



2009 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES For People with Developmental Disabilities

Policy Issues and Budget Issues

Policy Issues

•**DD Intensive In-home Behavioral Supports**

Put into statute the response and prevention system that was funded last session to reduce the need for out-of-home placements for children by providing intensive in-home behavioral support services.

•**Eliminate RHCs as Educational Settings**

Revise RCW 28A and 71A to close the loophole that allows segregated education of children residing in RHCs.

•**Employment Policy**

Define the state policy for employment and non-employment services.

•**Autism Insurance Parity**

Provide equitable private insurance coverage for all children, including those with autism. Early Intensive Behavior Intervention (EIBI) included in insurance coverage.

•**Neurodevelopmental Therapy Bill**

Increases age limit to 21 for neurodevelopmental therapies to be covered by insurance and adds coverage for ABA and other evidence-based structured behavior programs.

•**Infant Toddler Equity Act (Birth to 3)**

Recognize early intervention services as an entitlement; create a separate line item for DD funds, and forecast future enrollment.

•**Family/Guardian Respite**

Allow respite services for family

members and guardians who are the full-time, live-in provider. Current policy only allows respite for parent providers.

Budget Issues

In the Governor's proposed budget:

•**Increase Waiver Capacity**

Increase waiver capacity to safeguard people in crisis; avoid RHC placement and bring federal dollars to our state.

•**State Only Employment**

Place 2,500 adults who receive state-only employment funding onto the Basic Medicaid Waiver and gain federal matching funds.

•**Housing Trust Fund**

Budget reduced by half and set-aside funding eliminated.

•**Parent to Parent/Self Advocates/Parent Coalitions**

Maintain funding that is cut in the Governor's budget for the resources to people with developmental disabilities and their families who receive no paid services.

Parent to Parent programs provide:

Resources and support parents of newborns identified with delays;

Self-advocates encourage independence and participation in community life.

Parent Coalitions provide training and information to families in local communities. Retain additional FMAP increase created by the "stimulus package".

Family Network Groups

The Family Network Groups next meetings:

Senior parents who have adult children with developmental disabilities meet: from **6-7:30 p.m.** Monday, February 23 and Monday, March 3, at the **Olympic Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Hall, 73 Howe Road, Port Angeles.**

The follow-up meeting for:

Parents with children who experience autism is from **6~7:30 p.m.**, Monday, April 27, 2009.

Dinner will be provided and free childcare is also available, but with a one-week notice. Contact **Jenell Dematteo** at **360-379-8934**.