

Enabled Voices



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IHSS Care Providers/Recipients Plead Case to County Board *County Supervisors Unresponsive*

About two dozen In-Home Support Service (IHSS) care providers, care recipients and other supporters (including three TCIL staff) rallied in the front of the Humboldt County Courthouse on Tuesday, February 6 before attending a Humboldt County Board of Supervisors meeting at 1:30 p.m.



Rally attendees in front of the Humboldt County Courthouse with their purple, United Homecare Workers t-shirts.

About ten of these individuals spoke during the public comment segment of the meeting to ask the Board to work towards a fair contract with IHSS care providers that provides a significant wage increase and health benefits. These workers have been negotiating for a new contract for over two years and are currently receiving minimum wage with no benefits.

“We’re asking the Board to cut through the chase because you’ve got the power to get it done!” said Consumer Advocate, T.R. Wilson. “It’s a shameful point we’ve reached now. I’ve been

unable to get good caregivers because poor wages and no benefits limits who I can get.”

“I took care of my aunt for three years and the hardest job anyone could have is to take care of someone and watch that person die,” said care provider, Mary Hassler. “We can’t survive on what we’re making. We’re asking the Board to step up to the plate.”

Board members, for their part, appeared unresponsive to those in attendance. They indicated that their hands were tied because of the IHSS worker switch from one union to another and due to Governor Schwarzenegger’s **proposed** budget, which freezes the State contribution to IHSS workers at current levels. No mention was made of the fact that this budget is only proposed and likely to face much opposition and modification. Nor was it noted that the only raises IHSS workers have ever gotten have been from State minimum wage increases--the last one before January being in 2002. Keep watch for further news.



T.R. Wilson being interviewed by Channel 3 reporter

TRI-COUNTY INDEPENDENT LIVING
955 MYRTLE AVENUE
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501



Get Involved at TCIL's **Advocacy Center!!**

Do you want to get more involved as an advocate for disability rights? Check out TCIL's new advocacy center at 955 Myrtle Avenue. We have a room available to our consumers where you can write a letter to a legislator, call your elected officials to let them know your feelings on an issue, phone bank to try and get others involved in an action, or do research on the computer (with a printer) on an advocacy or issue topic of interest to you.

Please contact TCIL (445-8404) before dropping by to use the advocacy center to make sure that the space is available. Also let our staff know if you need some other type of assistance.

**TCIL: (707)
445-8404**



IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 23--Last day for bills to be introduced in State Legislature (J.R. 61(a)(1), J.R. 54(a))

March--Time to build support for (or opposition to) proposed bills

SCNetwork Goals for 2007

The 2007 SCNetwork (Systems Change) of the CA Foundation for Independent Living Centers has approved a 2007 action plan that includes a media campaign to educate the public about the Olmstead Act, a drive to create a disability voting block for future elections, a push to increase shelter accessibility, and seeking ways to make transportation more accessible and affordable.



**Your Elected
Officials**

Legislative Committees

Following are committee assignments in the 2007 State Legislature for our area's elected officials:

Assembly Member Patty Berg--Aging & Long-Term Care (Chair); Health; Health & Human Services (Budget Sub-Comm.); Insurance

Senator Sam Aanestad--Appropriations; Health (Vice Chair); Human Services; Business, Professions & Economic Develop. (Vice Chair); Environmental Quality

Senator Pat Wiggins--Public Employment & Retirement (Chair); Banking; Finance & Insurance; Energy, Utilities & Communications; Governmental Organization; Veterans Affairs.