

OURVISION

To ensure that supported living and independent living services remain a viable option for people with developmental disabilities, we envision a united group of service providers, consumers, families and members of the community speaking with one strong voice advocating for supported living and independent living services throughout California.

Advocating For The Systemic Development Of Quality Supported Living and Independent Living Services For Californians With Developmental Disabilities

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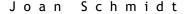
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Letter From The President





What I See Through the Eyes of CSLN

We are all aware of the challenges we are facing but when I look at the work we do through the eyes of CSLN what I see are services that change lives for the better. We do so for individuals by providing them with supports that help them succeed in life. We tackle big problems facing society, as well as problems facing individuals and families in areas such as individual choice, quality of life and long term planning for the people we support and their families.

When people ask what has surprised me most about working to help provide individualized services to the people we support my answer often surprises them: the people. From the leadership in our agencies to our first-class dedicated staff, people are our most valuable asset. They care deeply about the support they provide and demonstrate this daily. The people we support are also passionate, curious and engaged. They give me great hope for the future of our services because this is where our success stories originate.

Collaboration is an important focus across our work whether among the people we support, their families and friends or staff. Much of our success is the result of teamwork throughout organizations. CSLN experiences this through these organizations working together to share stories and advocate for the people we support.

In recent years our focus has been on reputation. SLS & ILS took some hits in the recent past, when isolated incidents painted negative pictures. Now, we address problems immediately and proactively.

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Despite significant accomplishments in recent years, we face challenges on the road ahead. Budget cuts, legislative issues and a lack of understanding and appreciation of the service we provide are just some of them. It is incumbent upon all of us to do our part by operating efficiently while still offering the high-quality services the people we support deserve.

We have proven individualized supports and services that offer people choice and respect can result in cost effective, quality lifestyles for everyone. Still, it is important for us to explore new, creative avenues that will continue to move our services forward. We know there are no easy answers, but we are looking inside and outside our agencies for ways to sustain the important work we do.

It's easy to be energized by the life-changing work that happens through our services every day and to be inspired by the women and men we support. It's gratifying to see the difference our service makes in peoples lives and in their communities. It's humbling to be a part of a service that we know can improve lives for everyone.

The CSLN Board works diligently to continually address legislative issues and all challenges that threaten our services. We are committed to working with members to do everything possible to grow and sustain services.

What I see through the eyes of CSLN includes all of us working together to move our services through difficult times into growth and sustainability of the values we embrace.

Joan Schmidt
President, California Supported Living Network

2013 CSLN Annual Conference A Huge Success! "Uncovering What Matters" By Joan Schmidt, Conference Chair



The Thirteenth Annual Leadership Conference was held in April at the beautiful Dana Hotel on Mission Bay in San Diego. The conference attendance surpassed past conferences and sessions were full. Key note speakers and session topics included Community involvement, Risk Reduction, Social & Legal Guidelines/Sexuality, Public Policy, Managed Care Implications for SLS/ILS, The CA Alliance for Direct Support Professionals (CADSP), Generic Resources and Family involvement.

A highlight of the conference this year was honoring Mr. Art Bolton as the CSLN 2013 Key Person Award Recipient. Not only did we receive a dynamic acceptance speech from Art giving fascinating history and stories regarding the Lanterman Act but we were then privileged to join him in his session on "Writing the Lanterman Act for California".

As usual, everyone enjoyed an extraordinary evening together socializing and networking at our Hospitality Party. The beautiful San Diego Bay and wonderful food and beverages provided by our sponsors were greatly appreciated.

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PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 14TH ANNUAL CSLN CONFERENCE AS WE ARE GROWING AND SPACE WILL BE LIMITED!!

LOCATION - THE DANA ON MISSION BAY, SAN DIEGO CA (back due to popular demand)

DATES - APRIL 10 - 11, 2014. Sleeping rooms will be available at the conference rate (\$129.00/night) April 8th - 13th (depending on availability) for those who would like to extend their stay.

Check the CSLN Website for additional details as they are available.





Legislative Update

By Carol McKinney and Jacquie Dillard-Foss Governmental Affairs Co-Chairs



Meeting 3 - Health and Human Services (HHS) Task Force on the Future of the Developmental Centers

HHS Secretary Diana Dooley has held three task force meetings on the Future of the Developmental Centers, and at least one more meeting will be held before a recommendation is made—if a recommendation can be made. I say this because at the last meeting, October 9, a handout of the Workgroup Meeting Highlights was distributed and reviewed. (In between task force meetings, work groups are conducted. These workgroups are not open to the public.) The handout listed a Summary of Agreements/consensus. There were 5 items: 1) More SB 962/853 homes and other residential options are needed in the community; 2) the DC system will change from what it looks like today; 3) Potential DC land uses; 4) There is a role for the State in serving individuals with criminal justice system involvement; and 5) All-inclusive medical resource center/healthcare services are needed. As the handout of Agreements/Consensus was reviewed, the representative from the California Association of Psychiatric Technicians (union rep) took issue with almost every item and continued to state that the closure of the DC's is not something he believes needs to happen. It was quite extraordinary considering he participated in the workgroup that generated the handout. Secretary Dooley seemed a bit puzzled by the exchanges.