



Monday June 1, 2015

Budget Conference Committee Chair
Senator Mark Leno
State Capitol, 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Budget Conference Committee, Vice-Chair
Assemblymember Dr. Shirley Weber
State Capitol, 6026
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Conference Budget Committee Items for Developmental Disabilities System Sustainability

Dear Chair Senator Leno and Vice-Chair Assemblymember Dr. Weber

The Lanterman Coalition consists of the 19 major stakeholders in California's community-based developmental services system, including organizations that represent individuals with developmental disabilities (IDD), their families, service providers, and regional centers. This year, Coalition members have worked to educate the public and the legislature regarding the impact of long-term underfunding on the ability of the system to keep the promise of the Lanterman Act to over 280,000 individuals and their families. The Coalition has also promoted a common-sense approach to stabilizing, reforming, and advancing the service system – an approach that thanks to the leadership of Senator Jim Beall, Jr. has gained the support of 24 Senators and 43 Assembly Members.

Our California IDD community is currently in a state of collapse with some sections worse off than others but all parts suffering from years of neglect and disinvestments. The neglect is illustrated by the rate structure that was established in the early 1990s; the disinvestment has resulted in a 10% decrease in per person funding compared to 2007. As the representatives for the developmental disabilities system, we urge the budget conference committee to agree to the following budget plan for the stability of the IDD system:

- **An across-the-board 10% increase to help all people with developmental disabilities their families, and providers starting July 1, 2015.** Both the Assembly and Senate put forward proposals to increase funding for the service system in the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. The Lanterman Coalition supports the Assembly's approach of stabilizing all parts of the service system uniformly. The large cuts made during the Great Recession were applied across the board and reinvestment in the system should be carried out in the same manner. Given the number of service provider closures already, the Lanterman Coalition is concerned that if funding increases are not sufficient or do not begin until January 2016, more services and opportunities will be lost. The coalition is unanimous in our insistence that the methodology be "across the board," as we find the proposed "targeted" approach to be harmful and discriminatory as it disproportionately impacts adults with IDD who have no family involvement and those cared for by aging caregivers.
- **The department should make recommendations to the Legislature on January 10, 2016 to reform existing rate-setting methodologies** for community-based services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities, and to regional center operations core staffing formulas. The Lanterman Coalition supports the Senate's action to set an aggressive timeframe for the Developmental Services Task Force to issue its recommendations for funding reform for the service system. Updating funding formulas and calculations is essential to ensuring the long-term viability of California's developmental services system.
- **Submit Trailer Bill Language that would achieve the intent of the Legislature that General Fund savings derived from the closure of state developmental centers, including any proceeds from the sale or lease of developmental center lands, benefit persons with developmental disabilities living in the community.** Advocates have urged this action for some time and call for a commitment to use these funds to develop and support desperately needed supports for this community. This action will mean that more individuals can realize their dream of living independently in integrated communities.

The Coalition continues to stand behind its plea for an across-the-board 10% rate and regional center operations increase in July 2015, a timeframe for systemic funding reform, and 5% annual increases until the implementation of funding reforms. Anything less may be too little or too late for many.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tony Anderson
 Chair, The Lanterman Coalition
 (Executive Director The Arc California)

Cc: Members, Budget Conference Committee
Senator Holly Mitchell, Chair, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
Peggy Collins, Consultant, Senate Budget & Fiscal Review Subcommittee #3
Jazmin Hicks, Consultant, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #1
Jennifer Troia, President Pro Tempore's Consultant, Human Services
Gail Gronert, Consultant, Office of the Speaker
Kirk Feely, Health Consultant, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Julie Souliere, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Shawn Martin, Legislative Analyst's Office
Carla Castaneda, Department of Finance
Lawana Welch, Department of Finance
Santi Rogers, Director, Department of Developmental Services
Diana Dooley, Health and Human Services Agency
Donna Campbell, Governor's Advisor, Health and Human Services