



THE DESERT ENTERPRISE

FY 2018-2019

**First Half
issue
Jul – Dec**

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2018-19 Legislative Priorities for the I/DD Service System



The State of California has a new Governor in Gavin Newsom and service providers within the I/DD community, consumers of those services, and their family members have an opportunity to make an impact for change in the weeks ahead. It is no secret that the system of services and supports for persons with developmental disabilities is crumbling around us and the promise of the Lanterman Act has been severely eroded as a result of the ongoing refusal by former Governor Jerry Brown and the State Legislature to properly fund service providers. Despite the rising cost of living in California, which has increased by some 44%, and despite a 76% increase, thus far, in the state minimum wage, reimbursement rates for service providers have remained flat for nearly two decades, with the exception of one modest increase in 2016, that was limited primarily to use for increasing wages and benefits for direct care staff. Programs and services are closing around the state and others are struggling just to keep the lights on and the former Governor and Legislature threw providers a crumb that made little to no sense at all. As a result, many, if not most, service providers throughout the State now teeter on the edge of decimation.

It is not yet known how Governor Newsom will respond to this imminent disaster. The days of reorganization and “robbing Peter to pay Paul” have come to an end. Service providers have virtually exhausted every option they have had in their arsenal in order to stay alive as the cost of doing business in the State of California continues to increase exponentially, with no end in sight. Many are holding on in the hope that the Burns & Associates rate study, slated to come out in March 2019, will demonstrate the overwhelming need for increased funding for service providers throughout the State. However, it is feared that sifting through the rate study and determining a course of action to be taken, if action is to be taken at all, will take more time than is available in order to effect change in the 2019-20 California State Budget.

In an effort to avert a complete collapse of our community, the Lanterman Coalition, Regional Centers throughout California, service providers, parents, consumers, and other advocates within the I/DD system have been meeting with California Legislators to share the dire circumstances we now face and to urge their help in pushing through a stop gap measure to protect the community safety net for persons with developmental disabilities. To that end, legislators are being urged to support a modest 8% across-the-board increase in reimbursement rates for all service providers vendored through Regional Centers. This increase not only would allow service providers to continue to provide quality services while the Legislature considers the rate study and a proposal for rate reform, but would also serve as a “hedge” against the very real probability that the reform proposal will not come in the 2019-20 budget. Unfortunately, many community organizations cannot continue without this immediate relief.

NLACRC's legislative education officials noted, “This will be the first time in 25 years that the California State Legislature will have the opportunity to evaluate the adequacy of reimbursements to meet the State's commitments to persons with developmental disabilities under the Lanterman Act. The future sustainability of our community-based service system and the health and safety of people within each Legislator's district and across the State will be determined by the Legislature's actions in response to this rate study and proposal.” We could not agree more. Please join us in urging the Governor to support the 8% stop gap measure needed to hedge against the imminent collapse of the I/DD system of services and supports for nearly 350,000 persons with developmental disabilities and their families. Time is definitely not on our side, but this would certainly be a significant help to providers anxiously awaiting some sort of relief until rate reform processes can be established and implemented.

2018 Baja Bash - New Location is a Hit!



Nestled in a beautiful canyon high above the Antelope Valley floor is the picturesque Hacienda Reyes. This site, typically reserved for weddings and film making, was ready made for the Baja Bash, with gorgeous views for miles, terraced levels for guests to explore and enjoy, lush gardens and fruit trees in abundance, and the fiesta flair that attendees have come to expect at the event. It was the absolute picture perfect place for the premiere party of the year!

This gorgeous location is owned by Henry and Carmen Reyes, who were determined to ensure the event was a great success; so much so, not only did they attend, but they

graciously donated as well. We so appreciate the Reyes Family and their support of the highly successful 7th annual event! Muchas gracias nuestros amigos!



How are we doing?...Keeping a finger on the pulse of our consumers

Following is a summary of performance in DHE's key program areas, based upon a review of data for the first half of the 2018-19 fiscal year:

Work Readiness Services: Food Service, Housekeeping, and Off-Site Hab Crews

- ✓ Sixty-five percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program were trained on jobs new to them.
- ✓ Participants in the Work Readiness Program spent an average of 70% of each program day engaged in paid work.
- ✓ A total of sixty-three off-site hab crew contracts were developed or expanded in the first half of the fiscal year.
- ✓ Four consumers obtained individual, community-based employment from the Work Readiness Program during this review period.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in the Work Readiness program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of the customers utilizing the off-site hab crew service.

Community Employment Services: Supported Employment - Individual Placement

- ✓ A total of 7.6 individual placements were achieved for the first half of the year for consumers seeking community employment.
- ✓ Hourly earnings exceeded minimum wage with an average of \$12.43 per hour for consumers in individual placement.
- ✓ Four consumers working within the community transitioned into competitive employment status this review period.
- ✓ Consumers within active job search averaged 5.5 months of job seeking prior to placement.
- ✓ One hundred percent of responding consumers placed in the SE program expressed satisfaction with DHE's services, as did 100% of employers responding to the survey.

Day Training Activity Services: Project Independence

- ✓ Forty-two percent of consumers in the DTAC program achieved individual ISP/IPP goals.
- ✓ Two consumers graduated from the DTAC program into the Work Readiness Program for vocational training.
- ✓ Consumers had opportunity to participate in a total of 72 meaningful and diversified community outings.
- ✓ Thirty-four percent of consumers in the DTAC program demonstrated skill acquisition and retention in a key area.
- ✓ One hundred percent of consumers placed in program expressed satisfaction with the services offered.

REMEMBERING "ROSS" ROSENDO MARTINEZ BRISEÑO



On July 24th, the world lost an incredible human being and Desert Haven lost a great friend and supporter in Ross Briseño. Ross was one of those guys who was full of life, always had a smile on his face, loved to give back to his community and dedicated himself to serving people in need and supporting causes in which

he believed. He would, without hesitation, give someone the shirt off his back, which was typically a Texas Longhorns shirt.

Ross owned a glass company, which he started in 1991, but his true passion was to cook and to grill for various charities, including Desert Haven's Annual "Viva La Fiesta" Baja Bash. Together with his wife, Melody, and his other partners in grilling, Ross and the Outlaw Chefs, donated their time and their talents, cooking hundreds of pounds of tri-tip and lobster for attendees at the event. In fact, in 2017, DHE recognized Ross and the Outlaw Chefs with the Friends of Desert Haven Award.

We miss you Ross!
Thank you for being
our friend, indeed!



MUCHAS GRACIAS BAJA BASH SPONSORS

Grand Sponsor: Wells Fargo Bank

Gold Sponsors: Ally Bank; Antelope Valley Press; ATB Travel; California Compaction Corporation; City of Lancaster; Dennis and Cyndee Davenport; Tom and Leslie Fuller; Mike and Valerie Hoffman; H.W. Hunter Chrysler Dodge Fiat Jeep and Ram; Larry and Trish Jones; Lance Campers; Sawmill Mountain Winery; SC Fuels; Valyermo Ranch; Vinsa Insurance; Wells Fargo Bank

Silver Sponsors: City of Palmdale; High Desert Broadcasting; Lamar Advertising; Lucky Lukes Brewery; Ken and Rosemary Mann; Mission Bank; Jim and Jenni Moran; North LA County Regional Center; Gary and Patty Rardon; Cindy Sottile; The Outlaw Chefs; US Bank; Westside Body and Paint, Inc.

Bronze Sponsor: Affordable Tire; Antelope Valley College Foundation; AV Auto Care; AV Chevrolet; AV Mayol Enterprises; AVTA; Rhonda Burgess; Richard and Margo Curtin; Darwin Cook; Four Alden & Associates; Hacienda Reyes; IBEW-NECA; Timothy Johnson; KSSI Radio Broadcast; KLOA Adelman Broadcasting; Michelle Lantz; Jordon Magana; Miller, Harvey & Keelen; Mountain Brook Ranch; Ram of the West; RV Having Fun; Sandy Price; Valley Oasis; Vierra, Gilliland, and Knapp; Visco Financial Insurance Services; West Management; Woolery

Friends of Desert Haven Sponsor/Donor: Adelman Broadcasting; Affordable Tire; All About Fitness; Antelope Valley Florist; Antelope Valley Press; Agua Dulce Winery; Aquarium of the Pacific; Linda Ascencio; Tina Autry; Barrett Cellars; Big Papa's of Tehachapi; Blvd. Cinemas; Broken Bit Steakhouse; Casa Bella; Casita Lopez; Shawne Chamberlin; Sherry Chase/Mary Kay; CHP Volunteers; City of Lancaster; City of Palmdale/Drytown; Sally Collins; Coruce Winery; Crazy Otto's; Richard and Margo Curtin; Deb Dino Raggedy Rose; Dryclean Express; Cheryl Fletcher; James O. Fourr CPA CVA CR.FA; Gino's Restaurant; Naomi Guzman; Henisey Lighting; Josue Herrera; Hit Machine; Ryan and Stephanie Hix; Valerie and Mike Hoffman; Bridget Howitt; Katz N' Jammers; Lance Campers; Leo's Catering; Los Angeles Philharmonic; Lucky Roxy's Café; Margarita Machine/Sean Rydell; Nancy Masters; Lena Mayol; John Massari; Minuteman Press; Cindy Murphy; MYV Winery; Mystic Winery; Onx Winery; Jordan Pedigo; Panache/Shirley Griffiths; Pete Knight DDE Academy Students; PNS Coins/Richard Scannell; Pour d'Vino; Prime Time Party Rentals; Pulchella Winery; Quartz Hill Vet Clinic/Dr. Chris Biggerstaff; Round Table Pizza; George Runner; Sanchez Chiropractic, Inc.; Cindy Sottile; Tehachapi Wine & Cattle Company; Nicole Tracy/LuLuRoe; Triassic Winery; Trudeau Electric; Vincent Hill Station; Frank Visco; Visco Financial; Waste Management; William Jewellers; Maiya Wooliver; Yoga of Quartz Hill/Violet Davis

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!!

SEVENTH ANNUAL BAJA BASH: ANOTHER SMASHING SUCCESS

With a new location and a renewed vigor, the seventh annual "Viva La Fiesta" Baja Bash did not disappoint, raising in excess of \$110,000 for the organization and leaving attendees already looking forward to next year's event. More than 200 Desert Haven supporters came together on a beautiful evening at Hacienda Reyes, overlooking the Antelope Valley, for an exciting evening of dancing, bidding, and partying under the stars. Excited guests enjoyed the musical stylings of the Hit Machine; dined on delicious Puerto Nuevo-style tri-tip barbecue, perfectly prepared by the renowned Outlaw Chefs and served by our very own DHE consumers; and bid feverishly on an incredible lineup of outstanding auction items.

The top-selling item for the evening, purchased by Hunter Dodge at \$5,000, was the Ultimate Media Package, featuring advertisements through the AV Press, LAMAR Advertising, AVTA, KSSI Radio, Adelman-KLOA Kickin' Country, Minuteman Press, and High Desert Broadcasting. This year, there were a multitude of very exciting trips, including Maui and the Big Island of Hawaii, as well as Cabo, Lake Tahoe, two nights on a yacht, and a weekend at the ONX Estate Vineyard, to name a few. The Committee even added a silent auction this year, as well as wine tasting from some extraordinary vineyards. It most definitely was a night to remember!

Many thanks to Leslie and Tom Fuller and the entire Baja Bash Committee. This event simply would not be possible were it not for the members of this dynamic group of hard-working individuals, dedicated to furthering the mission of Desert Haven Enterprises on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities. We can hardly wait until next year!!!



2018 BAJA BASH COMMITTEE

Linda Ascencio
Tina Autry
Margo Curtin
Richard Curtin
Dennis Davenport
Jim Fourr
Leslie Fuller
Tom Fuller
Ryan Hix

Stephanie Hix
Valerie Hoffman
Bridgett Howitt
Naomi Guzman
Larry Jones
Trish Jones
Nancy Masters
RaNae Seaton
Melissa Sullivan

NEW JOBS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following employers have recently hired consumers into regular jobs within their business:

- ✓ **Stater Bros Mkts** (East Lancaster) **Courtesy Clerk**
- ✓ **Bobby Wayne's RV** (Lancaster) **Porter**
- ✓ **Desert Haven Enterprises** (Lancaster) **(2) Janitors**

Please show your appreciation to these businesses for supporting persons with developmental disabilities in achieving their career aspirations.

See front page for details on State Budget issues and possible impacts on services in FY 18-19 and be prepared to take action.

Make your voices heard!

Senator Scott Wilk
848 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 729-6232

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-2841

Assemblyman Tom Lackey
41319 12th St. W, Suite 105
Palmdale, CA 93551
(661) 267-7636



Desert Haven Enterprises
43437 Copeland Circle
Lancaster, CA 93535

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY STAFF MEMBERS:

Becky Dillon	30 years
Jenni Moran	30 years
Scott King	21 years
Alberto Saldivar	17 years
Kathleen Miller	16 years
Marylou Thrasher	16 years
William Schaeffer	16 years
Shelley Runner	16 years
Anne Heine	14 years
Lorraine McKesson	14 years
Joe E. Martinez	14 years
Jeffery Whiteford	13 years
Angela Roberson	13 years
Lisa Cooper	13 years
Patricia MacGregor	12 years
Tiffany Russell	12 years
Leticia Cambaliza	11 years
Norma Farias	11 years
David Gonzalez, Sr.	11 years
Rebekah Young	11 years
Amy Jones	9 years
Beverly O'Neal	9 years
Deborah Petty	9 years
Patricia Urice	9 years
Lisa Garrison	8 years
Roxanna Hernandez	8 years
Deborah (Deb) Merritt	8 years
Christine Glover	7 years
Cathy Mendoza	7 years
Wendy Vasquez	6 years
Antonio Bryant	6 years
Danette Bronson	5 years
Kristy Waters	5 years
Cameron Harris	4 years
Tammy Griffin	3 years
Elba Alvarado	3 years
Ashley Brown	3 years
Pascha Miller	3 years
Carol Rawlins	3 years
Vicki Mayer	3 years
Tyeshia Carter	2 years
Terence Skinner	2 years
Michael Jeffery	2 years
Rosaly Young	1 year
Lucky Salazar	1 year
Dora Magana	1 year
Marcia Gutierrez	1 year
Joseph Gonzales	1 year
Antonio Diaz	1 year
Danielle Baker	1 year
Carol Anstey	1 year

OUR MISSION

Desert Haven Enterprises, Inc. is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to developing, enhancing, and promoting the capabilities of persons with developmental disabilities.

The primary objective of the agency is to enable persons served to maximize their potential to become independent, self-sufficient, and participating members of their community through pre-vocational and vocational training, independent living and community skills training, job placement, community-based employment, and supportive services.

DHE HISTORY

DHE was begun in 1954 when parents Jack and Luella Henstra placed an advertisement in the local newspaper seeking a playmate for their son who had mental retardation as a result of meningitis.

A small group of parents, led by the Henstra's, established the Desert Haven Preschool and the rest, as they say, is history.

CARF ACCREDITATION

DHE last participated in the CARF accreditation survey in April 2018, receiving a three-year accreditation. Interested persons may review by going to www.deserthaven.org and clicking on "Accreditations" under the "About" section.

NEW CREWS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The following companies and corporations have recently contracted with DHE for the listed services within their business:

Off-Site Habilitation Crews

✓ AV Occupational Medicine	Janitorial Crew
✓ Agua Dulce Airport	Pre-emergent Application
✓ BLVD Association	Additional Trash/Debris Pickup Crew
✓ City of Lancaster	Golf Center Cleanup Crew
Code Enforcement	21 Addtl Cleanouts / Board Ups
✓ Edwards Air Force Base	
Club Muroc	Shrub Removal Crew
Building #310	Weed Abatement Crew
South Base	Weed Abatement (Fence line) Crew
	Shrub Removal/Weed Crew (Warehouse)
	Irrigation Repair
Building #1810	Weed Abatement Crew
✓ FPI Property Management	Pressure Wash Crew (Casablanca Apts)
✓ InSite Development	Pressure Wash Crew (Starbucks)
✓ Ironwood Properties	Pressure Wash Crew (Sagebrush and Arbor Grove Apts)
✓ Kern County	
Williford Park	Grounds Maintenance Crew
✓ Lamar Advertising	Janitorial Crew
	Grounds Maintenance Crew
✓ West Point Physical Therapy	Janitorial Crew (Rosamond Site)
✓ Michaels Stores	
Corporate	Bulletin Board Labeling Crew
	Instruction Sheet Insert Crew
	Candle Quality Check Crew
	Ink Bottle UPC Relabeling Crew
	Easel UPC Hang Tag Crew
	Birdbath Fountain Relabeling Crew
✓ Rancho Vista Retirement	Volunteer Senior Activities Crew
✓ Rite Aid Distribution Center	Mod Cleanout Crew
✓ S.A.V.E.S. Food Bank	Volunteer Sort Crew
✓ Private Residences (14)	Grounds Maintenance Crew
*14 more residences	