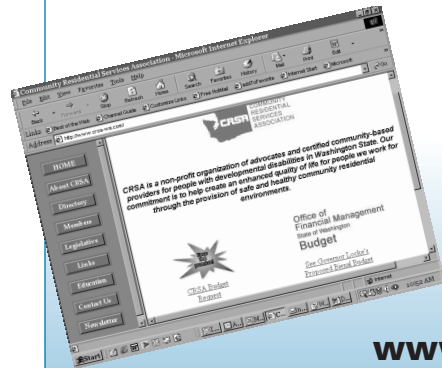


Continued from Page 3

To implement these goals, we are planning a joint retreat/staff training session and social event for Sept 10-12, 2002, in Kennewick, WA. We will be developing a 2003 legislative agenda and will be working to increase our networks. In addition, we are exploring joint association insurance packages.

CRSA and REW hopes this partnership continues to grow. Over the next few months, we will look at a variety of collaborative strategies to increase the impact of providers on the service delivery system. Regardless, we will make sure that our members are poised to meet any challenges and that our member agencies and clients thrive in our new choice-driven system.



For more information on our organization and its members, visit our website at

www.crsa-wa.com

What's Happening

CRSA Membership Meeting

Tuesday, July 16, 2002

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Clarion Hotel, Seatac

3000 S. 176th

CRSA Planning Retreat and Training

Tuesday-Thursday, September 10-12, 2002

West Coast Hotel

Kennewick, Washington



P.O. Box 77048
Seattle, Washington 98177

CRSA is a non-profit organization of advocates and certified community-based providers for people with developmental disabilities in Washington State. Our commitment is to help create an enhanced quality of life for people we work for through the provision of safe and healthy community residential environments.



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CRSA



An alliance of
service providers
supporting
people with
developmental
disabilities

news

Governor Signs Affordable Housing Bill

By Michael Pollowitz, Parkview Services

The 2002 State Legislative session had very few victories for organizations working in the social services. However, there was one highlight for people with developmental disabilities in the form of legislation that creates a new fund for affordable housing.

People with developmental disabilities living in the community currently use most of their income to pay their rent and utilities. For hundreds of people statewide, their total monthly income is not enough to cover these expenses. There are many who cannot move out from their parents' home because of the high cost of rent and utilities. In King County, the average one-bedroom apartment rents for \$777 a month.

One way to help people with developmental disabilities to live independently is for non-profit organizations to develop affordable housing using public funds. But the long-term financial risks in developing an affordable housing project can be staggering since funders require a 50-year commitment to a project. Publicly funded housing projects are required to set rent at 30% of a tenant's income. The 30% also covers utilities. However, rental income alone is not enough for non-profit groups to pay all the bills and build up a required reserve fund with the meteoric rise in utility and maintenance costs.

On Tuesday, April 2nd, Governor Locke signed SHB

2060 into law. This legislation establishes a \$10 surcharge for all documents recorded in a county. It is expected to generate \$12.5 million the first year. A portion of this revenue will be dedicated to establishing a Utilities and Maintenance Fund and will create a local funding source to develop affordable housing. This legislation was created specifically to fill the gap between rental income and expenses/ reserves to ensure a project's long-term financial viability. The fund will take much of the risk out of developing affordable housing that supports some of the state's poorest people.

"The positive outcome will enable low income housing projects for people with developmental disabilities maintain stability and expand," said Leslee Currie, CRSA 2002 Legislative Committee member.

Currently there are only two active affordable housing developers in King County that support people with developmental disabilities: Parkview Services and Inland Empire Residential Resources. With this new legislation minimizing the financial risks in developing affordable

housing, we should begin to see some new non-profit organizations putting together projects that will support people with developmental disabilities on their way to independent living. (See article "A home to call his own" about one successful homebuyer on page 2.)

"The positive outcome will enable low income housing projects for people with developmental disabilities maintain stability and expand."

Leslee Currie, CRSA 2002 Legislative Committee member.

2002 Legislative Round-up

By Sharon Case, CRSA Lobbyist

Although this year's legislative session ended on schedule, some very difficult budget decisions remain on the road ahead. Here is a summary of issues tracked by CRSA:

• Vendor Rates

Community residential service providers will receive a vendor rate increase of 1.5%, effective July 1, 2002. This is a reduction from the 2.3% level set in last year's budget for the second year of the biennium.

• Homecare Worker Wage Increase

Provides a 25-cent per hour wage increase for individual and agency providers of homecare services, effective October 1, 2002.

• The Arc Settlement

\$14 million for Phase I. The breakdown is as follows: \$7.8 million for additional residential services, \$3.6 million for additional family support and employment for high school transition, \$2.7 million for case management, information and education and quality assurance.

• Program Reduction Highlights:

SSI Supplement: Beginning July 2002, state supplemental payments will no longer be provided automatically to all persons receiving a federal SSI benefit. Some recipients who are dependent on larger state supplements will be provided a transitional state supplemental benefit. The remaining amount of state supplemental payments required by federal rules will be used to support low and moderate-income families who are struggling to continue to care for children and other relatives with developmental disabilities.

Case Manager Hiring Freeze: 48 case managers were authorized in last year's budget. Implementation of this freeze reflects a supplemental budget reduction of \$3.2 million in state dollars.

RHC Staffing: Reduction of 65.4 FTE's in fiscal year 2003; direct care staff not affected.

Voluntary Placement: A parent pay requirement will be implemented effective July 1, 2002

Professional Services: Professional services paid by DDD for medical, dental and a variety of therapies are reduced by 10%, effective July 2002. Professional services contracts are reduced by \$500,000 in fiscal year 2003.

"The fact that we received a small (wage) increase when state employees and other groups did not speaks to our consistent and important message," said Leslee Currie, CRSA 2002 Legislative Committee member.

CRSA gave high priority to a number of bills: Expanded Employment Opportunities for Persons with Developmental Disabilities (SHB 1640), B & O Tax Exemption for Residential Services Providers (SB 5302 & HB 1638) and Low Income Housing (SHB 2060). Due to the hard work by member Michael Pollowitz, Governor Gary Locke signed SHB 2060 into law in early April (see cover story). The other bills did not move this session and will require further work.

We must acknowledge a few key legislators who have helped us in our battles. Their commitment to our issues has been extremely valuable and we will miss their support: Rep. Kip Tokuda, Rep. Ruth Fisher and Rep. Maryann Mitchell. Also a special thanks to Sen. Lisa Brown of the Ways and Means Committee for initiating securitization of tobacco settlement funds that provided enough revenue to protect human services programs from deeper cuts.

A home he calls his own

By Dixie Baird, Sunrise Services, Inc.

Greg Bading is enjoying the freedom that comes with owning a home. The 35-year old purchased a condominium in November 1997, through the Washington Home of Your Own program. He receives residential support through Sunrise Services, Inc. in Everett.

Before Greg decided to take on the responsibility of a 30-year mortgage, he rented the condo he was considering buying for two years. When he eventually went ahead with the purchase, he was able to avoid the stress of a move and was able to stay in the neighborhood he had become so familiar with.

His mortgage payment and property taxes are less than what he used to pay in rent. That translates into more discretionary income to pursue his interests in travel, skiing, self-defense and physical fitness. He's also proud of the new responsibilities of being a homeowner and being able to contribute his fair share to the well being of the community through the taxes he pays.

His mother, Helga Byhre, is also excited about the changes in Greg's living situation. "I've seen the progress he has made toward independent living and I'm ecstatic about the opportunities for Greg to continue to grow and to become more self-reliant."

This experience has opened up new opportunities for Greg. He's now pursuing friendships with others who share his recreational interests. And Greg and his mom are looking forward to many new travel adventures in the years ahead.

Collaboration Key to our success

By CaraLee Cook, Banchemo Friends Services

Despite the economic prosperity over the past several years, many social service sectors faced funding cuts while adding more clients to their respective systems. The notable exception is the Division of Developmental Disabilities. DDD has experienced a 41-percent budget growth during the past three biennium. Advocates in the system believe this budgetary success is due to many groups working together to sort through differences, develop an agenda and provide a unified and powerful presence to the legislature. The Governor-appointed Stakeholders Group and the Community Advocacy Coalition are two statewide bodies that have taught us the success of coalition building.

The Community Residential Services Association (CRSA) and our partner, Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington (REW) are in the process of building a new coalition. Our two groups embarked on a joint legislative agenda in 2002 that included initiatives such as keeping vendor rate increases intact, developing jobs via state contracts and increasing housing through a maintenance and rehabilitation fund.

"I think it's very important that we look at collaboration. As self-directed services move forward, our two fields will have more similarities in business processes, staff development and legislative efforts," said CRSA Chairman Roger Krebs.

CRSA has learned that by working together, we are stronger and more effective. Services cannot be compartmentalized. We are not just concerned with the home or work sections of peoples' lives but with their whole lives. We want to grow and change and encourage individual choice with a full array of strong programs. Some of the future goals of our collaboration are:

- Increased networks and resources for our clients
- Increased opportunities for common staff training
- Increased effectiveness with our legislative agenda
- Group contract/policy negotiations
- Lowered business costs through association health and liability insurance

Continued on Page 4

Members

Region 1

ARC Residential Services, Spokane, WA

Partners for Community Living, Spokane, WA

RISE, Inc., Spokane, WA

S. L. Start & Associates, Inc., Spokane, WA

Spectra Community Services, Spokane, WA

Region 2

Community Living, Inc., Yakima, WA

Community Living, Inc., Sunnyside, WA

Elmview Residential, Ellensburg, WA

S. L. Start & Associates, Grandview, WA

Tri-Cities Residential, Kennewick, WA

Valley Residential Services, Walla Walla, WA

Region 3

Hampton Heights GH, Inc., Bellingham, WA

Holly Community Services, Bellingham, WA

PROVAIL, Lynnwood, WA

Quilceda House, Marysville, WA

REHABCO Skagit, Inc., Mt. Vernon, WA

RISE, Inc., Lynnwood, WA

Soundview Association, Stanwood, WA

Soundview ITS, Mt. Vernon, WA

Sunrise Services, Inc., Sunrise Community Living, Everett, WA

Region 4

Alpha Spring Meadow Homes, Seattle, WA

Alternative for Residential Opportunity, Inc., Shoreline, WA

Banchemo Friends Services, Shoreline, WA

Camelot Society, Seattle, WA

Centerpoint Services, Shoreline, WA

Community Living, Inc., Bellevue, WA

Community Living, Inc., Kent, WA

Dolphin ITS, Shoreline, WA

Evergreen Community Tenant Support, Tukwila, WA

Good Shepherd Lutheran Homes, Renton, WA

Greenwood Home, Seattle, WA

Inglewood Residential and Community Services, Kenmore, WA

Integrated Living Services, Kent, WA

Mentor, Federal Way, WA

Nellie Goodhue Group Homes, Seattle, WA

NW Group Home for the Deaf, Seattle, WA

Parkview Services, Shoreline, WA

PROVAIL, Seattle, WA

Puget Sound Residential Services, Renton, WA

Res-Care Washington, Inc., dba Creative Living Services, Seattle, WA

Residence East, Bellevue, WA

Residence East, Issaquah, WA

Seattle Specialized Residential Supports, Seattle, WA

State Operated Living Alternatives (SOLA) Region IV, Seattle, WA

S. L. Start & Associates, Seattle, WA

United Friends Group Home, Seattle, WA

United Friends Lincoln Park Group Home, Seattle, WA

Region 5

C.A.P.A., Tacoma, WA

Gig Harbor Group Home, Gig Harbor, WA

Kitsap Tenant Support Services, Bremerton, WA

L'Arche Tahoma Hope Community, Tacoma, WA

Options Unlimited, Inc., Puyallup, WA

Puget Sound Assisted Living, Lakewood, WA

Res-Care Washington, Inc., dba: Creative Living Services, Puyallup, WA

Valley Supported Living, Sumner, WA

Region 6

Arc of Clark County, Vancouver, WA

Brighton Enterprises, Inc., Battle Ground, WA

Cedar Apartments, Inc., Montesano, WA

Clallam County Hosteleries, Port Angeles, WA

Frichette Associates, Port Angeles, WA

Homes for Community Living, Vancouver, WA

Kimberly Group Home, Aberdeen, WA

Lauridsen Residential Services, Port Angeles, WA

My Family, Olympia, WA

Relationship/Care NW, Inc., Vancouver, WA

Residential Opportunities & Activities Representatives, Vancouver, WA

Residential Resources Association, Longview, WA

Solo ITS, Inc., Vancouver, WA