

## CDCAN DISABILITY RIGHTS REPORT CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK



**#098-2010 – JUNE 1, 2010 - TUESDAY**

*Advocacy Without Borders: One Community – Accountability With Action - California Disability Community Action Network Disability Rights News goes out to over 55,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, traumatic brain & other injuries, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, their families, workers, community organizations, including those in Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, African American communities, policy makers and others across California.*

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### **California Budget Crisis:**

## **Huge Budget Deficit Still Unresolved – Budget**

## **Conference Committee Hearings Begin Thursday**

**Sen. Denise Ducheny Will Chair 10 Member Budget Conference Committee This Year – Meets At 1:00 PM on Thursday At State Capitol**

SACRAMENTO, CALIF (CDCAN) [Updated 006/01/2010 09:50 PM (Pacific Time)] - With an enormous state budget deficit of \$20 billion still largely unresolved, the next phase of the state budget process moves this week to a special joint committee composed of members of both the Assembly and State Senate, called a “conference committee” to be chaired this year by Sen. Denise Ducheny (Democrat – San Diego), with the first hearing scheduled for June 3, Thursday afternoon at 1:00 PM at the State Capitol in Room 4203. All budget conference committee hearings are open to the public and televised – though public testimony is not taken at these hearings.

After Thursday, budget conference committee hearings are scheduled through Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, (including the weekend) at the call of the committee chair.

At this point in the budget process, the Governor’s proposed 2010-2011 State Budget that includes changes that both the Senate and Assembly Democrats passed in recent weeks, is contained in AB 190. After the budget conference committee phase ends, that bill number will likely change as the process moves forward (CDCAN will report any changes).

### **JUNE 3, 2010 – THURSDAY**

#### **BUDGET CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

1:00 PM – State Capitol – Room 4203

First conference committee hearing on the budget – AB 190

AGENDA AVAILABLE: Not yet – sometime this week before Thursday [CDCAN will post on the CDCAN website at [www.cdcan.us](http://www.cdcan.us) ]

PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT THESE HEARINGS: No, not normally – but all hearings are open to the public and people can comment on budget items and issues by writing the conference committee members, the legislative leadership and also their own legislators.

**PRIORITY: VERY HIGH**

CDCAN COMMENT:

- Budget conference committee takes up those budget issues where the Assembly and State Senate took different actions on a specific budget item – many which impact people with disabilities, mental health needs, the blind, seniors, low income families and workers who provide supports and services.
- The conference committee will go through a long agenda organized by department budget item number and then go through each budget item under that department where each house took a different action and attempt to resolve the differences.
- While all hearings are public and televised – no public testimony is taken at these hearings, though people can write to the conference committee members expressing their concerns.
- After Thursday’s hearing, budget conference committee hearings are scheduled – though at the call of the chair – every day (including the weekend) through June 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday. All conference hearing dates and times are subject to change.
- Even when the budget conference committee finishes its work – sometime on or before June 11<sup>th</sup>, it is unlikely that any agreement to pass a State budget will have been reached, with the Governor, Legislative Democrats and Republicans sharply differing on how to resolve the immediate and on-going state budget crisis.

### **Budget Subcommittee Phase Ended Last Week**

The budget subcommittee hearing phase of the budget process, including public testimony on Governor’s proposed reductions impacting people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors and others, were held between March and May, ending last week with several actions by the subcommittees. No actions by the subcommittees – or even by the budget conference committee are final until a state budget is actually passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. With major differences on how to resolve the budget crisis and close the budget deficit, almost everyone expects a budget stand-off that could last through the summer or even longer.

### **Senate Announces Conference Committee Members**

The budget conference committee will be larger than in other years, with a total of 10 members – 5 from the Assembly and 5 from the State Senate.

The State Senate announced earlier today its members on the budget conference committee:

Senate Democratic Members (3): *Denise Ducheny (chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee), Mark Leno (chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee #3 on Health and Human Services) and Alan Lowenthal, (chair of the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee)*

Senate Republican Members (2): *Bob Dutton (vice chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and incoming Senate Republican Leader) and Sen. Bob Huff (vice chair of the Senate Education Committee).*

The Assembly has not yet formally announced their conference committee members, though is expected to do so shortly.

### **Another Major Legislative Deadline Looms Friday June 4<sup>th</sup>**

While the budget crisis is the main focus this week, and the State Primary election another focus next Tuesday, yet another major deadline for regular policy bills looms on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

- Hundreds of bills that were introduced earlier this year but have not yet passed out of the house it was introduced in must do so on or before Friday this week. Any bill that was introduced earlier this year and never passed out of the house it was introduced in will be considered essentially “dead” – with no further action on that bill for the rest of the legislative session.
- Last week the Senate and Assembly Appropriations Committees reported which bills in their committees would be killed and which would proceed to either the Assembly or Senate floors for further action. Scores of bills were held in both committees – meaning those bills are essentially “dead” – with no further action on those bills for the rest of the legislative session. On Friday this week, many more bills will also face a similar fate when they fail to pass out of their respective houses.
- Next January a new legislative session begins, with the legislative slate wiped clean – and all new bills introduced.

## ***CDCAN'S ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ACTION TRAINING***

**JUNE 14, 2010 – MONDAY 1:00 to 3:15 PM**

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***VERY URGENT!!!!***

**PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!!!**



We need your help. CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, reports and alerts and other activities cannot continue without your help.

To continue the CDCAN website, the CDCAN News Reports. sent out and read by over 50,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across California and to continue the CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings which since December 2003 have connected thousands of people with disabilities, seniors, mental health needs, people with MS and other disorders, people with traumatic brain and other injuries to public policy makers, legislators, and issues.

Please send your contribution/donation (make payable to "CDCAN" or

"California Disability Community Action Network):

**CDCAN**

**1225 8th Street Suite 480 - Sacramento, CA 95814**

paypal on the CDCAN site is not yet working – will be soon.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO the Pacific Homecare Services, Easter Seals, California Association of Adult Day Health Centers, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Toward Maximum Independence, Inc (TMI), Friends of Children with Special Needs, UCP of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Southside Arts Center, San Francisco Bay Area Autism Society of America,

Hope Services in San Jose, FEAT of Sacramento (Families for Early Autism Treatment), RESCoalition, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Easter Seals of Southern California, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, UCP of Orange County, Alta California Regional Center, Life Steps, Parents Helping Parents, Work Training, Foothill Autism Alliance, Arc Contra Costa, Pause4Kids, Manteca CAPS, Training Toward Self Reliance, UCP, California NAELA, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc (CDR) including CDR chapters, CHANCE Inc, , Strategies To Empower People (STEP), Harbor Regional Center, Asian American parents groups, Resources for Independent Living and many other Independent Living Centers, several regional centers, People First chapters, IHSS workers, other self advocacy and family support groups, developmental center families, adoption assistance program families and children, and others across California.