

Briefing and Q&A

On Washington State Proposed Budget Cuts That affect People with Disabilities



Hosted on June 11, 2020 by:

Stacy Dym, Executive Director of The Arc of Washington State

Jeremy Norden-Paul, Executive Director of The Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council

Anthony Nash, Past Chair/Technical Coordinator of Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

Introductions and Welcome

- **Anthony Nash**, Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL) and People First of Washington State
- **Stacy Dym**, The Arc of Washington State
- **Jeremy Norden-Paul**, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Diana Stadden**, The Arc of Washington State
- **Adrienne Stuart**, Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council
- **Bryce Andersen**, Office of Financial Management

Letter Sent to Legislative Budget Chairs

- We sent a letter with guiding values to Budget Chairs and to Governor's office
- 34 organizations have signed on to the letter (email Adrienne.stuart@ddc.wa.gov if you want to add your organization to the letter)
- Read the entire letter: <https://ddc.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Budget-Values.pdf>

Letter from Cheryl Strange (DSHS)

“Some of these scenarios affect eligibility and service reduction in our programs, which I know is of paramount importance to you. Please note that the list reflects preliminary savings options identified by each administration within the agency. These are not formal proposals, and do not necessarily reflect the priorities of Governor Inslee nor our agency.”

Read the entire letter:

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WADSHSDDA/2020/06/05/file_attachments/1467917/Stakeholder%20Message%2006-05-2020.pdf

Memo from Evelyn Perez (DDA) Outlines Cuts

- **Delay expansion or eliminate client service programs:** Includes eliminating the Community Crisis Stabilization and Adult Family Home Meaningful Day programs and reducing Medicaid waiver capacity. (\$26.6M GF-S; \$48.8M)
- **Residential Habilitation Center cuts:** Options include reducing staff positions, consolidating cottages and closing Rainier School entirely. Closing Rainier and transitioning all the clients actually costs more in FY21, but leads to savings in the next biennium. (\$5.5M GF-S; \$11.5M Total Funds)
- **Provider Rates:** Savings is achieved by a rate cut for in-home providers, Adult Residential Care, Adult Family Homes, and employment and community integration providers capturing the additional 6.2 percent of enhanced Medicaid matching funds from July through September as savings. (\$24.2M GF-S; \$33.4M total funds)
- **Client Eligibility:** Changing the level of ICF/IID in Washington's Medicaid state plan to increase functional eligibility requirements will end services for thousands of Medicaid clients in home and community residential settings and RHCs; and a corresponding reduction of DDA staff. (\$75M.3 GF-S; \$150.5M total funds)

Read the entire memo: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADSHSDDA/bulletins/28f4f6c>

Office of Financial Management (OFM)

With state revenue collections projected to decline sharply for the foreseeable future, OFM last month [directed state agencies](#) to identify options for reducing their FY 2021 spending. Agency responses are compiled in spreadsheets on this web page.

OFM will continue to work with agencies to review and refine savings options for the governor and the Legislature to consider.

<https://ofm.wa.gov/budget/state-budgets/state-agency-fiscal-year-2021-savings-options>

Bryce Andersen, Office of Financial Management

- What is your role at OFM? What does a budget assistant to the Governor do?
- What is the revenue forecast and how does it effect us?
- Why did the Governor ask the agencies to do a 15% budget cut exercise?
- What is the process by which this happens?
- Does the Governor have to agree with the proposed cuts?
- What is the timeline you expect for these proposed cuts to go into effect?

Examples of DDA Proposed Cuts

- Reduce the number of clients eligible for services by changing eligibility;
- Reduce capacity in Individual & Family Services (IFS), Basic Plus, Core/Community Protection, and Children's Intensive In-home Behavior Supports (CIIBS) waivers, don't allow new placements;
- Reduce respite hours for eligible clients.
- Delay implementation of SB 6040 working the No Paid Services caseload.

Examples of DDA Proposed Cuts (continued)

- 5% rate reduction for Individual and Group Supported employment, reduce county administration, reduce info and education funding;
- 3% reduction for in-home, adult family home, adult residential care, respite from forecast Oct 2020;
- Stop additional rates and staffing to transition clients from acute care hospitals to community settings;
- 1.8% supported living rate increase from 2020 will not be implemented;
- DDA staff reductions, furlough all staff two days per month, tiered rollback of salary increases.

Examples of DDA Proposed Cuts (continued)

Residential Habilitation Centers (RHC):

- Close Rainier but keep State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) to move residents into;
- Fircrest: eliminate client wages, close 1 cottage, and reduce staff;
- Lakeland Village: Consolidate 1 cottage, reduce staff, eliminate therapy services;
- Yakima Valley: Consolidate 2 cottages, reduce staff.

Examples of DDA Proposed Cuts

- Delay the increase in children's enhanced respite beds and crisis stabilization for children.
- Stop meaningful day programs in residential for 300 clients
- Don't implement the increase for the Family Mentor Program
- Divert \$2 million intended for the Dan Thompson Community Trust and count as savings.

Other Proposed Cuts

Health Care Authority (HCA):

- Optional Services: Dental, Therapies, Interpreter Services
- Dentist link for Medicaid Patients

Aging & Long-Term Services Administration (AL TSA):

- Eligibility changes
- Eliminate Adult Day Health & Adult Day Care
- Eliminate Meaningful Day Programs in Residential

Department of Health (DOH):

- Neurodevelopmental Centers (Boyer and other Birth to 3 providers)

What Can You Do?

1. Sign a petition at [our website](#), then respond to [The Arc's Action Alert](#). Ask your legislators to vote for new revenue so these dire cuts don't happen.
2. [Use the Developmental Disability Council's "DD Budget Crisis Advocacy Toolkit"](#) for social media tips, letter writing ideas, and videos to share!
3. Share the petition and this Action Alert on your social media sites. Get your friends to help save these services too.

#CutsCauseCrisis #IVoteDD #NoServicesNoLife #ThereIsNoPlanB
4. Use your power as a voter! The primary is on August 4, 2020. The Arc has a complete list of candidates and has sent a questionnaire to them asking how they would address our concerns. When they respond, their responses are [posted here](#). If candidates in your district have not yet responded, call or email them and ask them how they will help.

Who to Contact:

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