



The Arc.ives

News from The Arc of Alameda County
Care and Caring Since 1950

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The Arc of Alameda County
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In This Issue

[Member Forum Survey](#)

[Anderson says
Lanterman Act Intact](#)

[20/20 Fundraiser Rolled
Out](#)

[Crime and People with
Disabilities](#)

Quick Links

Arc of Alameda County
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Arc of California
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Welcome to [The Arc.ives](#) - a monthly newsletter with news of the Arc of Alameda County. This time, we're highlighting the Members' Public Policy Forum on March 18th at our San Leandro Office.

Arc Alameda Exc, Ron Luter began by thanking all who attended. He told the group that even with the budget news from Sacramento, we are "moving ahead and positioning the agency as a key player in all the issues impacting the people we serve."

Luter also wanted [The Arc.ives](#) to thank Judy Vierra, Shannon Jurich, Julia Kim, Angela Booker, Lou Ciullo, Martha Alleyne, Pam Ellis and Rosie Llamado who made the evening run so smoothly!

Keep reading to learn more about the Public Policy Forum....

Despite Cuts Lanterman OK

The Executive Director of Arc California says The Lanterman Act is still viable, despite a \$100M cut in funding for the Department of Developmental Services.

Addressing some 100 people which included members of the Arc of Alameda County, along with staff and clients, Tony Anderson said the Lanterman Act is viable as long as the Individualized Program Plan (IPP) process is still in place.

"At this point, the IPP process is up and running," said Anderson.

Signed into law in 1969, the Lanterman Act guarantees services and supports and protects the rights of people with developmental disabilities.

Facing a \$42B shortfall, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the State Legislature battled for several months in late 2008 and early 2009 over how to close the gap. Anderson said some of the money-saving ideas that were put on the table during the stakeholder process would have weakened the Lanterman Act but noted that none were adopted.



Survey

If you attended the Member Forum, be on the lookout for a survey in your e-mail box.

We want your feedback and your ideas for similar sessions in the future!

The plan is to conduct a Member Forum every quarter. (Next one is set for Wednesday, June 24th at the Walpert Center in Hayward.)

We want to present information about issues and topics you care about so completing the survey is very important.

Thanks in advance!

Anderson also explained to the packed house that, as of February 1 of 2009, the Legislature ordered an immediate 3% cut in payments for service providers such as The Arc of Alameda County.

"That means," he said, "that if you send an invoice for \$100 worth of services, your agency will be paid \$97." He also noted that the 3% cut will continue into the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The biggest challenge is the additional \$100M cut in the budget of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Governor and Legislature left it up to the DDS and its community to determine where cuts will be made to reach the \$100M target. Anderson thanked The Arc of Alameda County for sending a number of representatives to a DDS Stakeholder meeting conducted in Oakland on February 27th. (That group included Aldo Bernasconi, Jonathan Cooper and John Miguel. They did a wonderful job and we thank them for that!)

Despite concerns over the drastic cuts, Anderson sounded a positive note when he told the group that The Arc organization is the 8th largest charity in the nation, "We are resilient, we will survive," he told the audience.

Members Focus on 20/20 Plan

Forum attendees reacted very positively to a new fundraising idea that was introduced Wednesday night. Called the 20/20 Campaign, members, staff, Board members and clients are being asked to get 20 people to donate \$20 to The Arc of Alameda County.

"It's a very simple concept," said Richard Fitzmaurice, Director of Development and Public Information, "instead of asking for a larger sum from a few people, we're using the power of our stakeholders to ask for a small amount from a large number of people."

If one person completes the "assignment," The Arc receives \$400. If 10 people participate, \$4,000 goes to the organization. "And the numbers go up from there," Fitzmaurice said. He also noted that member Nancy Strange managed to get her 20 people in less than 24 hours. "She even managed to get an extra \$5 in there somehow, he said."

Some 60 people left the Wednesday's meeting with 20/20 packets.

"Judging from the enthusiasm, we'll have a lot more money by Wednesday of next week than we did on Wednesday of last week," Fitzmaurice said.

Anyone interested in joining the 20/20 program can get information at www.arcalameda.org or contact Fitzmaurice on 510 357-3727 x 2107.

Shocking Crime Stats

People with a disability are 4 - 10 times more likely to be a victim of crime. That was one of the startling statistics presented to those attending the Member Forum. Leslie Morrison, Director of the Investigations Unit at Disability Rights California also shocked the crowd when she added, "80% of women with a disability and 40% of men are victims of sexual abuse during their lifetime."

She also told the crowd that people with a disability tend to suffer more abuse and for longer periods of time. Further, crimes committed against people with a severe intellectual disability are underreported and rarely prosecuted.



There are a number of reasons for this. "Cognitive deficits often mean the person is simply unaware that the abuse is unlawful," she said. Other reasons include dependence on others, fear of retribution and lack of training and socialization experience.

Morrison pointed to a bill introduced in the State Legislature that is aimed at alleviating the problem. Senate Bill 110 seeks to educate law enforcement on the problems associated with the abuse of elder and dependent adults. "It encourages law enforcement to establish specialized units and would require existing victim and witness assistance programs to also help victims and witnesses who have a disability," she said. The bill would also require fingerprint checks of non-licensed regional center vendor employees.

Morrison noted that a similar but longer bill was introduced in the Legislature during the last session but was defeated. She said SB 110 is much shorter and doesn't cost money - so it has a chance of passing and being signed into law.

She also encouraged the group to examine another bill, Assembly Bill 416 which would create a registry of direct care workers who have been named in a substantial number of cases of consumer abuse.

"The problem of relying only on fingerprints, "Morrison said, "is that you only catch those who have actually been convicted. The registry called for in AB 416 would list names of caregivers who have been named in a number of complaints - not just those who have gone to court."

This Public Policy Forum is the first presented by the Arc of Alameda County. In June, we will have another Forum combined with our Annual Meeting of Members - the one every group such as ours is required to conduct every year - and the Annual Awards Banquet where we honor the people we serve! Details to come but mark your Calendars for June 24th!

Sincerely,

Richard Fitzmaurice
The Arc of Alameda County

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: GET INVOLVED IN THE ARC!

Arc of Alameda County President, Bob Perrotti, vowed to "re-energize" the organization's Board of Directors and said one way to accomplish that goal was for Arc Members to join a Board Committee and bring-in new ideas. At least one person attending the Members Public Policy Forum spoke with Perrotti afterwards and we expect to see him at one of our meetings soon. Others are welcome.

Noting the budget crunch, Perrotti encouraged everyone in the room to pay attention to marketing and fundraising. "We need money!" he said. Bob said the Board of Directors would soon be updating the organization's mission and vision and that a new Membership Committee will be brainstorming new ways to attract members.

