



March 12, 2014

Honorable Shirley Weber, Chair
Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1 on Health and Human Services
State Capitol
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Budget Item 4300 Department of Developmental Services

Dear Assemblymember Weber:

The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration urges your support for urgent investments needed to support over 260,000 Californians with developmental disabilities. We believe that the attached coalition document is the road map needed to put our community into a working system equipped to meet the needs of people with disabilities as set forth in the developmental disabilities civil rights legislation, the Lanterman Act.

Today's community system is no longer sustainable, which is to be expected with rate freezes that go as far back as the late 1990s. In fact today's rate structure is no longer associated in any way with the cost of providing services. This is a huge problem for the state and cannot be corrected in a single budget cycle. The system has been starved for so long and has developed so many temporary work-arounds that it has morphed into an unrecognizable uncoordinated network of care.

While our highest priority is to repair the California developmental services system with a thoughtful and comprehensive approach, we are keenly aware that if we do not re-invest in this community this year the cost of repairing a further damaged safety net system could become insurmountable. We believe that a 5% across-the-board annual increase would be a significant step towards a down payment for system sustainability.

One of the most egregious cuts made during the recession was that we discontinued supporting babies who are at risk of developing a disability without Early Start supports and interventions. We urge policymakers to return to providing necessary services to infants and toddlers with risk factors (i.e., low birth weight, prenatal drug exposure, a parent with a developmental disability, etc.) or milder developmental delays noted at age two. If we invest in Early Start support for children with

disabilities or at risk of developing disabilities, we know that successful secondary prevention can save up to \$10 per every \$1 spent. This is good for people and good for the budget.

Our community has undergone over 60 changes in the past five budget that have us still scrambling to make sense of and implement enduring combined cuts of more than our annual budget. In order to put us on the right track again, we are in solidarity with the members of the Lanterman Coalition in asking for the re-investment of a few of these changes outlined in their attached budget proposal.

Invest in Work for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Work is one of the best paths to integrating people with developmental disabilities into society, and we urge the policymakers to remove the 10% cut to supported employment rates and to return people to work with an annual 12-day holiday schedule.

Support the Plan from the Task Force on the Future of Developmental Centers

Please don't let this hard work and thoughtful planning go to waste. Make sure the administration puts forth a plan to implement these recommendations.

Remove Prohibition of Regional Centers Covering Insurance Deductibles and Required Co-Pays and Deductible Payments

We agree the Legislature should remove the language prohibiting the payment of deductibles and that regional centers should pay the co-payments and deductibles as each person's Individual Program Plan indicates.

Invest in Supporting Family Caregivers

Removed artificial caps on respite hours and base the allocation on the needs of each family as directed in the Lanterman Act IPP process.

Remove Failed Policies that Cost More Than They Save

Repeal other failed policies that save the state nothing and in some cases cost more, in particular the family cost participation and audits on small providers.

Thank your for considering our proposals. We and the rest of the coalition are eager to work with you as the budget process continues.

Sincerely,

Greg deGiere
Public Policy Director
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy
California Collaboration



Tony Anderson
Executive Director
The Arc California

cc: Members, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 1
Santi Rogers, Director, Department of Developmental Services