Developmental Disability Services \$33,700 Wisconsin
15. 1/9/2009 [Manager Behavior Services/Autism Specialist](#) Developmental Disability Services \$81,000-\$110,000 California, Other South California
16. 1/9/2009 [Director Residential Services](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements in application Iowa
17. 1/9/2009 [Director](#) Developmental Disability Services \$60,000-\$63,000 Oregon
18. 1/9/2009 [Director](#) Developmental Disability Services Upper \$60s District Of Columbia
19. 1/9/2009 [Director](#) Developmental Disability Services Please include salary requirements with application Maryland
20. 1/9/2009 [Director](#) Developmental Disability Services \$60s Wisconsin