



GO! Bulletin

July 2, 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.

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***BREAKING NEWS: SERVICES TO CHILDREN ARE BEING ELIMINATED!
CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR NOW!***

REVISED BUDGET REDUCTIONS DEVASTATING

Last week Seniors and People with Disabilities (SPD), Department of Human Services released a revised 9% Budget Reduction proposal. The Governor has moved forward with the [reductions](#). SPD was not allowed to propose reductions that would require legislative action to implement like the Fairview Trust, or rate reductions that are controlled by a collective bargaining agreement, or services that are part of a lawsuit like the Staley Settlement. Those restrictions limited what programs could be cut to meet the reduction dollar target. It is also important to note that many of the reductions being proposed will require the approval of the federal Medicaid agency, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). This approval may take up to 90 days. The longer the delay in implementing the reduction the deeper the cut will end up being in order to reach the reduction target.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES HIT HARD BY BUDGET REDUCTIONS

Children with developmental disabilities and families are particularly hard hit by the budget reductions in education to children with disabilities and in supports to children and families.

Education: A \$5 million dollar reduction is proposed for the birth to five programs, Early Intervention | Early Childhood Special Education. This program has already seen a significant reduction in services since 2004.

Meeting the federally required Maintenance of Effort (MOE) may be a problem for the Oregon Department of Education. Additionally, there are reports of reductions in local district Special Education programs and organizational changes that will return students to self contained classrooms and schools.

Department of Human Services: Office of Developmental Disability Services reductions include:

- Elimination of Family Support Program
- Elimination of Personal Care 20 Program (PC 20)
- Elimination of In-Home Long Term Supports for children
- Reduce case management ratios to 1:300 from 1:45

Other Department of Human Services Reductions include:

- Eliminate local Lifespan Respite services
- Reductions in Employment Related Daycare
- Reductions in community mental health services
- Co-pays for the Oregon Health Plan

WHAT CAN YOU DO ABOUT THE PROPOSED REDUCTIONS?

- Contact your [legislator](#) NOW! DON'T DELAY. Tell them how these reductions impact you!! They need to hear your personal story!
- Also share your [story](#) with us! We are collecting stories to illustrate what these services do and what will happen if they are no longer available. We will be sharing them with the media, the public and policymakers.
- Attend Town Hall meetings sponsored by your legislator and share your story and the impact of the budget reductions. Set up a personal meeting or send an email to your state representative and state senator to share your story. Connect with your [Legislator](#)! To find out their local schedule check their legislative website.
- Write or meet with other policymakers including county commissioners and school board members to help them understand the impacts of these reductions on you and the programs or services you care about.
- Check the DD Coalition [website](#) for tips on working with legislators, county commissioners, school Boards or other policymakers. Download and share the [fact sheets](#) that are available.
- Watch and respond to ALERTS from the GO! Project. Work with local groups or coalitions in your community organizing to increase awareness of the proposed budget reductions.
- Encourage your friends, family, community members and associates to join the Oregon Network. Print and hand out Oregon Network [sign-up forms](#) to strengthen our numbers and increase the impact of our efforts throughout the state.

REMEMBER THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS WE MUST RETAIN OUR VALUES, MAINTAIN OUR VISION, AND NEVER LOSE OUR VOICE FOR WHAT IS IMPORTANT!!!

NEW OREGON DD COALITION WEBSITE!

The Oregon Developmental Disabilities Coalition is proud to announce the launch of its newly redesigned website! The www.oregonddcoalition.org website address is the same, but the site looks very different. The website now features color coded tabbed sections, impressive styling and is much more user friendly! The DD Coalition Direct Support Training website is now fully integrated in the site and can be accessed by simply clicking on the Training Tab. Visit the Fact Sheet Section for updated versions of these important advocacy tools! Site content will be updated frequently, and you are invited to check the site often to find out the latest news. You may also now follow us on Face Book and/or Twitter to receive Coalition news as it happens!

GO! Bulletins are published by the Oregon DD Coalition

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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.