



GO! Bulletin

February 10, 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.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- STATE NEWS
- EVENTS
- NEWS YOU CAN USE

STATE NEWS

ALERT: THIS BILL MAY AFFECT YOU!!!

While the February Legislative Session was intended to address budget issues and make critical statutory adjustments to legislation, there are a number of significant policy bills being introduced. **A bill that directly affects people with developmental disabilities and their families is HB 3618.**

This bill will do the following things:

- Provide workers compensation coverage for all domestic employees hired by individuals with developmental disabilities or mental illness and/or their families. For example in developmental disabilities, this would include domestic employees hired through the Adult Support Brokerages, Children's Intensive In-home Services, Family Support, Personal Care 20, and In-home Comprehensive Services. (January 2011)
- Fold all domestic employees into the [Home Care Commission](#) and require that they are listed on the Registry. Families would be given access to the Registry to locate domestic employees. (January 2011)
- Provide training opportunities.

- Open the door for possible unionization by SEIU (2011-13). The domestic employees will have an opportunity to vote on whether to unionize or not. Many of the domestic employees are also family members.

DD Coalition representatives worked on a number of amendments intended to address the significant concerns expressed by the DD community. These concerns are focused on the possible reductions in funding for DD services because of the cost to implement HB 3618 and if the workforce is unionized, the possible changes in the kinds of services and the way they are delivered if they are combined with services to seniors and people with physical disabilities in a single union bargaining unit.

While the Coalition amendments do not provide any guarantees, the bill as passed out of the House Committee attempts to address many of the concerns expressed by the DD Coalition. The amended version of the bill (HB 3618 A) is not yet available but will be posted at the [Oregon State Legislature](#) website.

The bill has been moved to the Ways and Means Committee. The January to June 2011 cost to implement the bill is projected to be \$1 million dollars. This includes set up and six months of workers compensation. In the next biennium, 2011 – 2013 the estimated cost to provide trainings and workers compensation is \$2.5 million. If unionization occurs and a settlement is reached similar to current Home Care Workers, costs could ultimately reach \$30 to \$60 million dollars.

[James Toews](#) responds to legislative questions about the fiscal impact of the HB 3618 legislation.

HB 3618 has potential for both positive and negative impacts on services to people with developmental disabilities and their families. We expect that HB 3618 will come up in the Ways and Means Committee sometime this week.

It is important that legislators hear from people affected by HB 3618. Share your opinion about this important issue with your own legislator and members of the members of the [Ways and Means Committee](#) today!

BALLOT MEASURES 66 & 67 - YES!

Thanks to all the work of the thousands of concerned citizens and the thoughtful response of the voting public in Oregon, significant reductions in services to people with developmental disabilities in Oregon were avoided. Passage of Measures 66 & 67 provided the over \$700 million dollars needed to balance the 2009-2011 budget developed in June of 2009.

BUDGET FORECAST

The current budget forecast continues to show a decline in revenue coming in to the state despite the increase in dollars generated by Measures 66 & 67. The Revenue Forecast issued this week projected a \$183 million dollar shortfall. Part of this will be offset by dollars set aside in what is called the "Ending Balance." However, the revenue shortfall and the potential loss of the federal Stimulus dollars due to expire in January 2011, may again put DD services in the target for reductions! This situation will be closely monitored.

BUDGET CUTS PASSED IN 2009 ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED

In the 2009 Legislative Session, millions of dollars were cut from the State budget. The DD Services Program experienced funding reductions in family support and in adult employment services. Those funding reductions are now being experienced at the individual and family level! If you recently have lost supports or services and are willing to share your story, please send them to the [Oregon DD Council](#).

EVENTS

DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT DAY AT THE CAPITOL

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: A DECADE OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2010 marks the **10-year anniversary** of the closure of Fairview Training Center, Oregon's largest institution for people with developmental disabilities. Since Fairview closed, advocates and policy makers have worked diligently to **end the wait list** for adult services by creating a community-based system of **support services** that offer self-determination and choice. The decade ended on a high note last October with the **closure of Oregon's last institution** for people with developmental disabilities, Eastern Oregon Training Center.

Please join us Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at the Oregon State Capitol to celebrate the accomplishments of the past ten years AND demonstrate the COURAGE and POWER of the Developmental Disabilities Community!

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition and the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities are sponsoring the event, which will include a proclamation from the Governor, an awards ceremony, remarks from influential policy makers and advocates for people with developmental disabilities, and the unveiling of an awareness poster co-produced by The Arc of Oregon and the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities. Exhibits will also be on display all day in the Galleria.

What: Developmental Disabilities Celebration - A Decade of Accomplishments

When: Wednesday, February 24th, 2010, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Where: Oregon State Capitol, Room 50 (lower level)

900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Accessible parking spaces are located on Court Street (north side). Automatic doors and a ramp are located on the east side of the building with access gained from the front of the Capitol. For information about the Capitol building, visit <http://www.leg.state.or.us/capinfo/>

Contact: Yoshi Kardell

Phone: 503-945-9944

Email: ykardell@ocdd.org

2010 Oregon Trainings Series on Direct Supports

The 2010 Oregon DD Coalition Direct Supports Training Series is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Human Services, Seniors & People with Disabilities Division.

This series of trainings will be targeted to direct support providers and related professionals who support individuals with developmental disabilities, including independent, foster care, domestic employees and family providers.

Trainings are four-hour teleconferences broadcasting live to a network of host sites throughout the state and feature nationally-recognized speakers. In addition, each remote site will also have a facilitator who will lead the local group in structured activities and discussions.

Please share this information with someone who may be interested in this training series. To find a location closest to you: <http://www.directsupports.com/directions.htm>

Visit our [Direct Supports Training](#) website for training topics, dates and pre-registration forms. Registration is only \$15.00 a session and we are bringing them to your local community!

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FAST FACTS: EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

- Created in 1975, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is the largest federal benefits program for working families.
- An estimated 20 to 25 percent more people may qualify for EITC but may not be aware of it.
- The EITC is for people who work and have low to moderate income
- The new maximum credit for tax year 2009 is \$5,657 for a family with three or more children; \$5,028 for a family with two children; \$3,043 for a family with one child and \$457 if there are no children.
- The new income limits are \$43,279 (\$48,279 if married filing jointly) for families with three or more children; \$40,295 (\$45,295 if married filing jointly) for families with two children; \$35,463 (\$40,463 if married filing jointly) if there is one child and \$13,440 (\$18,440 if married filing jointly) for no children. Investment income must be \$3,100 or less. Children must meet certain relationship and residency requirements.

2009 Tax Exemption for Parents of Children with Disabilities

The following information is provided by the Oregon Parent Training and Information Center. The Oregon Tax Code provides an additional tax exemption for parents of children with disabilities in Oregon. The procedure for claiming an exemption for the 2009 tax year is explained in the Oregon Individual Income Tax Return and Instructions, Nonresident and Part-Year Resident, and the Full-Year Resident booklets.

Continued...

Who qualifies for the exemption?

A child qualifies if he or she meets all of the following:

- Qualify as your dependent for tax year 2009; and
- Be eligible for "early intervention services" or receive special education as defined by the State Board of Education of the state where the child attends school; and
- Be considered to have a disability as of December 31, 2009 under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and related Oregon laws.

For purposes of special education, learning disabilities and communication disorders do not qualify. Eligible disabilities include:

- Autism
- Deaf | Blind
- Emotional Disturbance
- Hearing Impairment
- Mental Retardation
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Impairment
- Other Health Impairment
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Visual Impairment

What documentation must be submitted with a tax return?

The tax booklet explains that your child must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and an eligibility statement for one of the disabilities listed above. You do not have to send in copies of these documents. For complete instructions check the link below.

Oregon Department of Revenue On-Line Instructions and Forms

You may want to reference the Oregon Department of Revenue Forms 40S, 40, 40N and 40P with Instructions. They are available at [Oregon.gov 2009 Tax Forms](http://Oregon.gov/2009TaxForms)

GO! Bulletins are published by the Oregon DD Coalition

GO! Project Coordinator: Cheryl Cisneros

Email: info@oregonddcoalition.org

The mission of the Oregon DD Coalition is to promote quality service and supports which respectfully further the rights, equality, justice, and inclusion for all Oregonians with developmental disabilities and their families.