



News


March, 1986

FUNDING CRISIS SPURS MOVE TO COMBINE HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS AND AGENCIES

In a letter to the Health and Human Services Coordinating Council, HHSCC, Lt. Governor Hobby, Speaker Lewis and Governor White directed the Council to outline possible means of reducing costs in service provision. The HHSCC is legislatively charged with investigating and suggesting ways of reducing duplication of services and unnecessary programs. As federal and state funding becomes tighter than it has been in over a decade, and as legislators turn to the HHSCC for ways to cut costs, the committee's recommendations will almost certainly become more drastic.

The idea of combining disability related programs and agencies is not a new one. The last legislative session saw several slap-dash attempts at restructuring service delivery in Texas and previous sessions have produced other attempts. This time however, efforts will be more thoroughly coordinated and the political climate will demand reductions.

CTD will keep readers informed of developments as we learn of them. We will be
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Are you registered to vote? April 3rd is the deadline for the May 3rd primary elections. Use your right to vote, and wear a CTD Disabled But Able to Vote T-Shirt while you are at it! ★★ ★

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS



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With Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget balancing, Federal budget cutting and losing oil revenues here in Texas, programs for people with disabilities will almost certainly be slashed. Here in Texas we rely heavily on federal dollars to provide the few social services available, so the combined impact will be especially hard. Human service recipients and providers are being told "we all just have to tighten our belts," but what seems to have been forgotten is that human service programs have already gone through several rounds of belt tightening at both state and federal levels. It is getting to the point where no more belt will be left.

Below are some of the figures from Washington which show the deep cuts already being made, and those being proposed for 1987. If the President's budget is accepted it may well mean no funding for public transportation or housing. The Office of Revenue Sharing (ORS) and Urban Development Grants have been proposed for zero funding. Texas will lose \$210 million in ORS funding under Gramm-Rudman 1986 cuts. Not only will that mean the loss of many valuable programs but a loss of disabled people's civil rights--since most disability rights legislation is tied to federal funding.

Centers for Independent Living will receive a \$1.7 million cut in 1986, and under the President's proposed 1987 budget \$17 million (all in part B, no funds for Parts A and C.) HUD 202 Housing will be cut \$28 million in 1986 while Section 8 Housing funds will be cut about \$1.4 billion. Cuts in medicaid will significantly affect attendant care and other medical related services.

How many people in your community will lose their housing? How many more are on waiting lists which take forever now, even while there is still some funding? Where are these people supposed to

TOWARD THE ELIMINATION OF BARRIERS

by Redge Westbrook

Under the Elimination of Architectural Barriers Act, all public buildings constructed or renovated after January 1, 1970, and those public buildings leased in whole or part by the state after January 1, 1972 must be accessible to disabled persons. The law also applies to certain private buildings constructed after January 1, 1978, in counties with a population of 45,000 or more persons. Private buildings covered includes: larger shopping centers, hospitals and medical facilities, nursing homes, airports, bus and train stations, funeral homes, business and trade schools, and larger office buildings.

The State Purchasing and General Services Commission enforces this law and investigates complaints that a covered building is not accessible. Complaints must be in writing and include:

- 1) the name of the building owner
- 2) the name and address of the building or facility.
- 3) the name of the building manager or or responsible person, date of building's construction or renovation,
- 4) a list of possible violations, and
- 5) the name and address of the person making the complaint.

Complaints may be addressed to:

R. Douglas Lawson, Program Director
Elimination of Architectural Barriers
State Purchasing and General Services
Commission
Lyndon Baines Johnson State Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 13047, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3047
(512) 463-3445

After investigation the Commission will send a written report of their investigations to the
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RESOLUTIONS

HOW DO WE GET THINGS DONE?

(A message from Frank Lozano, Chair Resolutions and Bylaws Committee)

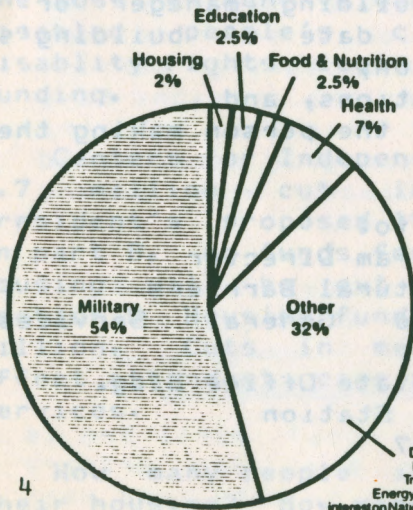
Advocate organizations take official positions:

These positions are presented to appropriate service organizations and supported.

Do you have an issue you think CTD should take an official position on? Does your organization need official support from CTD on an issue?

If so, submit your position or concern by sending a suggested resolution on the form provided in this newsletter to the Resolution and Bylaws Committee at the Central office. The resolutions will be forwarded to the committee and the committee will recommend action to the Board of Directors.

Your resolutions should be submitted throughout the year--not just at the annual convention. Timing is important for us to act on any issues. We encourage your participation throughout the year.



FEDERAL INCOME TAX

Source: Mid-Session Review, FY 1986.
Office of Management and the Budget

Includes:
Agriculture,
Community
Development,
Environment,
Transportation,
Energy, Non-Military
Interest on National Debt, etc.

COALITION of TEXANS with DISABILITIES

RESOLUTION FORM

NAME (CTD ORGANIZATION, MEMBER, OTHER) :

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION

DATE SUBMITTED

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

WHEREAS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

RESOLUTION NUMBER

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION

DATE RECEIVED

ACTION TAKEN: PASSED, FAILED, OTHER

Return to CTD Central office

taking part in an informal strategy session on implications of various alternatives on April 5th, at the Wyndham Hotel, in Austin. We would like your input on these issues. Does your organization have a position on service delivery for people with disabilities? Let us know about it.

Since the HHSCC's recommendations for 1986-1987 cuts are due in September and their long range recommendations are due in December the time for action is now. We cannot afford to wait till the session starts to rally at the Capitol.

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persons filing the complaint. The report will contain a summary of the findings and, if appropriate, a plan to correct the problem. The Commission may file suit in District Court to enforce its findings.

A little extra money can mean a lot of extra living.

Budget from pg. 2

live? How are they going to get around with no transit? Will you or your friend be the one denied rehabilitation services when that budget is reduced over five million dollars in April? If the struggle to ensure your child has an adequate education is tough now, what will it be like after sixty million dollars is taken out of funding?

Gramm-Rudman-Hollings is law now. These cuts are just the beginning. The 1987 budget has not yet been finalized and while state funding seems to be disappearing quickly, administrators and legislators have not decided how they will balance the state budget. Unfortunately, disability needs are not a high priority on many people's lists. We need to be sure our voices are heard and heard soon or the results will be devastating.



NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO HOLD CONFERENCE IN TEXAS

"Jobs for Tomorrow's Workers, Workers for Tomorrow's Jobs" is the theme of this year's National Job Training Partnership, Inc. Annual Conference. The Conference will focus on the worker of the future and is scheduled for April 6-9, 1986 in Dallas.

Conference topics will include economic development in rural, suburban and urban labor markets; strategies for developing fundamental skills needed for entry-level jobs; updates on federal funding and legislative changes in JTPA; new program performance measurers, and an overview of national audit strategies.

Registration materials are available by calling the TAPIC office at 1-800-252-3647.



DOWN SYNDROME CONFERENCE

The Down Syndrome Guild of Dallas is planning a conference on April 18-19, 1986 Regent Hotel, on Vocational Education and Residential Services.

Behavior, attitudes and skills need to begin in early childhood to prepare one for good work habits and a productive life after formal education. Parents of children of all ages and professionals can learn from nationally recognized speakers presenting such topics as curriculum planning, vocational skills, independent living and other informative subjects. A simultaneous conference for handicapped persons 16 years of age and above will be offered, with limited registration.

For more information contact: March of Dimes (214)869-2401 or write The Down Syndrom Guild, P.O. Box 821174, Dallas Texas- 75382-1174.



Coalition of Texans with Disabilities

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VOTE