

## COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM DETAIL SHEET

**BILL:** SCR 98, as introduced, Beall. California's community-based developmental services system: 50th anniversary.

**ISSUE:** Should the Council help commemorate the 50th anniversary of California's community-based developmental services system?

**SUMMARY:** This measure would recognize the year of 2016 as the 50th anniversary of California's community-based developmental services system, and would reaffirm the commitment of the Legislature to support this system.

**BACKGROUND/ISSUES/ANALYSIS:** Text of the Senate Concurrent Resolution:

WHEREAS, Fifty years ago, the State of California piloted a new approach to serving individuals with developmental disabilities by enacting a bold new direction in public-private partnership that fundamentally changed and dramatically improved the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, and that would become a model for the nation; and

WHEREAS, That partnership model was based on the premise that the services required of a regional center are of such a special and unique nature that they could not be satisfactorily provided by state agencies and thus required private nonprofit entities to contract with the state to meet the unique needs of the different geographic regions; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Assembly Bill 691 established a pilot program that created two regional centers in 1966, one at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, later named Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center, and another at San Francisco Aid Retarded Children, Inc., later named Golden Gate Regional Center, with the Regional Center of the East Bay formed later from the latter project's eastern region; and

WHEREAS, The pilot program was so successful that it was turned into a permanent statewide program in 1969 by Assembly Bill 225, known as the Lanterman Mental Retardation Services Act; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, Assembly Bill 846 recast the act as the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act and proposed expansion of eligibility for regional center services to individuals with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism, among other developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act was passed, enumerating various rights to individuals with developmental disabilities, enshrining the role of regional centers as advocates for those rights, and creating an individualized planning process that forms the core of the uniquely tailored services and supports that each participating individual receives; and

WHEREAS, Regional centers provide service coordination to ensure that the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities are met through a combination of natural supports, generic services, and the purchase of vendored services; and

WHEREAS, Community-based service providers offer an array of services in each community to meet the unique needs of every individual with a developmental disability, doing so at significant cost savings to the State of California when compared to the cost of institutional care; and

WHEREAS, California's network of regional centers and service providers serve nearly 300,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who, as a result of the service, are able to live, work, grow, and thrive in the community; and

WHEREAS, Years of underfunding have reduced access to needed services and supports, have threatened the sustainability of the system as a whole, have strained families, and have reduced the quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The active support and leadership of the Legislature is a critical component of any and all efforts to reinvigorate and renew the community-based developmental services system; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, that the Legislature hereby recognizes the year of 2016 as the 50th anniversary of California's community-based developmental services system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature declares the importance of ensuring a sustainable system that protects the rights of individuals with developmental disabilities and their full inclusion into community life; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to defend, support, and advance the community-based developmental services system; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

**DISCUSSION:** Concurrent Resolution - A measure that can be introduced in either House, but must be approved by both Houses and filed with the Secretary of State to take effect. The Governor's signature is not required. (Source: Legislature. Ca. Gov).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Support SCR 98 (Beall).

**COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN OBJECTIVE:** AII.

**ATTACHMENTS:** None.

**PREPARED:** Bob Giovati

THIS DOCUMENT CAN BE FORWARDED

CDCAN - "CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP" -

JANUARY 29, 2016 FRIDAY MORNING -08:40 AM



# CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERS

*If you are interested in more information about the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership or would like to be a part of it, please send me an email at: [martyomoto@att.net](mailto:martyomoto@att.net) or [martyomoto@rcip.com](mailto:martyomoto@rcip.com). Take care – Marty Omoto (916-757-9549 – cell) - CDCAN (California Disability/Senior Community Action Network)*

## **PUBLIC EVENTS, MEETINGS AND STATEWIDE CONFERENCE CALLS**

**MARCH 02, 2016 – WEDNESDAY \*\*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\***

WHAT: CDCAN California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership "Advocacy Through Information" Policy Update

WHEN: MARCH 02, 2016 (Wednesday)

TIME: 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM (ending time tentative)

SPONSORED BY: The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership with CDCAN (California Disability-Senior Community Action Network and Choices Person Centered Services of Sacramento)

LOCATION: Downtown Sacramento – site being determined to accommodate about 200-300 people.

COST: Registration (about \$35) is simply to cover some of the cost of putting this event on. There will be fee waivers for persons with disabilities and seniors their families and workers with low incomes.

CO-SPONSORS: We are looking for co-sponsors for this event, as well as individuals or organizations who want to have a vendor table.

## **CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP ADVOCATES MOVE FORWARD WITH TARGETED FUNDING IDEAS THAT ARE PERSON CENTERED WITH OUTCOMES**

SACRAMENTO, CA [BY MARTY OMOTO, CDCAN - LAST UPDATED 01/25/2016 06:49 AM] – A new broad based network of disability advocates including people with disabilities (including developmental), families, providers, regional centers, and other agencies and organizations have come together last November to form what is now known formally as the “California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership”. The initial focus, due to the urgency of certain specific State budget issues, is on the developmental services related budget but it’s larger overall priorities cover children and adults with special needs, disabilities, mental health needs and seniors regardless of what system of services they may be eligible for and tied to specific outcomes.

The development of the new partnership was led by CDCAN, the California Disability/Senior Community Action Network with primary support from Choices Person Centered Services in Sacramento (formerly Choices Transitional Services). To receive more information about the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership or to be a part of the Partnership, send email to Marty Omoto at [martyomoto@att.net](mailto:martyomoto@att.net) or [martyomoto@rcip.com](mailto:martyomoto@rcip.com). A separate webpage and facebook account is being setup this week.

The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership was founded to help advance the advocacy efforts statewide and regionally with always a focus on the person with special needs and disabilities (and families) needing or receiving supports and services or the person providing those services and supports.

Advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say that its efforts have and will take into account how policy decisions are made at every level, and what time and resources they can tap into their communities for an effort that is on-going. They say that accountability and pushing governments (and each other) at all levels to do the right thing is part of this effort – as is recognizing the reality of the environment of how decisions are made, and the process of how decisions are made.

Those advocates contend that means people need to understand the limits of any resource that in turn underscores the need to target advocacy in ways that maximizes any resource, to be “...creative with both statewide and regional pilots, trying out new ideas on an on-going basis with outcomes that make a difference in people’s lives”.

Advocates involved with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say that it is an effort to put forward a different direction, emphasis, messaging, strategy, outcomes and tactics to address the immediate and longer term crisis impacting people with disabilities (including developmental), mental health needs and seniors, and also their families and the people who provide those needed supports and services at all levels. CDCAN says it is similar to the earlier efforts it led in 2001-2011 when pushing advocacy that centered on a person, asking people to talk about their own services, to bring pictures of themselves or their families or the people they serve or who serve them at hearings and rallies. One rally on the North Steps of the State Capitol in December 2003 to bring people to a legislative hearing on then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to suspend the State's landmark Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, drew over 6,000

people with only a few days notice from CDCAN. A previous rally in April 2003 to attend legislative hearings on then Governor Davis' massive proposed cuts to developmental services drew over 3,000 in a march from the Sacramento Convention Center to the State Capitol (see You Tube video of that march, below). In 2011, in action alerts by CDCAN, a thousand people flooded the State Capitol hearing rooms for an Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing and later that week another 1,000 people packed the hallways and several hearing rooms on several floors for a Senate Budget Subcommittee hearing - both considering the Governor's proposed massive reductions then.

The advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say that the definition of "crisis" is not only about problems related to a person receiving services and supports or problems impacting persons and people in organizations who provide it (including those helping to coordinate and refer services), but equally people who need services and supports but who are not, for various reasons, receiving it. Advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say that their efforts will move forward in a unified way that links partnership with accountability, outcomes and meaningful oversight.

They underscore that the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership effort – if it is truly "Person Centered Advocacy" – will always address both, along with measuring real outcomes that hold "everyone accountable – including advocates". Those advocates say that the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership will cover every issue connected to a person – though at any given time it might be focused – as it is in the coming weeks on people connected with developmental services. The group says its efforts however is not just about addressing crisis, but opportunities and issues that are important to people, such as changes in Home and Community Based Services, employment, housing and homelessness, voting, public accommodations access, and more.

Advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership also say that the fight for resources, change and new ideas is on-going, and will never be won by any single victory in a budget year or they assert "will never be stopped by any single defeat in a budget year". The advocates with the new Partnership say its advocacy efforts underscore the "...need to constantly look at different ways to change and respond – not simply react – to changing circumstances, needs and crisis. But the needs and unmet needs are real and the efforts to address those needs to prevail..."

## **PARTNERSHIP ESTABLISHES "GUIDELINES" TO HELP SHAPE IDEAS AND PROPOSALS**

The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership established "guidelines" or premises to help shape their ideas for new proposals, including new or increased funding, especially those targeted for people with developmental disabilities and workers. The "guidelines" or premises the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership created are as follows, which is still a work in progress:

1. **PERSON CENTERED** - Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership must always be "person centered" (either on the person receiving services or person providing services) and person centered on choices.
2. **TARGETED** – Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy

Partnership must be targeted to address a specific problem, issue, need or unmet need and prioritized whether it is a crisis or an on-going issue. Includes systemic and one time issues and problems crossing all service lines that focus on the person. Underscores that no solution or situation is permanent and always needs to be updated, changed and revised and that any effort goes beyond any one budget year or process. If possible, targeted proposals should attempt to achieve multiple outcomes that advances policy priorities of the State and advocates, such as improving cultural and ethnic diversity; addressing homelessness and housing, aging and more.

3. **OUTCOMES** – Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership must be tied to a specific outcome(s) that addresses the specific problem, issue, need or unmet need and time frames. This includes outcomes related to cultural and ethnic diversity issues, aging, homelessness, children that can possibly always be included as outcomes.
4. **TRANSITION** – Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership should contribute toward efforts of successful transition and compliance of major state and federal policy initiatives including the new Medicaid home and community based services regulations; federal and state workforce investment and opportunity act regulations and employment changes, closure of the developmental centers, including youth moving out of special education, etc.
5. **SCOPE**: Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership, depending on the target and outcomes, should be a mix of statewide and regional pilots to try out ideas or applied statewide to address a specific problem, issue, need or unmet need.
6. **DURATION & SUSTAINABILITY INCLUDING FUNDING SOURCE**: Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership, depending on the target and outcomes and scope, can be a mix of on-going funding (federal, state and/or grant funding) ideas and one-time or limited funding ideas to address a specific problem, issue, need or unmet need, and that any funding idea does not take away or harm existing funding of a service and support unless the funding idea also includes provisions on how that will be properly addressed (using the same principles of person centered planning and advocacy).
7. **NEEDS AND UNMET NEEDS**: Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership needs to be included in the larger “catalog” of needs and unmet needs that crosses departmental budget areas that includes areas such as housing, community inclusion, social needs, recreation, transportation, education, training, services and supports, employment, criminal justice related needs, abuse (both of people being served and people providing it, that would also include issues such as minimum wage; exempt staff issues, “compression”) and develop overall strategy and outcomes (for the state and for advocates) on how those are being addressed (or not addressed).
8. **BIG PICTURE** – Any proposal developed by the people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership needs to identify where the proposed idea fits in the big picture of state (and federal priorities) both in budget, politics and policy and where it fits within the other areas of need and unmet need. This is important so everyone understands that an effort, an idea or a problem does not begin or end with one budget year or a policy bill- but is on-going

## **TARGETED FUNDING PROPOSALS TIED TO PASSAGE OF MANAGED CARE**

## **ORGANIZATION FUNDING REFORMS PRESENTED BY CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP TO STATE**

The following proposals were taken from larger list developed by the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership that were presented to state officials earlier this month. The advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say that these specific proposals (taken from a large list of proposals) are ones that they say are tied directly or indirectly to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms, previously known as the managed care organization tax. Each proposal has a funding requirement tied to it – either one time, short term or longer term – underscoring a position by the advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership that the State should not place additional mandates or requirements without linking or identifying resources and funding to implement. These proposals, according to the advocates, are still being fine-tuned with additional ideas and details.

Advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership recognized the critical need for the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms with over \$1.4 billion in federal money at stake for health and human service programs and

The targeted funding proposals tied to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms were grouped loosely around subject headings dealing with “Transitions and Unmet Needs”, “Workers” and “People Needing Supports and Services” (in this specific case, people with developmental disabilities).

### **TRANSITIONS & UNMET NEEDS PROPOSALS**

These proposals focusing on people in transitions or people with unmet needs, are proposals that could be tied to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms, and were taken from a larger list of ideas and proposals developed by the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership. See section below for the larger list – which is a work in progress according to advocates with the Partnership.

UNMET NEEDS ASSESSMENT – provide one-time funding for an unmet needs assessment conducted by the Department of Developmental Services through a contract possibly with a state university that would survey statewide the extent of unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities and families and related issues, including unmet needs that address cultural and language disparities, geographic differences; supports for older people; employment; community integration (that includes social and leisure related needs); criminal justice; health; education; transportation; housing; transitions of people moving from institutions; and more. Assessment would be time sensitive, and developed with input from stakeholders with specific outcomes that would result from the completion of the assessment that would publicly disclosed to stakeholders and the Legislature. The assessment could provide the basis of needed data and information for the State and advocates to identify unmet needs and identify how certain services and supports need to be strengthened or improved and identify the need for new services and supports – and the funding needed to help support those efforts.

PERSON CENTERED PLANNING REQUIREMENT – provide funding to establish a State requirement that all Individual Program Plans are conducted under “Person Centered Planning” [the new State law would need to define Person Centered Planning]. Provide funding for training of regional center staff; people with developmental disabilities receiving services and their families; provider agencies; area boards and other advocates and agencies

TRANSITION – FUNDING FOR AGENCIES TO COMPLY - Provide funding to help with transition of provider agencies toward compliance of the new federal Home and Community Services regulations [this is being proposed in the Governor's 2016-2017 State Budget including new positions in the regional centers to evaluate transition ideas]. Need to add to the Governor's proposal that compliance proposals need to be person centered with specific outcomes, and provide for suspension of various State laws, regulations and local prohibitions that currently prohibit a provider agency from moving toward compliance.

TRAINING/EDUCATION - Provide one time funding – tied to specific outcomes - for regional training on “Person Centered Planning” and also availability of other state and local resources for supports and services (ie In-Home Supportive Services, mental health, housing authorities, transportation, etc) that would need to be conducted in ways that address ethnic/cultural diversity, language and accessibility and tied to specific outcomes. [Need to determine who conducts the on-going training – one idea is that the State or regional center would contract a community-based organization in partnership with area boards to conduct the training. The training curriculum however would be developed statewide with input by stakeholders that community organizations or others would use. This training can also include or be followed up by information or help to people with developmental disabilities and/or their families or providers to navigate through other systems for resources and supports, including issues related to housing, in-home care, education, etc.

NEW PROGRAM START-UPS - Repeal and provide funding for existing State law that prohibits start-ups of new program, services and supports providing those new programs or services and supports will be in compliance with person centered planning, with specific outcomes, and in compliance with new federal laws and regulations (such as Home and Community Based Services regulations, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regulations, State blueprint related to employment, etc) and especially for start-ups that also improve cultural diversity.

#### PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKERS

These worker related proposals, that could be tied to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms, were taken from a larger list of ideas and proposals developed by the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership. See section below for the larger list – which is a work in progress according to advocates with the Partnership.

WAGES OF LOWEST PAID DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS: Increase wage of lowest paid workers through a direct wage pass of a \$1 an hour for workers making between the State or local minimum wage and up to \$15 an hour. A direct pass through based on a dollar amount rather than a rate adjustment would result in a pass through that is applied equally, since rates vary dramatically throughout the State. [Note: A direct wage pass through was done on a limited basis in 2006 by the State with certain direct support workers, and the idea of reimbursing by a dollar amount has already been done this year and in 2014 and previous years by the Department of Developmental Services for certain eligible providers when the State minimum wage

increased; and also in certain areas of the State where the local minimum wage increased, based on health and safety exceptions)]. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal that would include targeting those workers who can speak different languages; workers who provide supports and services for people with extensive needs; workers in those areas of supports that have never received any increases in the last 10 years or never received any help from the State for minimum wage increases.

EXEMPT STAFF - STATE MINIMUM WAGE COMPLIANCE - Provide increase to lowest paid exempt salaried developmental services staff to keep their monthly salaries in compliance with California State law (minimum monthly salary of no less than two times the state minimum wage) also through a direct wage pass through. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT (REGIONAL CENTER AND PROVIDER AGENCY SUPPORT STAFF) – Provide one time or time limited targeted funding to provide an increase in mileage reimbursement to the federal reimbursement level for direct support staff in both regional centers and developmental services provider agencies. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal.

#### PEOPLE NEEDING SUPPORTS AND SERVICES

This proposal dealing with people with disabilities and seniors needing services and supports, is tied to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms, as proposed in the Governor's 2016-2017 State Budget. The advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership see the continued restoration of the home care services as critical and is included in the larger list of ideas and proposals developed or supported by the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership. See section below for the larger list – which is a work in progress according to advocates with the Partnership.

IHSS 7% RESTORATION OF SERVICES – Governor's budget assumes passage of the managed care organization tax that in turn would fund the continued restoration of 7% in services for all people who receive In-Home Supportive Services beyond June 30, 2016 (that restoration is currently being funded outside the existing managed care organization tax, through State general fund dollars matched by federal Medicaid funding – that funding is set to expire June 30, 2016 unless the budget replaces funding). We strongly support the continued restoration of these services.

#### **LARGER LIST OF ON-GOING PROPOSALS EITHER SUPPORTED BY OR PROPOSED BY THE CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP**

Note: this larger list includes proposals that were presented to the State earlier this month as proposals that could be tied to the passage of the managed care organization funding reforms.

#### PEOPLE NEEDING SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

SSI/SSP GRANTS – The Governor's proposed 2016-2017 State budget provides for a nearly 3% increase (effective January 2017) in the State portion (State Supplemental Payment) of the SSI (federal Supplement

Security Income)/SSP grants to the lowest income persons with developmental disabilities, the blind and seniors. The State estimates that the federal portion will increase in January 2017 by about 1.7%. Advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership strongly supports the Governor's proposal and actually would propose going further, with a larger increase of the SSP grant level increase beyond the proposed 3% increase to the SSP portion of the SSI/SSP grant in January 2017.

IHSS 7% RESTORATION OF SERVICES – Governor's budget assumes passage of the managed care organization funding reforms that in turn would fund the continued restoration of 7% in services for all people who receive In-Home Supportive Services beyond June 30, 2016 (that restoration is currently being funded outside the existing managed care organization tax, through State general fund dollars matched by federal Medicaid funding – that funding is set to expire June 30, 2016 unless the budget replaces the State general funding before that). The advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership strongly supports the continuation of the restoration of IHSS services whether or not the managed care organization funding reforms are in place by July 1, 2016.

EXCEPTIONS TO STATE OVERTIME RULES (IN IHSS AND WAIVER PERSONAL CARE SERVICES): Provide targeted one-time funding to allow for case by case health and safety exceptions regarding overtime caps under SB 855 and SB 873 for In-Home Supportive Services and the Medicaid Waiver Personal Care Services (under the In Home Operations waivers) until more permanent solutions can be identified and implemented [note the State is supposed to release soon its policy on exceptions, if any].

In addition the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is putting together urgency legislation to clarify that regional center funded home care services (Supported Living, In-Home Respite Agency and Personal Assistance Services) are not joint employers with IHSS or Waiver Personal Care Services, and that for the purposes of complying with the federal overtime rules, that the federal forty hour work week will apply (as it will with IHSS and Waiver Personal Care Services). In addition advocates with the Partnership are looking at other ideas to improve the situation regarding overtime not only for regional center funded home care services, but IHSS and Waiver Personal Care Services.

PILOTS – The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is developing several different pilots, both regional and statewide that don't initially require any changes in State law or additional funding, including a pilot in Northern California to help people who need more hours to work in Supported Living Services, Personal Assistance Services and In-Home Respite Agency Services and people (served by agencies or self vendored) who need temporary replacement workers; and also a pilot to increase wages for developmental services supported living services workers who provide supports and services for people with disabilities with more complex needs. Another pilot will focus on housing referrals and placements not only for people with disabilities, but low income direct care workers.

#### PEOPLE IN TRANSITIONS & PEOPLE WITH UNMET NEEDS

UNMET NEEDS ASSESSMENT – provide one-time funding for an unmet needs assessment conducted by the Department of Developmental Services through a contract possibly with a state university that would survey statewide the extent of unmet needs of people with developmental disabilities and families and related issues connected to ethnic/cultural disparities, and related possible unmet needs that include supports for

older people; younger people in transition; employment; community integration (that includes social and leisure related needs); criminal justice; health; education; transportation; housing; geographical differences, etc. Assessment would be time sensitive, and developed with input from stakeholders with specific outcomes that would result from the completion of the assessment that would publicly disclosed to stakeholders and the Legislature.

PERSON CENTERED PLANNING REQUIREMENT – provide funding to establish a State requirement that all Individual Program Plans are conducted under “Person Centered Planning” [the new State law would need to define Person Centered Planning]. Provide funding for training of regional center staff; people with developmental disabilities receiving services and their families; provider agencies; area boards and other advocates and agencies

TRANSITION – HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES REGULATIONS - FUNDING FOR AGENCIES TO COMPLY - Provide funding to help with transition of provider agencies toward compliance of the new federal Home and Community Services regulations [this is being proposed in the Governor’s 2016-2017 State Budget including new positions in the regional centers to evaluate transition ideas]. Need to add to the Governor’s proposal that compliance proposals need to be person centered with specific outcomes, and provide for suspension of various State laws, regulations and local prohibitions that currently prohibit a provider agency from moving toward compliance.

TRAINING/EDUCATION FOR PERSON CENTERED PLANNING - Provide one time funding – tied to specific outcomes - for regional training on “Person Centered Planning” and also availability of other state and local resources for supports and services (ie In-Home Supportive Services, mental health, housing authorities, transportation, etc) that would need to be conducted in ways that address ethnic/cultural diversity, language and accessibility and tied to specific outcomes. [Need to determine who conducts the on-going training – one idea is that the State or regional center would contract a community-based organization in partnership with area boards to conduct the training. The training curriculum however would be developed statewide with input by stakeholders that community organizations or others would use. This training can also include or be followed up by information or help to people with developmental disabilities and/or their families or providers to navigate through other systems for resources and supports, including issues related to housing, in-home care, education, etc.

NEW PROGRAM START-UPS - Repeal and provide funding for existing State law that prohibits start-ups of new program, services and supports providing those new programs or services and supports will be in compliance with person centered planning, with specific outcomes, and in compliance with new federal laws and regulations (such as Home and Community Based Services regulations, Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regulations, State blueprint related to employment, etc) and especially for start-ups that also improve cultural diversity, services and supports for people who are aging, youth in transition, homeless.

PILOTS – Advocates and organizations with the Partnership are proposing that the State provide short term funding for pilots that can be scaleable and/or transition of provider agencies toward compliance of the new federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and also new State initiatives regarding employment of persons with developmental disabilities (ie, the blue print being developed by three State agencies) that are person centered with specific outcomes.

COMMUNITY PLACEMENT PLAN TYPE CRISIS FUNDING DIRECTED TOWARDS PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY IN CRISIS DUE TO UNSTABLE SUPPORTS AND SERVICES OR LACK OF SUPPORTS – Advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership are working to further develop an idea, advanced last October by CDCAN to the Developmental Services Task Force, that would create a resource and funding mechanism through the regional centers to help people with developmental disabilities (and families) in crisis due to unstable supports and services; real threat of loss of supports and services including housing and transportation; or lack of needed supports, to mobilize and focus needed help and resources with the outcome to get them out of crisis at least temporarily until more permanent solutions can be found. The resource and funding mechanism would be similar to how the existing Community Placement Plan works, that is tied to moving people out of the remaining developmental centers and also deflection of people in threat of being placed there. It would target the very people who are in crisis – and through the regional centers – provide the needed one time or short term funding and resources including temporary reimbursement increases to providers if needed or the creation of a temporary array of new services and supports, to get that person out of crisis at least temporarily.

HOTLINE – Advocates and organizations with the Partnership are developing an idea that the State provide one-time targeted funding or limited term funding to pilot a “crisis hotline” (or similar online or internet software) at the State level or some other entity at the local level version of that related to a person with disabilities (including developmental) and seniors in crisis [need to define crisis and scope]. Advocates with the Partnership are working to develop this idea including details on how this information would be used, referred and reported with the outcome of documenting and resolving those problems.

WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITY AND INNOVATION ACT AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT TRANSITIONS - Advocates and organizations with the Partnership are proposing that the State provide a combination of one-time, limited term and on-going targeted funding to help organizations, including regional centers, fully comply with the new federal Workforce Opportunity and Innovation Act regulations and other federal and State employment reforms impacting people with disabilities (including developmental), tied to person centered planning and to specific outcomes. This would include proposals for pilots that are scaleable that also could be done without changes to State law or the need for State funding.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT TRANSITION – this transition of 13,000 children with developmental disabilities from regional center funded behavioral health treatment services to Medi-Cal managed care behavioral health treatment services will be occurring over a time span of about a year, beginning in February. The Governor’s 2016-2017 State Budget (and the current year budget) reflects this transition. However the transition issues are complicated and the impact massive with potential problems, especially if the transition is not monitored and overseen carefully, according to advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership. Advocates say this issue

needs to be included as a major focus for advocates and the State to make sure that it is done in a way that addresses concerns, problems and exceptions. The people with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership say there will also be a compelling need to provide oversight and accountability from advocates and others once the service is implemented by the managed care organizations, and that there may be a need to push for additional funding for this transition if additional needs for people in the transition develop over the next few months and years.

OTHER TRANSITIONS – Advocates and organizations with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership will track and be advocates in other major areas, including transition and closure of the State's developmental centers; transition of the California Children's Services (CCS), the continued implementation of the Coordinated Care Initiative (CCI) in the demonstration counties that includes shifting of some major long term services and supports, such as IHSS, into Medicaid managed care as managed care benefits; and the possible piloting of a "universal assessment tool" that will have major impact on people with disabilities (including developmental) for those services. Advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership will be looking at ways and ideas to help improve these transitions over the coming months and years, including ways to improve such critical services for people who need In-Home Supportive Services, Supported Living, Respite, Waiver Personal Care Services and more.

#### PEOPLE WHO ARE WORKERS (INCLUDING THOSE IN REGIONAL CENTERS)

**WAGES OF LOWEST PAID DIRECT SUPPORT WORKERS: Increase wage of lowest** paid workers through a direct wage pass of a \$1 an hour for workers making between the State or local minimum wage and up to \$15 an hour. A direct pass through based on a dollar amount rather than a rate adjustment would result in a pass through that is applied equally, since rates vary dramatically throughout the State. [Note: A direct wage pass through was done on a limited basis in 2006 by the State with certain direct support workers, and the idea of reimbursing by a dollar amount has already been done this year and in 2014 and previous years by the Department of Developmental Services for certain eligible providers when the State minimum wage increased; and also in certain areas of the State where the local minimum wage increased, based on health and safety exceptions]. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal that would include targeting those workers who can speak different languages; workers who provide supports and services for people with extensive needs; workers in those areas of supports that have never received any increases in the last 10 years or never received any help from the State for minimum wage increases.

EXEMPT STAFF - STATE MINIMUM WAGE COMPLIANCE - Provide increase to lowest paid exempt salaried developmental services staff to keep their monthly salaries in compliance with California State law (minimum monthly salary of no less than two times the state minimum wage) also through a direct wage pass through. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal.

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT (REGIONAL CENTER AND PROVIDER AGENCY SUPPORT STAFF) –

Provide one time or time limited targeted funding to provide an increase in mileage reimbursement to the federal reimbursement level for direct support staff in both regional centers and developmental services provider agencies. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on developing further ways to prioritize and target funding for this proposal.

HEALTH BENEFITS AND SICK LEAVE POLICY – Advocates with the Partnership are looking at ways to help provide some reimbursement to cover State mandated sick leave policy for those developmental services provider agencies (and regional centers) who were in compliance with that requirement prior to July 1, 2015. Also looking at ways to help – at least on a one time or temporary basis – some targeted funding to help off-set some of the cost by provider agencies of health care benefits for direct care workers in targeted areas of need.

FAIRNESS IN WAGES FOR PEOPLE PROVIDING SUPPORTS AND SERVICES – Advocates with the Partnership are working on ideas to address and solve the problems related to fairness in wages (referred to as “compression” – a situation where the pay of lower paid and less experienced developmental services workers rises to the level of those staff who are more experienced and/or are in higher positions. The California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is working on implementing a pilot to test out one way this issue can be addressed.

TAX CREDITS AND TUITION WAIVERS – Advocates with the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership are working on idea to provide incentives for the purpose of attracting and retaining good people in the workforce (both in developmental services provider agencies, self directed services and supports and regional centers) including the idea of tax credits for individual workers; higher education tuition fee waivers and/or tax credits for that education; complete or partial reimbursement for work related training [would probably need to be certified in some way but could be training in such areas as person centered planning, abuse, etc]; rent or housing “vouchers” [not to be confused with federal Section 8 or other federal or state housing vouchers] or establishing a pilot to help people with disabilities and seniors and workers with housing using existing resources. If successful, these ideas can be applied to other direct care workers in other areas overseen by other departments. [Note: the California Person Centered Advocacy Partnership is establishing such a pilot in Northern California]

*Copyright © 2016 - You CAN reproduce or forward THIS document (with attribution)*

**Our mailing address is:**

**CDCAN - "CALIFORNIA PERSON CENTERED ADVOCACY PARTNERSHIP"  
1500 WEST EL CAMINO AVENUE SUITE 499 [MAILING ADDRESS ONLY]  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833**

Marty Omoto - [martyomoto@att.net](mailto:martyomoto@att.net) [sometime in the next few weeks transitioning to this new email address from [martyomoto@rcjp.com](mailto:martyomoto@rcjp.com) - so use new one]

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)