

The Arc.ives

News from The Arc of Alameda County

Care and Caring Since 1950

February 24, 2009

The Arc of Alameda County

2700A Merced Street

San Leandro, CA 94577

www.arccalifornia.org

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Hi,

Welcome to *The Arc.ives* - a monthly letter with news of the Arc of Alameda County and other information of interest to the developmental disability community. Our primary topic this time is the CA State budget. Legislators already mandated a 3% budget cutback in our funding for the rest of this fiscal year. That 3% cut continues in fiscal year 2009/10. Now, the new State budget, finally approved Feb 19, calls for an additional reduction of approximately 7% in 2009/10. Learn more in the articles below.

Now more than ever your support is critical! (See donation information below in the left hand column).

Quick Links

www.arccalifornia.org



Budget Battle

California's new budget, passed after a marathon session the State Senate, chops \$100M from the budget of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The Arc of Alameda County gets approximately 85% of its funding from DDS, so we expect to see fewer dollars in the next fiscal year. "It's impossible to estimate the exact dollar amount," said Ron Luter, Arc Executive Director, "but we are estimating a 7% reduction in FY 2009/10." Luter says the 7% cut, coupled with the already mandated 3% cut instituted earlier this year and continues into the next fiscal year will translate into a shortfall of over a half million dollars!

It could have been even worse. In January, the Governor and Legislature were proposing a \$334M dollar cut in DDS funding. Luter notes that a call went out to Arc members and other stakeholders to write their State Assembly Members and Senators encouraging them to avoid draconian cuts in the DDS budget. "There wasn't much information coming out of the closed-door budget negotiations," said Luter, "but the final number was \$100M not \$334M, so it appears our campaign worked - at least to some extent."

Even so, he says, losing \$500K makes the job of providing quality services to the 600 people we serve every day a "real challenge."

The Department of Developmental Services is in the process of conducting a series of stakeholder meetings to determine how best to cut services to cover the \$100M shortfall. (See article below)

DDS Stakeholder Process

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will be conducting a public forum to gather information from those impacted by the cuts in DDS funding. In the Bay Area, the

Donations

Why not send a check to The Arc of Alameda County, 2700A Merced St. , San Leandro , CA 94577 . We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

You might also consider becoming a member of the Arc of Alameda County. The more people on the member roster, the stronger our voice! Get details on our web site.

Stay tuned for a fun fundraising idea. Details in the next Arc.ives Newsletter. You can be a BIG help!

Tell us if you know people at businesses in the area. We'd be happy to contact them to see if they would be interested in helping with a donation. Or maybe they have packaging or other work that can be done by the people we serve.

Member of Rotary, Soroptimist or other service club? Get us on the list to do a presentation. We love to tell our story!

meeting will be held on February 27, 2009 at the Elihu M. Harris State Office Building at 1515 Clay Street in Oakland. The meeting is set to run from 3:30 until 6:30 p.m. Arc members and friends are encouraged to take part. DDS Director Terri Delgadillo will be on hand to hear our comments personally.

Rather than determining on its own where services should be cut, DDS is looking for ideas from the people who have to live with the cuts.

"It's a little like asking a condemned man whether he prefers the firing squad or the electric chair," according to Arc Executive Director Ron Luter, "cut backs are cut backs but some may be easier to live with than others. I'm glad they're asking for our opinion."

Sound Bites

Another activity that may have helped reduce the proposed cut in DDS funding from \$334M to "only" \$100M is a letter written to the Governor and key Legislators by the Lanterman Coalition. The Arc of California is a member of the coalition. Describing the Lanterman Act as an "enduring commitment," the coalition urged representatives to "avoid actions that will do extraordinary harm and abandon the promise California has made to people with developmental disabilities and their families."

Read the entire letter in Arc of California Executive Director Tony Anderson's "Monday Morning Memo" (MMM) of February 9th. It is available at the Arc of California web site (see link at left). You may also want to subscribe to MMM. It's free and is full of excellent information!

Arc Exec Ron Luter and former Arc Board President, Dick Fitzmaurice, went to Sacramento for the Arc of California's annual Legislative Day in early February. They got the latest information about the proposed budget impacts (at the time the proposal was for a \$334M cut in DDS funding). Ron and Dick then visited State Senator Loni Hancock's office where their message reached a sympathetic ear from Hancock aide Marla Cowan. Representatives from Arc chapters around state also visited their local legislators to make the case for full funding of our programs. It was a full-court press.

FYI - Dick Fitzmaurice is now the PR person for The Arc. He'll be writing news releases, getting us some name recognition and donations. Dick served on our Board of Directors for over 14 years...



Despite the news from Sacramento , The Arc of Alameda County is on the move. Get involved! Volunteer, Join a Board Committee, Join the Board, Let us know if your company has work for the people we serve. Call me for more information! 510.357.3727 x 2107.

Sincerely,

Richard Fitzmaurice
The Arc of Alameda County

Save the Date

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

Arc - San Leandro

2700A Merced Street (at Fairway)

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

- Special Guest Tony Anderson, Executive Director, Arc California discusses the State of the Lanterman Act in Light of the State Budget
- We will also get a status report on the Arc of Alameda County
- Learn about a new fundraising campaign and how you can help
- Plus an expert on crimes committed against people with Developmental Disabilities has been invited. She will talk about the statistics and the legislation designed to improve the situation.

Mark Your Calendars Now!