



July 6, 2009

To: Westside Regional Center Families

From: Mike Danneker, Executive Director

Re: Potential changes to service delivery as a result of the 2009-2010 Trailer Bill

As many of you are aware, the State of California is undergoing a severe fiscal crisis of a scope and magnitude not seen or experienced by many of us today. This financial crisis has forced the Governor, the Legislature, and state agencies to come up with millions of dollars in reductions to programs and staffing in order to balance the budget. While WRC has been working on on-going strategies to live within our budget, the situation has continued to worsen. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has had to identify \$334 million in savings reductions since February of this year and WRC has been notified by DDS of many proposed changes to the Welfare and Institutions Code (also known as the Lanterman Act). These changes are part of a Trailer Bill pending signature of the Governor and when signed will be law. As these proposed changes have a significant impact on many of our families and consumers, WRC wants to inform you of the possible changes so that you can make arrangements for your family members. A complete listing of all changes to the regional centers' budget can be viewed at our website [www.westsiderc.org](http://www.westsiderc.org) and on the DDS website [www.dds.ca.gov](http://www.dds.ca.gov).

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has proposed many changes as budget savings and the following are the most immediate that may occur on or before August 1, 2009:

1. Effective July 1, 2009, regional centers shall **not purchase more than 21 days of out-of-home respite services in a fiscal year nor 90 hours of in-home respite in a quarter, for a consumer.** A regional center shall not purchase day care services (Specialized Supervision) to replace or supplant respite services. If your family member received respite services on July 1, 2009 as part of the IPP or IFSP, this change shall take effect on August 1, 2009. These changes shall remain in effect until a new type of service delivery, the Individual Choice Budget, is implemented and the Director of DDS certifies that the individual choice budget is in place and has resulted in a budget cost savings.
2. Effective July 1, 2009, regional centers' authority to purchase the following services shall be **suspended** pending implementation of the Individual Choice Budget and certification that the Individual Choice Budget has resulted in a budget cost savings: camping services and associated travel expenses; social recreation activities, except day programs; educational programs for children aged 3-17; and non-medical therapies, including but not limited to specialized recreation, art, dance and music. For consumers receiving such services as part of their IPP or IFSP, the prohibition shall take effect on August 1, 2009.

Please note that these changes are being required by the State of California. For the most current information, please go to our website [www.westsiderc.org](http://www.westsiderc.org). Please sign up to be on our email list as Westside Regional Center is no longer providing information through the mail due to the expense.

Be assured that Westside Regional Center will continue to support our consumers and families during this difficult budget situation and changes to our system.