2011-12 GOVERNOR’S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS
MAJOR ISSUES IMPACTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Budget savings approved by Legislature in March 2011:

Medi-Cal

- Medi-Cal would limit paying for hearing aids to $1,510.00;
- Number of doctors’ visits would be limited to 7 per year without additional approval;
- $50 co-payment for emergency room services;
- $5 co-payment for doctors’ visits, clinic and dental services;
- $100 per day up to a total of $200 for hospital stays;
- $3/$5 co-payments for prescription drugs;
- Elimination of the Adult Day Health Care program;
- 10% less paid to doctors, pharmacies, clinics, medical transportation, home health, family health, certain hospitals, and nursing facilities; and
- No over-the-counter cough and cold medications will be covered.

New budget changes proposed to Legislature in May Revision:

- Move the Healthy Families Children program to Medi-Cal;
- Get additional federal monies through waiver programs;
- Limit people from changing health care plans to once per year;
- Restore the funds that were to be covered by the California Children and Families First Act (Proposition 10) in the Medi-Cal program;
- Provide funding to transition people from Adult Day Health programs to other services; and
- Reduce funding for the California Children’s Services, Child Health and Disability Prevention, and Genetically Handicapped Persons programs due to lower caseloads and treatment costs.
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Budget savings approved by Legislature in March 2011:

- System-wide reduction of $591 million (576.9 million from Legislature actions and 14.1 million in other budget changes) and an ongoing savings of $389.3 million.
  
  - Keeping in place the 4.25 percent savings for regional center operations from last year,
  - Getting more money from the federal government,
  - Limiting the amount regional centers and service providers can be paid for running their agencies,
  - Making sure that all business is done within the rules and that money is not being wasted,
  - Reducing money for developmental centers,
  - Reducing funding for the Prevention Program primarily serving infants and toddlers at risk of a developmental disability, and
  - Giving less money to regional centers for running their offices.

New budget changes proposed to Legislature in the May Revision:

- $3.6 million was added for developmental centers because of the hold-up in making the changes needed to save money. However, the total saving amount of $15 million will be met in two years by combining programs and limiting the number of people in the Porterville Developmental Center Secure Treatment Program.

- Also added more money into the DDS programs this year because of the hold-up making the planned changes from March 2011. However, the total saving amount of $174 million will be met in two years by the following changes;
  
  - Gaining more federal funds for regional center to purchased consumer services.
  - Spending less on DDS contracts with other agencies.
- Giving less money to regional centers for staffing, offices, and other programs.
- Less money is needed to support people that are moving out of developmental centers into community settings.
- There will be changes on how the regional centers came up with the amount of money they pay some service providers.
- Some families with children that get regional center services may pay a yearly fee based on their income.
- If a person lives in a place they like, and the services that they need change. This will allow the person to stay in their home even if their needs decrease. This will allow regional centers to pay a lower rate to the residential provider.
- Use funds through schools to get day services, work, independent living, and transportation for individuals in school when they are 18-21 years old and transitioning from school to community based work and activities programs.
- If people are living together and both get supported living services (SLS), they might be able to share the supported living services for some things. The SLS provider will not decide what services a person needs; that would be done during the IPP meeting and supported by an independent assessment.
- Start new day services that allow individuals to make choices about how many days they want to go to program; let people hire their own staff; and let day services change the way they bill the State for part day services.
- Make parents tell regional centers that behavioral services were provided when they were supposed to be; and let trained professionals (people who are not professionals that would be supervised by professionals) provide behavioral services.
- The Prevention Program will be moved from regional centers to Family Resource Centers and will only give information, resources, outreach and referral for some families and infants who are not in the Early Start program.
Make a transportation access plan at the individual program plan (IPP) meeting to help people use public and community based transportation.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

New budget changes proposed to Legislation in the May Revision:

- An increase of $50 million for the state hospitals, and
- Funding for safety and security improvements at Napa, Metropolitan and Patton State Hospitals

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS)

Budget saving approved by Legislation in March 2011:

- Require a medical professional to document that a person needs IHSS in order to stay in their own home to get IHSS services;
- Implement the Community First Choice federal option for home and community-based attendant services;
- Start a pilot program for medication dispensing machines;
- Stop state funding for IHSS Advisory committees;

New budget changes proposed to Legislation in the May Revision:

- Less money was budgeted because fewer people will be using IHSS.

Supplemental Security Income/State supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP)

Budget saving approved by Legislation in March 2011:

- A reduction of $15 per month for individuals on SSI/SSP.
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

New budget changes proposed to Legislation in the May Revision:

● Shift mental health services from counties to schools
● Increase funding for special education caseload growth.

STATE GOVERNMENT REALIGNMENT

New budget changes proposed to Legislation in the May Revision:

● Transfer support of the Governor’s Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities to the Department of Rehabilitation.