



Proposed Budget Cuts Remain Overwhelming Concern

The big topic in Sacramento and throughout California remains the looming state budget deficit (estimated to be \$14.5 billion by next year) and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's plan to deal with it. His proposal includes 10% across-the-board cuts to all state agencies.

The outcry against cuts is coming from a lot of different quarters. For instance, just this week Humboldt State University students and staff rallied against cuts to education that will greatly impact the California State University system. Also, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom suggested suing the State over cuts to Medi-Cal which will result in a 10% reduction in reimbursement rates to doctors. Currently there are an estimated 6.7 million Medi-Cal patients in the state.

Meanwhile, talk continues about increasing revenue for the State to help address the budget deficit. This includes the closing of tax loopholes or the elimination of certain tax breaks. One which

recently received much publicity, an effort to end tax breaks for yachts and private planes, was defeated by Assembly Republicans.

Proposed cuts potentially will affect people with disabilities, seniors, low-income individuals and others most heavily because many of them rely on several different programs (such as Medi-Cal and IHSS workers) and each program is proposed to be cut.

Our elected officials continue to need to hear from their constituents as to how proposed

cuts may directly affect them. Tri-County Independent Living is also planning a **march and rally** (specifics to be announced) on **May 15** to bring attention to how budget cuts may affect people with disabilities in this area.

A Few Bills to Watch

SB 1606 proposes a major expansion of court ordered outpatient program (involuntary treatment) for those with mental health issues. **AB 2139** relates to auto insurance and IHSS workers; **AB 2051 & SB 1416** would create a State registry on cases of elder abuse



Local disability rights advocates Charlie Bean (left) & Jene L. McCovey (right) met with Nancy Stark, Field Rep. for Assembly Member Patty Berg, to discuss the affects of budget cuts.

Pictured below: Garden space in back of the new **Hope Center** in Eureka. The grand opening for this facility, located at 2933 H Street, was on March 19.

The volunteer-run Hope Center will provide a number of services to people with mental health issues, that will include classes, workshops, a computer room, peer support, a space in which to socialize, and more. For more information call (707) 441-3723.



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March/Rally Will Focus on Proposed Budget Cuts

TCIL may be holding a rally and march on Thursday, May 15--probably around noon in Eureka. The purpose will be to express our concern over the potential effects of the proposed 10% across-the-board budget cuts to all California State agencies. We also want to

show our support to those who will attend Disability Capitol Action Day in Sacramento on that day. Our event will help give voice to those who can't afford to make the 6 hour trip to the state capitol in order to meet with our legislators and let our concerns be heard. Please keep watch for further information.

Community Choice Act Languishes in DC

HR 1621--the so-called "**Community Choice Act**" --has been referred to a House Subcommittee on Health. This act would provide individuals with disabilities and older Americans with equal access to community based attendant services and supports. S. 799 (the U.S. Senate version of the bill) **appears to be stalled in the Senate, with no action since last year.** The bill has been co-sponsored by CA **Senator Barbara Boxer**. There also appears to be little progress on the ADA Restoration Act (S. 1881 and HR 3195).

Tri-County Independent Living, 2822 Harris St., Eureka, CA 95503. For questions on this publication, call Glenn Reed at (707) 445-8404.



Want to take some action for disability rights and issues? Join the **Disability Action Network**. Contact Cindy Calderon at (707) 445-8404 for more information.

Local Happenings

Thurs., May 8, 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Annual Recognition Luncheon, NW Comm. for Employ. of People with Disabilities, Red Lion Hotel. Cost: \$15.00. RSVP to 445-6300 by 5/6.

Fri., July 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Red Lion Hotel, Eureka, TCIL's 5th *Respect for Abilities Day*, including vendors, workshops, luncheon & speaker.