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**CONTRA COSTA
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DEVELOPMENTAL
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**DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY, INC
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
August 26, 2009**

Board and Liaison Members Present: Anne Long-Chairperson, Suzanne Anthony, Curtis Braxton, Ian Bremner, Ange Burnett, Jim Burton, Dwayne Cooper, Barbara Maizie, Carol McCrary, Penny Musante, Pam Perls, Will Sanford, Barbara Sheehy, Rocio Smith, Heidi Spalding, Elizabeth Wilson-Palmer

Excused: Rosemary Almand, Laura Beard, Stephen Dale, Lacey Friedman, Joseph Jimenez, Elree Langford, Mindy Lee, Carol McKinney, Lauri Parks, Kate Rauch, Norma Ramos, Peg Rimler, Carol Rossi, Diana Thomas, Pat Yamamoto

Guests: Approximately 60 family members, case managers and specialists in the field were also in attendance.

Staff: Gina Jennings, Director; Pamela Newacheck, Acting Secretary

Welcome and Introductions – Anne Long

Chairperson Anne Long called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Special Presentation: 2009 Changes to the Lanterman Act – Rocio Smith

2009 Changes to the Lanterman Act and Early Start: What They Are and How to Appeal Cuts in Services

On July 28, 2009, California enacted a State Budget that implements historic changes to Early Start and the Lanterman Act, which will have a serious impact on people with developmental disabilities and their families. This budget implements a \$334 million cut in services and an additional 3% cut to regional centers and the rates they pay service providers.

Early Start

- Eligibility is restricted for high-risk infants and toddlers; a new Prevention Program with limited services and capped budget will be made available to those considered high risk.
- To qualify for Early Start, a child under 24 months will continue with the previous eligibility of 33% delay in one area; a child 24+ months old must have a 50% delay in one area, or 33% in two areas.
- Priority will be given to funding neighborhood preschools rather than specialized infant development programs.
- Parents must first use their private insurance to pay for services covered.
- An additional \$50 million was cut from Early Start, expecting that First Five will cover it.

Lanterman Act

- Changes to ABA and IBI – group training for parents may replace in-home parent training.
- Respite services will be limited to 90 hours per quarter for in-home and 21 days per year for out-of home. Respite exceptions are being handled and are moving along quickly. If the exception is approved, RCEB is rolling the exception over until the next IPP. If not approved, there is an appeal process in place.
- Camps, social recreation services, educational services and non-medical therapies are being “suspended”.
- Experimental or unproved therapies cannot be funded by Regional Centers.
- Regional Centers cannot pay for services if alternative coverage is available (Medi-Cal, Medicare, IHSS, etc.).



- The least costly provider who can deliver the service must be used (i.e., transportation). Parents must provide a written reason why they cannot provide transportation in order for other options to be considered.
- Programs will close for a uniform 14 day holiday schedule.
- Access to IHSS will be limited. However, services will continue with RCEB until either IHSS gets approved or denied. Unfortunately, even if a person qualifies for IHSS, it is extremely difficult to secure a worker.
- SSI/SSP checks will be reduced.
- The Independent Choice Budget model will be introduced to consumers with the plan of self-directing their own services within a reduced, finite budget amount. This plan is scheduled to pilot in 2010.
- Custom Endeavors Option will be introduced and is intended to promote employment for people who would otherwise be steered to day programs.

What Can Be Done

Become Educated

- September 8 at 10:00 a.m. - Marty Imoto will be at CARE Parent Network to teach legislative advocacy.
- 2nd Tuesday of the month, CARE Parent Network will be teaching Political Outreach.
- Disability Rights California: www.disabilityrightsca.org
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities: www.sccd.ca.gov
- Department of Developmental Services: www.dss.ca.gov
- Sign up for free, informative newsletters at CA Disability Community Action Network: www.cdcan.us

Advocate for AB 1260

- This bill addresses four specific items in the Budget Trailer Bill that will have no cost impacts. Contact your legislators and encourage a yes vote.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted via e-mail,

Pamela Newacheck

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Acting Secretary

