



Monday Morning Memo

February 23, 2009

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Week in Review

Monday February 23, 2009

We participated in the UCLA Tarjan Center advisory committee, chaired by **Olivia Raynor, PhD** the center's co-director, in Los Angeles. We discussed the status of their programs in four major areas (1) Education (undergrad Disability Studies Minor, the State and National Consortiums on Post Secondary Education, Open Doors to College, and Public Policy issues related to higher education for people with disabilities), (2) Arts and Disabilities (the National Arts Center, the CA Arts and Disability Network, the statewide forums on careers in the arts, art exhibits and shows, Art and Accessibility mini grants, and the "I am a Person with a Disability" campaign), (3) Social and Civic Engagement (Youth Leadership through volunteerism, Alliance for Inclusion, Tech Assistance to CA Volunteers program, work with faith based communities, and voter education), and (4) Health (UCLA Cerebral Palsy Center, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Programs, Dual Diagnosis Clinics, state and national task forces, and Research to Practice). The Tarjan Center is one of three University Centers of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities in California (USC and UC Davis are the other two). The Arc of California provided a summary of the latest budget actions impacting people with developmental disabilities and ways to participate and a long discussion followed.

Tuesday February 24, 2009

The Lanterman Coalition met in Sacramento and after much deliberation the coalition agreed to 10 items to put forth to **Terri Delgadillo**, Director of the Department of Developmental Services, as possible approaches to addressing the huge budget deficit this year and next year. To view the letter it can be downloaded at:

http://www.arccalifornia.org/LantermanCoalition/LantermanCoalitionFeb26_draft7.pdf.

The Arc of California released a primer for advocates to help them understand the many facets of this very complex budget process. We called this resource the 2009 ToolKit on the Budget and it can be found at: <http://www.arccalifornia.org/2009BudgetToolKit.html>. In the document we try to map out what is at stake, a little history, and the options being considered as well as the process for giving input. Feedback on this resource has been very positive, special thanks to **Barbara Maizie**, The Arc of Contra Costa for heading this project.

Wednesday February 25, 2009

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The Partners in Policymaking Collaborative met by webinar to update the participant contract, handbook, and other materials for dissemination to the new class. The Partners session in Los Angeles is scheduled for March 20th & 21st.

Thursday February 26, 2009

We participated in a stakeholder group meeting with the leadership of the Department of Developmental Services to further discuss the process for reducing the system's general fund obligation by an additional \$100 million. A few highlights from the meeting include:

1. The 3 percent cut to regional center operations and purchase of services budgets starts on February 1, 2009. Many have been told previously that the process would be that it would start on the 1st day of the next month after the Governor signed the budget.
2. The additional 7.1 percent reduction will be implemented in September 2009 if the department does not come up with an acceptable plan for reducing \$100 million from the system.
3. DDS cannot count any Federal Stimulus money in the \$100 formula because those funds have already been counted in the budget as income. However the waiver still has room for about 6000 more people and 5000 can be added each year. (The state can opt to remove this cap in the state plan.)
4. Savings must be realized immediately to be considered though long term ideas are also being introduced.
5. The stakeholder group is working weekly on a few big ideas such as increasing the waiver, individual budgets, SLS services, and regulatory relief issues. The large group will get updates from the workgroups and consider additional proposals next.

Friday February 27, 2009

The Department of Developmental Services held another public forum requesting stakeholder input about the reductions from the developmental services budget. This forum was at the Elihu M. Harris State Office Building in Oakland. Testimony was extremely moving and powerful as it was in Sacramento. Advocates are providing the department with a clear message as to the critical importance of the services and supports they receive. Below is the testimony delivered by Peter Bowers, an officer of The Arc of CA Board of Directors:

*February 27, 2009
Director Terri Delgadillo
Department of Developmental Services
1600 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814*

Dear Terri Delgadillo:

The Arc of California, the largest and oldest association representing families and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California is extremely concerned with the state of the developmental services system of today. As you conduct your stakeholder meetings throughout our community we ask you to set these discussions on firm ground by adopting the System Reform Values and Principles established in the late 1990s. These values and principles have been agreed to by the community as a whole under the guidance of the Department.

Choice

According to the system reform principle of Choice the Lanterman Act intends that all "people with developmental disabilities make choices in matters which affect their quality of life and have understandable information available to assist them in making these choices. Consumers' rights to make choices include where and with whom to live, favorite people with whom to socialize, and meaningful daily activities including paid work. An Individual Program Plan/Individual Family Service Plan (IPP/IFSP) is

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developed, based on the person's choices, strengths, capabilities, lifestyle and cultural background, that identifies the individually tailored services and supports which will be provided. W&I Code §§ 4500.5(c), 4501, 4502(j), 4502.1, 4503(i), 4512(b) 4590, 4620, 4646, 4646.5, 4648(a)(1)(2)(5)(6E), 4685.5, 4750, GC §§ 95020."

Community Inclusion

The system reform agreements included the core value supporting community inclusion. The system reform document stated that, "people with developmental disabilities are fully included into the mainstream life of their natural communities and have expanding opportunities for full and equal participation in paid work, spiritual, recreational and leisure activities with persons with and without disabilities, and homes in regular neighborhoods. W&I Code §§ 4500.5, 4501, 4502(a)(b)(e), 4640.7(a), 4646, 4646.5(a)(2), 4648(a)(1)(2)(5)(13), 4680, 4688, 4689, 4750, GC §§ 95001, 95020. Revised: April 27, 1999

Family Units

The system reform work highlighted the need for strong family units in all communities in California. The group agreed that "children receive services and supports that are valued by their families and enrich their quality of life. Services for children are family-focused and designed to fully develop a child's growth and address the special concerns of their families. The families of adults with developmental disabilities make significant contributions to the support and well-being of their relatives, which should be recognized and supported. W&I Code §§ 4501, 4512(h), 4620.1, 4646, 4646.5(a)(6), 4685), 4648(a)(1), 4690.2, GC §§ 95001, 95016, 95020. The group also agreed to the Lanterman Act

principles that "people with developmental disabilities are treated with dignity and respect and supported in making and keeping friendships, close relationships and circles of support. Their cultural backgrounds are respected. The health, safety and well being of all people served is through easy access to medical, dental and mental health services. W&I Code §§ 4501, 4502(b)(d)(f)(h)(j), 4512(f), 4646, 4646.5(a)(1)(5), 4648(a)(1), 4648(c), 4687, 4689, 4691, 4774, GC §§ 95001, 95020."

Self-Directed System

According to the system reform documents "people with developmental disabilities pursue futures of their own design, supported by flexible, creative, individually tailored services and supports in a coordinated, statewide system. Services and supports result in consumers increasing their levels of independence, productivity, self-determination and inclusion into their communities. Consumers keep or change supports based on their satisfaction. All services and supports are of high quality. System evaluation is outcome-based, focusing on improving the quality and effectiveness of services and supports and the level of consumer satisfaction. W&I Code §§ 4501, 4512(b), 4596.5, 4620, 4646, 4646.5, 4648(a)(2)(5)(7), 4648(d), 4648.1, 4651, 4680, 4688, 4690, 4691, 4750, GC §§ 95001, 95007(h), 95016, 95018, 95020, 95022.

We recognize your task to cut the supports and services by an additional \$100 million, maintain the integrity of the Lanterman Act, and fully comply with these principles and values is a seemingly impossible task. However we feel that you can get closer to meeting your goals and stay within the principles outlined above if you consider the following points in your decisions:

1. Any cuts at this point, including the mid-year 3% cut to regional center operation and purchase of services budgets, will be harmful to thousands of people with disabilities.
2. Any cut must be implemented throughout the developmental services system and the least should be taken from consumers directly.
3. We understand that the Developmental Services Waiver allows for significantly more people to be added to it which could save the state considerable funds. We suggest using the provider community to help increase the identification of eligible consumers for deeming.
4. Streamline Regional center regulations and place moratorium on fiscal, Quality Assurance, and staffing ratio audits unless a finding of impairment to health and safety can be shown. Also, to address the 3% reduction in the current year and budget year the department should require regional centers to implement a process locally to agree to cost offsets for providers (regulatory, etc) similar to those given to regional centers for their 3% reduction in operations.

5. *We believe there is a way to change the way Developmental Centers operate that would help accomplish the intent of Olmstead and result in significant savings to the State. We recommend that strong consideration be given to privatizing some or all of the operations of one or more Developmental Centers at this time. Services provided by the Developmental Centers could be transitioned to experienced and qualified local service providers who have expertise with similar populations. This approach has already been utilized successfully in our own system. Local government entities in California who have been Regional Center vendors have realized significant savings, without negatively impacting consumers and families, by transferring operation of their services to qualified local non-profit providers. Many counties are currently utilizing this approach to address their own budget issues in the areas of health and human services. We believe this suggestion is an example of the kind of fundamental structural change California needs to survive its current financial downturn without sacrificing critically needed public services.*

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

*Tony Anderson
Executive Director
The Arc of California*

The Week Ahead

Monday March 2, 2009

We will be meeting with Alan Kerzin, Executive Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for a status report on the Partners in Policymaking project.

Advocates from The Arc and throughout the community will be participating in the protest rally just prior to the last public forum sponsored by the Department of Developmental Services. The rally, organized by CDCAN, will start at 11:55 AM to 1 PM on the sidewalk outside of the Ronald Reagan building. This will be followed by public forum which gives advocates a chance to participate in the public policy process. The public stakeholder forum will be from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Ronald Reagan State Office Building Auditorium, 300 South Spring Street in Los Angeles (free call-in number provided by the department: (800) 230-1074).

Tuesday March 3, 2009

The US Health and Human Services Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections (SACHRP) Meeting Dates: 3/3/09 and 3/4/09 at 8:30 a.m. both days Meeting Place: The Sheraton National Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA SACHRP was established to provide advice and recommendations related to the protection of human research subjects. On the agenda are reports dealing with current recommendations to the Office of Human Research Protection and inclusion of Individuals with Impaired Decision-Making in Research. The public will have an opportunity to comment during the meeting. For more information about SACHRP, including previous meeting materials, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/sachrp/>. For more information about the meeting, contact Jerry Menikoff, J.D., M.D. at 240-453-8141 or at sachrp@osophs.dhhs.gov.

We will be participating in a workgroup to review the impact and viability of individualized choice budgets for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. As the state tries to make major reductions in the system while maintaining the core principles of the Lanterman Act this approach may be helpful in preserving the entitlement.

Wednesday March 4, 2009

Delayed effective date and reopened comment period for the Medicaid Benefit Packages final rule (see the 1/26/09 "Other Notices" section of Federal Register Summary for the White House memo or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-1639.htm>, and see the 12/3/08 "Final Rules" section of the Federal Register Summary or go to: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-28330.htm>).

New comment deadline: 3/4/09

Effective date of this delay: 1/30/09

New Effective date for this rule: 4/3/09

Based on the "Regulatory Review Plan" published by the White House, the effective date for this rule is delayed 60 days. See the document at: <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/E9-2186.htm>.

Thursday March 5, 2009

We will be participating in a stakeholder meeting with the Department of Developmental Services.

Thursday March 5, 2009 – Friday March 6, 2009

The Health Resources and Services Administration's Advisory Commission on Childhood Vaccines (ACCV) will be meeting at 1:00 p.m. and 3/6/09 at 9:00 a.m. at the Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD and via audio conference by dialing 1-888-790-3149 and entering the leader's name as Dr. Geoffrey Evans and the password as ACCV. ACCV advises and makes recommendations to the Secretary of HHS regarding the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. On the agenda are updates from the Department of Justice, the National Vaccine Program Office, and the Center for Biologics, just to name a few. ACCV will accept oral presentations. Send a written request to Michelle Herzog at mherzog@hrsa.gov. For more information about ACCV and prior meeting minutes, go to: <http://www.hrsa.gov/Vaccinecompensation/accv.htm>. For more information about the meeting, contact Michelle Herzog at 301-443-6593 or at the e-mail address given above.

Action Alerts

The Arc of California

Marty Omoto, Director of the California Disability Community Action Network, will be organizing another protest rally outside the hearing room of the stakeholder group hosted by **Terri Delgadillo** and the rest of her leadership from the Department of Developmental Services. The planned protest will be on Monday March 2, 2009 from 11:55 AM to 1 PM on the sidewalk outside of the Ronald Reagan building. [For more information contact Marty Omoto (martyomoto@rcip.com) or call 916-212-0237]. Advocates have participated in a few of these demonstrations throughout the state and many have commented on the sense of pride and empowerment one gets when they stand up for their right the rights of all people with disabilities. Again check out our Budget ToolKit webpage for ideas and sample letters: <http://www.arccalifornia.org/2009BudgetToolKit.html>.

Last Public Stakeholder Group:

When: March 2, 2009 in Los Angeles from 1 to 4 PM,

Where: Ronald Reagan State Office Building Auditorium, 300 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California.

Phone Option: (800) 230-1074

The Arc of the United States

FREE WEBINAR: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act * For Chapters of The Arc and Affiliates of UCP Only *	
Date:	Tuesday, March 3
Time:	4:00 – 5:00 pm EST.
To Join:	Go to Webinar at: https://premconf.webex.com/premconf/j.php?ED=96664317&UID=0
	Enter Password: (Call the state office)
	Dial in for TOL FREE audio portion: 1-866-642-1665
	Enter Passcode: (Call the state office)
Note:	Registration is limited to the first 125 who join. If not enough spaces are available on March 3, a second Webinar may be offered on Wednesday, March 4.
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">· What's in the Law?· How Much Money is There?· Where is the Money Going?· Can I Get Any of it?· When Will the Money Be Available?· What do I Need to do to Get Ready?

Project Status Report

Partners in Policymaking

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

After three individuals declined to participate in the 2009 class due to scheduling conflicts, I was able to contact alternates to fill their positions. The alternates were taken from the alternate list selected by the Collaborative during the selection meeting in January. We now have a class of 36 participants who have all stated they are able to fully participate. The 2009 Speaker Booking List has been expanded to include the names of all past topics and speakers from the 2007 and 2008 classes. Speakers are being contacted for the April and May training sessions. Next week I will be working on arrangements with the hotel and booking sleeping rooms. 36 participant packets were mailed which include: 2009 Participant Handbook, Participant Agreement Form, Photo/Image Release Form, a cover letter and a self-addressed stamped envelop for returning the signed forms. The completed handbook is ten pages of instructions and information that includes training session information, expense reimbursement procedures, resource information and alumni support facts. The appendix of the handbook includes sample forms that will be used before and during the training, and a Table of Contents to the handbook to make finding information much easier.

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California College of Direct Support

We've been working with agencies who have contracts coming due within the next month. Several agencies are suffering from the loss of revenues due to the economic downturn and the system wide massive cuts to their rates, with even bigger threats coming down in the near future. While a handful of participating agencies are opting to not renew their contracts it has not all been for financial reasons. Most of the agencies have been using the College of Direct Support for three years now and some have seen significant stabilization on their turnover rates and are opting out because only a small portion of their workforce hasn't taken the training yet.

The College of Direct Support (CDS) Administrators Forum is coming soon and we need to know who is planning on attending so we can order your lunch. The forum will be on Sunday, March 22nd, during the opening day of ANCOR's 2009 Management Practices Conference and Trade Show in San Francisco. This will be a great opportunity for a few of the thousands of participants across the state to attend a training with the national office representatives. See the Upcoming Events section below for registration details.

Prevention Activities

The Arc of California participated in the Perinatal Disparities Health Summit, Strategies to Reduce African American Infant Mortality Rate in Sacramento County on February 26, 2009. The Summit sponsors included Sacramento County Public Health, March of Dimes and Sutter Medical Group. Presenters included **Dr. Glennah Trochet, MD** – Health Officer, Sacramento County, **Roger Dickinson**, Sacramento Board of Supervisors, **Dr. Olivia Kasirye MD, MS** – Medical Director, Sacramento County Black Infant Health Program; Medical Director Sacramento County CHDP Program, **Dr. Charleta Guillory, MD FAAP** – Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine, Director of Texas Children's Hospital Neonatal-Perinatal Public Health Program, Chair of Public Affairs Committee for Texas Chapter of March of Dimes, **Dr. Tyan Parker Dominguez, PhD, MPH, MSW** – Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Faculty Associate, Center for Premature Infant Health and Development, Keck School of Medicine, **Dr. Elliott Main, MD** – Chairman and Chief of Obstetrics, California Pacific Medical Center, Principal Investigator, California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, **Dr. Anthony Iton, MD, JD, MPH** – Director & Health Officer, Alameda County Public Health Department, **Margy Hutchinson, CNM** – Outpatient Manager, Nurse-Midwives of San Francisco, San Francisco General Hospital, Bay Area Centering Pregnancy Consortium, and **Alondra Thompson, LCSW** – Chair, Perinatal Periods of Risk Subcommittee.

According to the California Department of Public Health, African American infants in California are twice as likely to be born with low birth weight and nearly three times as likely to die as white infants. The significant health disparities between these two ethnicities continue to be of great interest to medical professionals and are the focus of many prevention efforts. Sacramento County Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Program convened a Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team to address the significant racial disparity in birth outcomes. The Review team analyzed data from 2005 -2007 and published their findings and recommendations in a 2008 report. To view or request the Fetal Infant Mortality Review Team 2005 -2007, County of Sacramento Program Report October 2008 contact Sacramento County Public Health at www.scph.com.

For more information on efforts to reduce health disparities in African American infants please visit the California Department of Public Health at: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/bih/Pages/default.aspx. The BIH program provides health education, health promotion, social support and service coordination to pregnant and parenting African-American adult women. Program services are found in 17 local health jurisdictions (LHJ) where approximately 94 percent of all African-American live births in the State occur.

In previous publications of the MMM, The Arc of California has identified steps in Prevention that include: preconception care, prenatal care, neonatal/newborn screening and well baby/child visits. Thus far we have identified steps that individuals can do to promote health for themselves and their babies. However, it must be recognized that prevention of childhood injury, illness and disability requires a multifaceted approach involving the individual, the community, the health care system, education, advocacy, policy, etc. The next step in prevention is ensuring that every child has access to health care. **Jennifer Haley and Genevieve Kenney** of The Urban Institute Health Policy Center, Washington D.C. examined potential barriers to enrollment in public programs among low-income children with special health care needs. Their findings indicated that these families did not have full information about Medicaid and/or State Children's Health Insurance Programs. For more information on this article visit: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/short/119/1/60>

For more information on access to health insurance for kids in California visit: http://www.cafc.ca.gov/Help/cov_kids.asp (First 5 California)

To read the article in the New York Times - Obama Signs Children's Health Insurance Bill visit: www.nytimes.com/2009/02/05/us/politics/05health.html?hp.

The Arc of California will be participating in the California Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders Task Force, Strategic Planning Session on March 13, 2009. The purpose of this planning session is to review the current strategic plan goals, obtain status report on current goals and expand on or further develop new goals to meet the needs of individual communities as well as the state. For more information on this session please call The Arc of California at 916-552-6619 or email **Teresa Anderson** at teresaa@arccalifornia.org.

Upcoming Events

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 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> .

April 28-30, 2009

Side-by-Side Technology: Therap, CDS Training Conference II in Tennessee. Therap Services and the College of Direct Support (CDS) are excited to present their second joint training conference on at the Doubletree Hotel, a Hilton Brand Hotel, Murfreesboro, Tennessee. This conference will bring together two industry leaders in the field of utilizing web-based technology to support people with developmental disabilities and educating and training a workforce to deliver the support services. The conference will feature multiple interactive sessions and workshops focusing on the services provided by Therap and on the curriculum and the Learning Management System offered by CDS. There will be specific sessions for advanced users, for system administrators and for the potential users of Therap or CDS. Some major sessions to look forward to will include: • Major focus on Training Management System • Integration with College of Direct Support • Therap and CDS for Executive Directors • Training on Therap Applications • Brainstorming about the Future of Technology and its use for the Developmental Disability Industry • Interactive Workshops • Presentation Sessions • Learning Therap through Exciting Games • Discussions on Topics including HIPAA, Data Security and Electronic Signatures • Individual and Family Access to Data • Networking with other Therap Users and Industry Experts • Sharing Ideas to Create New and Improved Therap Training and Support Materials • Special Sessions for Provider Administrators • Therap in Tennessee. We are looking forward to meeting you at the conference. We invite and encourage participants to arrive the night of Apr 27 to attend the pre-conference day. Early Bird Registration prior to Jan 30, 2009: Conference, Materials &

Meals: \$150. Registration after Jan 30, 2009: Conference Fee: TBA For additional information please visit our website at: www.TherapServices.net Hotel Accommodations: All participants are requested to directly contact the Doubletree Hotel Murfreesboro, a Hilton Brand Hotel, Murfreesboro, Tennessee to arrange their stay accordingly. For information regarding reservations please call at 615-895-5555. Please acknowledge the name of the group (Therap Services) and request the group rate (\$92) when making reservations.

Corrected – The Arc of California State “Mini Convention” in Sacramento has been changed again to accommodate a schedule to coincide with Sacramento policymaking. The convention intention was to schedule the event close to the time of a significant political event such as May Revise or important budget hearings to encourage advocates to participate in the policymaking process. Stay tuned for the new date which we should have by next Monday March 8, 2009.

Recently Released Reports, Studies, etc.

REVISED Quick Summary, 2009-10 Budget and Budget Package Actions February 19, 2009 by the Senate Committee on Budget & Fiscal Review, Senator Denise Ducheny, Chair.

Legislative Leaders Craft Budget Solution: On February 12, the leaders of the Legislature concluded their budget discussions and reached a compromise Budget Package agreement that includes: (1) expenditure reductions, (2) tax increases, (3) elements of economic stimulus, and (4) some reforms and efficiencies. The Budget package, as updated, addresses various current year revenue shortfall and expenditure issues, as well as enacts a balanced 2009 Budget Act (meeting the Legislature’s constitutional deadline for a 2009 Budget four months early) – in essence providing for 18-months of budget solution for the period ending June 30, 2010. Broadly, the Budget Package includes over \$22.6 billion in expenditure reductions and fund shifts [most notably \$7.8 billion in federal funds that the Department of Finance (DOF) conservatively estimates California can score toward solution consistent with provisions in ABX3 16 – Federal Funds Trigger legislation], approximately \$5.4 billion in borrowing (mainly from securitization of the state lottery), and approximately \$12.7 billion in new revenues. Other elements of the package include: (1) a spending cap contained in SCA 1 or ACA 1 of the 3rd Extraordinary Session – limiting spending to the rolling 10-year trend in revenues; (2) a long-term stability funding mechanism for schools by recognizing \$9.3 billion in funding owed under Proposition 98 (contained within SCA 2 or ACA 2); and (3) a number of measures deemed economic stimulus being addressed in the 2nd Extraordinary Session. **Definition of the Overall Problem** On December 31, 2008, the Governor released his 2009-10 proposed budget. The Governor estimated the overall budget problem as \$41.7 billion – however, this assumed a \$2 billion reserve – by June 30, 2010 absent any solutions to solve the gap in revenue collections and the increase expenditures. According to the Department of Finance – falling home prices, worsening credit availability, shrinking equity values, and growing job losses delivered a crushing blow to the national and California economies. The outlook for the California economy is for negative growth in 2009 followed by weak growth in 2010, and better growth in 2011, but that the economy will not likely improve much until credit becomes much more available. **Overall Solutions - \$41 billion** The relative value of the package of solutions for the 18 month period ending June 30, 2010 can be summarized as follows:

- Tax increases and other revenues \$12.7 billion
- Spending reductions and fund shifts \$22.6 billion
- Borrowing \$ 5.4 billion
- = \$40.6 billion

The overall package is also predicated on having a revised General Fund reserve of a little over \$1 billion. In addition, if California receives at least \$10 billion in new federal funds, this would “trigger” the following (1) borrowing is reduced by the amount for a proposed Revenue Anticipation Warrant or RAW – as noted above, DOF has already conservatively estimated that the necessity for RAW borrowing may not be necessary as part of the overall package; (2) spending reductions are restored in the amount of approximately \$947 million; and (3) taxes are reduced by \$1.8 billion.

http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/BFR/_home/RevisedFinal2009BudgetSummaryv4.pdf

News Articles

**A Job for Raymond Babbitt
Beyond Chron Feb. 26, 2009**

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By Michael Bernick

The Arc of San Francisco, located on 11th and Howard, is the center of life for a range of San Francisco adults with developmental disabilities—cerebral palsy, autism, down syndrome and a variety of learning disabilities. Arc offers health services, housing assistance, recreation, but most of all the adults come here looking for jobs. For nearly 45 years, from the 1950s through the early 2003, the Arc operated a sheltered workshop, a separate workplace in which workers with disabilities performed basic tasks such as packaging and mailing. In the past decade, though, the sheltered workshop has become an economic and cultural artifact. Today at Arc, and other developmental centers, the emphasis is on workforce inclusion, jobs in the mainstream workplaces.

According to Terry Goodwin, the Arc Director of Employment Services, Arc participants currently are employed at large grocery stores such as Safeway and Trader Joe's (courtesy clerks and baggers); neighborhood retail stores such as Noah's Bagels and Starbucks (operations and maintenance); and the city's major law and advertising firms, such as Morrison & Foerster, Sedgwick, Detert, and McCann, Erickson (facilities set-up and mail room). "Employers usually find our workers to be better employees in certain jobs than other workers" explains Goodwin. "Our workers often are more reliable and steady, grateful for the job." ... Arc's employment effort is funded in part by the California Department of Development Services (DDS). DDS is now under a mandate from the Governor's office and State Legislature to cut its budget by an additional \$100 million by September 2009. This Friday, February 27, DDS is holding a hearing at the State Office Building in Oakland on ways that the Department can save money. Hopefully, the employment services can be spared. Beyond state funding, though, the success of Arc's workforce program depends on the participation of the City government in hiring workers with disabilities. In 2008, the Advisory Panel for City Employment of Persons with Disabilities in San Francisco, recommended a variety of recruitment and preparation measures to bring workers with disabilities into city jobs. According to Alan Fox, Arc's Deputy Director, these recommendations are beginning to be taken up by the Mayor's Office. They do not require any city funds....

<http://www.beyondchron.org/news/index.php?itemid=6646>

Faiths learn to include people with autism, other developmental disabilities

Billings Gazette (McClatchy Newspapers) February 28, 2009

By Lindy Washburn

CALDWELL, N.J. - ... parents said it is often hard to find a religious home. While 36 percent of families with typically developing children have a "strong affiliation" with their faith community, only 19 percent of those with children on the autism spectrum say they do, according to a recent survey cited by Walsh. One mother said that when she started bringing her son to church, she was "broken inside," from the pain of the diagnosis and the daily struggles she faced. But as people in the pews in front of her turned to stare when her son made noise, she felt rejected. For Catholics, as for most religious traditions, "embracing people with disabilities is part of all our missions," said Anne Masters, director of pastoral ministry with persons with disabilities for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark. "It is part of our teachings," she said. "We just have to learn to do it."

... Leadership from the pastor or rabbi is key, panelists said. Walsh described family friends who took their autistic daughter to temple on Friday nights because the service was less crowded. They were surprised one evening to find that a bar mitzvah had been scheduled. The synagogue was full and many visitors were present. The family started to leave when the daughter became noisy, Walsh said. But the rabbi spoke to them from the bema, telling them to stay. "He said, 'All the voices here are the voice of God,'" Walsh recounted. "That was a powerful witness, not only for the family that felt included, but for all the people there."

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<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2009/02/28/features/life/52-autism.txt>

Mentally disabled man's killer sought

Baltimore Sun February 26, 2009

By Justin Fenton | justin.fenton@baltsun.com

On Feb. 4, someone identifying himself as an employee of the ARC of Baltimore showed up at a Pikesville group home to pick up Lemuel Wallace, a legally blind and mentally disabled 37-year-old. Hours later, Wallace was found in a bathroom stall at Gwynns Falls Park, fatally shot multiple times in the head. Yesterday, city homicide detectives visited Wallace's neighborhood in Pikesville, going door-to-door and visiting a local convenience store in an attempt to stimulate tips in a case that has generated few answers. "Really, we're baffled by what the motive would be," said homicide Detective Robert Ross. "We're hoping to generate leads and need people to step forward."

Wallace lived in a group home in the 4500 block of Maryknoll Road that is associated with the ARC, which provides resources for people with developmental disabilities. Stephen Morgan, the group's executive director, said Wallace had received assistance from the ARC for about 10 years and worked through an employment program as a janitor. He had no criminal record and was well-regarded by staff members. More independent than many of his peers, he often went on walks and left the home to run errands or visit with family, with whom he was in contact several times a day. "For him to leave the community without staff supervision was not at all uncommon," Morgan said. But police say he was also planning to relocate soon to a different group home in Northeast Baltimore. That the man who picked him up claimed to be from the ARC and knew of Wallace's plans suggests that he was close to his victim, police said....

http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/baltimore_city/bal-md.ci.wallace26feb26.0.5014391.story

March proclaimed 'Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month'

Beauregard Daily News Wed Feb 25, 2009, 11:41 AM CST

By Pamela Hickman

DeRidder Mayor Ron Roberts has signed a proclamation announcing that the month of March will be officially observed as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the community. He also recently presented a copy of this proclamation to Beauregard Arc (Association for Retarded Citizens) Director, Jackie Hickman. Developmental disabilities affect more than seven million Americans and their families, and in his proclamation Mayor Roberts states that "public awareness and education enhances a community's understanding of the issues affecting people with developmental disabilities".

...BArc was introduced in Beauregard Parish in 1962 with a vision to promote and provide work as well as rehabilitation training to enhance the lives of those with developmental disabilities, and to allow them to be seen as productive and active citizens in the community. It is a branch of the national organization, The Arc of the United States, that began with a grass-roots movement by families and concerned individuals in the 1950s. It is now the nation's largest volunteer organization solely devoted to improving the lives of all children and adults with developmental disabilities.

<http://www.deridderdailynews.com/news/x1362384855/March-proclaimed-Developmental-Disabilities-Awareness-Month>

Gazette (Maryland)

School Notes - "Together We're Better Contest"

By Melissa J. Brachfeld

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Four students win awards in writing contest. Four students from Montgomery County Public Schools, including one from Wootton High school, won top awards while competing against students statewide in the "Together We're Better Contest," a program sponsored by a public/private partnership including the Maryland State Department of Education and the Arc of Maryland. The contest recognizes the creative talents of students with disabilities. Competing students were encouraged to create posters and write essays and poems to explain why inclusive schools are good for students, families and communities.

Elementary class winners receive a class party and middle and high school individual winners receive cash awards or gift cards. Jennifer Kuo of Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville took third place in the high school essay contest. The winners in the elementary poetry contest are Rosa Doxtater's kindergarten class at Westover Elementary School in Silver Spring, first place; Deborah Eskenazi's fourth grade class at Westover, second place; and Gretchen Beckman's fifth grade class at Summit Hall Elementary School in Gaithersburg, third place. Other agencies that supported the awards program were the Maryland Department of Disabilities, the Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council and the Maryland Coalition for Inclusive Education.

http://www.gazette.net/stories/02252009/montsch230908_32480.shtml

Funding Opportunities

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Standing Announcement for the Preferred Communities Program Modification 5
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=41208>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Standing Announcement for the Ethnic Community Self-Help Program Modification 5
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=41220>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health NIAID Advanced Technology SBIR (NIAID-at-SBIR [R43/R44]) Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45532>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families National Resource Center for Child Welfare Data and Technology Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45546>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention OJJDP FY 09 Recovery Act Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program Grants
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45557>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office for Victims of Crime FY 09 Recovery Act _ Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Compensation Formula Grant Program Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45559>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Office for Victims of Crime FY 09 Recovery Act _ Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Victim Assistance Formula Grant Program Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45560>

USDJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 09 Recovery Act _ Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) State Program Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45561>

USDOJ - United States Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs
Bureau of Justice Assistance FY 09 Recovery Act _ Edward Byrne Memorial Justice
Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Program Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45562>

HHS - Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging
Elder Care Locator - Existing Project Modification 2
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=44918>

ED - U.S. Department of Education Rehabilitation Long-Term Training_Rehabilitation
Counseling, CFDA 84.129B Grant
<http://www07.grants.gov/search/search.do?&mode=VIEW&flag2006=false&oppId=45435>

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: *National Director America's Edge (division of the Council for a Strong America)*

Description: America's Edge is seeking a public policy campaign professional to lead a national nonprofit organization that engages top business leaders to help change state and federal policy to win investments in kids that improve workforce productivity. This is an extraordinary opportunity for someone with experience in leading public policy campaigns and the proven ability to connect with leaders to make a tremendous impact on state and federal policy so all children are ready for school, work, and life. The working environment and focus at America's Edge is strategic, focused and research-based. The director will coordinate state and federal campaign activities with the other divisions of the Council, partner with the Council president to expand America's Edge's resource base, and work with the Council's research and communications staff to develop campaign strategy and tactics. The director will also be expected to forge strong relationships with existing and new coalitions.

Salary: Competitive and commensurate with experience.

How to Apply: To apply, send resume, cover letter and salary requirements to: edge@transitionguides.com. All other inquiries should be addressed to our search consultants:

Ginna Goodenow or Don Tebbe, TransitionGuides, 1751 Elton Rd, Suite 204 , Silver Spring, MD 20903, Phone: (301) 439-6635 , Via Fax: (301) 439-6638, Resume reviews begin immediately, EOE/AA.

Human Services Connection: 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.

http://webconnect.sendouts.net/CN_Frame.aspx?ID=humanserviceconnect&SiteID=WebConnect&Group=humanserviceconnect&Key=CN&startpage=2

NEW! Executive Director - South Carolina

Salary: \$100,000 (Negotiable based on experience)

We're looking for an Executive Director for a large provider in SC. The organization provides a full range of services to adults with developmental disabilities with a current budget of \$28mm. This has been accomplished through a culture of person centeredness which is something the organization clearly wants to retain. The organization receives excellent support from the community and has a very progressive board. We're looking for someone with experience running disability programs with solid business acumen balanced with a heart and passion for the work we do to provide the best supports possible to people with developmental disabilities.

NEW! Executive Director - Iowa

Salary: \$90,000 + (Negotiable based on experience)

We're looking for an Executive Director to lead a mid-size organization providing residential and day/vocational support services to adults with disabilities across four counties in Iowa. The organization also provides supported employment, respite services as well as summer camps for children. This is a great opportunity to work in a state that is experiencing fewer financial problems than most with a solid, seasoned leadership team in a great community.

NEW! State Accounting Manager - Maryland

Salary: Please include salary requirements with application

Progressive social service organization seeks a highly motivated detail-oriented individual to manage our state accounting activities. Responsibilities include supervision of A/R, collections, A/P, P/R, cost report, audits, other applicable accounting functions, budgets, analyzes F/S. Some travel required.

NEW! Development Director - Illinois

Salary: \$35,000-\$50,000

Looking for a career in fund development? We have a smaller disability organization looking for a full-time Fund Development Director. This person, together with the Executive Director, will oversee all aspects of fund development for the organization. The organization is interested in talking with people with a range of experience, however some experience obtaining funds as well as some experience working the DD field is preferred.

NEW! Psychologist - Pennsylvania

Salary: Please include salary requirements with application

Social service provider serving children is currently seeking a full-time Pennsylvania licensed Psychologist to provide consultation and evaluation for their BHRS program. Salary commensurate with experience.

NEW! QMRP/Case Manager

Salary: \$40,000

We're looking for a committed disability professional to oversee services supporting adults with developmental disabilities in a QMRP capacity. Candidate must have at least one year of experience providing supports to people with developmental disabilities. Experience with ICF and waiver services a plus.

Management Coach - Indiana

Salary: Please include salary requirements in application

This is an exciting new position with an established developmental disability service provider. We are looking for an experienced leader in the developmental disability field who can recruit, develop, and mentor the organization's leadership and professional staff. The Management Coach will develop curriculum, train, and support the leadership team to increase organizational effectiveness.

Day Program Manager - Indiana

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.

Assistant 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.

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.

Assistant Executive Director - Wyoming

Salary: please include salary requirements with application

Progressive, mid-size, developmental disability service provider is looking for an Assistant Executive Director to head up a wide array of services including residential, case management, nursing and day/vocational supports in the state of Wyoming.

Sales Consultant - CA, TX, NY

Salary: please include salary requirements with application

Three new positions. 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. Looking for candidate in CA, TX, and NY. Some travel is required.

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.

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.

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.

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.