



GO! Bulletin

October 13, 2010

Hello from the Grassroots Oregon Project. The *GO! Bulletin* is a statewide source of updates on issues, events and activities related to people with developmental disabilities. You are receiving this *GO! Bulletin* as a Member of The Oregon Disability Network, a collaborative effort of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition.

STATE NEWS

Another Round of Budget Cuts

As state revenues continue to decline, last month the Governor issued another series of across-the-board budget reductions. In early summer, all agencies were directed to reduce their budgets by 9%. These 9% funding cuts have had a significant impact on people with developmental disabilities, families and service providers. [CLICK HERE](#) for a summary of the most critical reductions and their impacts. These reductions, made on an already stressed budget, are having a profound impact on DD services. We are hearing, for example, that Short Term Crisis funding is unavailable leaving some individuals and families in dire situations. Note in the description of the 9% reductions that a small number of the initially proposed service reductions were postponed to March in the hope that the revenue forecast would improve and the services would be protected.

The most current reduction, announced in August, called for an additional 8%. Fortunately, Congress approved the continuation of the enhanced federal Medicaid match known as FMAP which enabled the Developmental Disabilities Program to avoid some of the reductions targeted in this second round of cuts.

There are many other reductions outside the DD Program that impact individuals with developmental disabilities and families. For example, the Early Intervention / Early Childhood Special Education Program has been reduced back to 2003 funding levels resulting in fewer services while serving many more children.

Are these the last of the cuts?

We don't know how much more funding and how many more services will need to be reduced or eliminated before the end of the biennium on June 30, 2011. Unlike the federal government, Oregon must balance its budget. If the revenue does not equal or exceed the expenditures, government must either reduce services or increase revenue. Forecasters do not see significant improvement in Oregon's economy, and if they are right, we will see more cuts. Many of the reductions postponed until March are likely to be implemented sooner.

Is every state struggling like Oregon to preserve vital services?

Many states are struggling to continue to provide important services in serious economic circumstances. However, Oregon's situation is worse because the state is dependent on income tax as our major source of revenue. As long as our tax structure doesn't change and unemployment remains high, Oregon's economy will continue to struggle and vital services will be in jeopardy.

Additionally, many states are still eliminating institutions and moving toward more efficient cost effective services models. This process usually results in some savings that can be used to offset budget reductions in services to people with disabilities. In Oregon, the developmental disabilities program has already made most of these changes. Oregon is now in the situation of being forced to eliminate efficient, cost effective, and even preventative services!

What can I do? TAKE ACTION!

The most important action members of the DD Community can take is to make certain that policymakers, including legislators, county commissioners, school board members and others, understand the services in their communities that are important to people with developmental disabilities and families. They need to know about Early Intervention, Special Education, family support, brokerage services, foster care, and comprehensive services including group homes, supported living and employment supports. They need to understand the role of case managers, brokerages, and service providers in supporting individuals and families. You can help by sharing your story!

- Send letters to legislators and others describing the services you receive (or provide) and why they are important.
- Write letters to your local newspaper describing any reductions or loss of services you have experienced or observed.
- Attend local town hall meetings sponsored by your legislators and share your story about what is happening with services you receive or the services you provide.
- Join others in your community to provide policymakers an opportunity to visit with individuals and families receiving services.
- Stay informed!!!

- Join the Oregon Network – Get action alerts and resource information! [JOIN NOW](#)
- Check the DD Coalition [Website](#) for valuable tips on advocacy and information you can share with policy makers.



2010 General Election

Oregon's 2010 General Election will take place on November 2, 2010. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. The GO! Project urges all registered voters to participate in this general election.

Show Your Support!

There are many legislators who have been strong advocates for the issues that are important to people with developmental disabilities, their families and the people who support them. Now is the time to turn around and show your support for them!!

- Volunteer in their campaign
- Volunteer to take a lawn sign
- Donate money! Any amount under \$50 can be claimed as a tax deduction.

FEDERAL NEWS

Affordable Care Act – Animated Video

An informative new animated video explains in the Affordable Care Act in easy-to-understand language. Check it out at <http://healthreform.kff.org/the-animation.aspx> and pass it on!

Many benefits and protections provided by the Affordable Care Act became effective on September 23, 2010.

Insurers will no longer be able to:

- Deny coverage to kids with pre-existing conditions.
- Put lifetime limits on benefits.
- Cancel your policy without proving fraud.
- Deny claims without a chance for appeal.

Many consumers will now be able to:

- Receive cost-free preventive services.
- Keep young adults on a parent's plan until age 26.
- Choose a primary care doctor, OB/GYN and pediatrician without a referral.
- Use the nearest emergency room without penalty.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

New Respectful Language Laws

On October 5, 2010 President Obama enacted [Rosa's Law \(S. 2781\)](#). This law changes references in Federal law from "mental retardation" to an "intellectual disability". The law also changes references of "mentally retarded individual" to "individual with an intellectual disability" in various federal laws that primarily relate to education and employment. Senator Enzi, one of the bill's sponsors said "This bill is simple in nature but profound in what it will do when it is enacted. For far too long we have used hurtful words like 'mental retardation' or 'MR' in our federal statutes to refer to those living with intellectual disabilities. While the way people feel is important, the way people are treated is equally important. Rosa's Law will make a greatly-needed change that should have been made well before today – and it will encourage us to treat people the way they would like to be treated." The law does not affect any services, rights, responsibilities or educational opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. A number of years ago, Oregon passed legislation that required the use of "people first" language. This federal legislation takes a further step to begin the use of "individual with an intellectual disability". We will be seeking to incorporate this new language in Oregon laws and administrative rules.

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month. Oregon Parent Training & Information Center is hosting workshops on bullying prevention and intervention this month. Visit www.orpti.org/bullying and <http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/kids/> for more information on this important issue.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Employment First Forums

Oregon SPD Office of Developmental Disability Services and Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services are sponsoring a series of regional employment forums about our state's Employment First Policy. Space is limited. To register for your local forum, click on the region below:

[October 18: DHS Gateway Center, Springfield](#)

[November 3: Translink Center, Medford](#)

[November 9: Portland State Office Building, Portland](#)

[November 16: Seniors and People with Disabilities, Hillsboro](#)

Northwest Conference on Professional Development in Disability Services

October 20 - 22, 2010 | Portland, Oregon

This two-day conference is presented by Oregon Rehabilitation Association and will include information on various topics of interest to disability service providers. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

OHSU - A Night of Networking: Connecting Business & Talent

October 21, 2010 from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Portland, Oregon

Oregon Health & Sciences University Center for Health & Healing Atrium
OHSU South Waterfront (Marquam Hall)

This FREE event will provide opportunity to explore employment, recruitment, workplaces, markets, and diversity. This event will highlight people with disabilities who provide a skilled and talented pool of professionals, customers, entrepreneurs, and valuable employees. Free appetizers will be available. [CLICK HERE](#) to register or call 503-494-2491.

Building Futures Conference

October 25 - 26, 2010 | Salem, Oregon

Building Futures is a statewide conference designed for students, families and professionals focusing on Secondary Transition to College and Employment. Students and young adults with disabilities, parents and professionals are encouraged to attend. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

2010 UCP Family Conference

October 29-30, 2010 | Portland, Oregon

Join UCP Families, professionals and self advocates from Oregon and Washington for the 14th UCP Family Conference on Cerebral Palsy and Related Disabilities. Scholarships may be available for up to 20 parents and self-advocates. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

FEATURED RESOURCES

What is a Center for Independent Living?

Centers for Independent Living are organizations run by people with disabilities, for people with disabilities. The mission of each CIL is to help people with disabilities to live as independently as possible in communities that understand and value their contributions. CILs provide four core services: 1) information & referral, 2) advocacy, 3) Independent Living skills development, and 4) peer counseling. Other services are provided by CILs based on individual needs of the community and their consumers. CIL services move people away from dependence and toward independence. To learn more about the services offered by the CIL in your area and for contact information, [CLICK HERE](#).

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

The Oregon Business Magazine recently awarded Eugene-based Full Access with first place medium-sized agency in the statewide competition for the top 100 non-profits of

Oregon. Congratulations to all the Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition members who were honored this year by Oregon Business Magazine!



GO! Project Goals & Activities

- **GO! Goal: Expand the Network!** There is strength in numbers and The Oregon Disability Network connects thousands of families, advocates, professionals, and community members together for the common purpose of sharing information and taking immediate action on developmental disability issues as they happen on a national, state and local level!

Now Let's GO! → Be an active Network Member and encourage your family, friends, service providers, associates and community members to [JOIN THE NETWORK!](#)

- **GO! Goal: Educate the Legislators!** Every Oregon legislator needs to understand how the developmental disability services system operates and understand how legislative/administrative decisions impact individuals and families throughout the state.

Now Let's GO! → Get to know your local candidates and legislators, and share your personal story with them. The GO! Project is developing GO! Advocacy Kits which will include up-to-date DD Fact Sheets, advocacy tips, multimedia presentations, Oregon Network Membership Forms, and more. To order your advocacy kit, [EMAIL](#) a request to the GO! Project Coordinator.

GO! Bulletins are published by the Oregon DD Coalition
Stay Connected with the Oregon DD Coalition: [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

GO! Project Coordinator: Cheryl Cisneros
Email: info@oregonddcoalition.org