

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee  
(IACC) Services Subcommittee  
Conference Call and Webinar



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# The Budget “Crisis”

- the prevalence of autism continues to rise
- a growing number of families are facing the reality that there will be dramatic cuts to programs and services, unless something is done -- NOW.

# The Budget “Crisis”

1. With tax revenue still declining from the recession, and budget reserves largely drained, the vast majority of states are proposing **deep and sweeping budget cuts** that will hurt families by **reducing necessary and proven services**.
2. These proposed cuts come at a time when autism is a national health-care crisis affecting every community.
3. The current service delivery system is typically ineffective, unresponsive, inappropriate and inefficient for providing seamless and quality lifespan services.

# HOUSTON CHRONICLE – just 1 example

March 27, 2011, 8:08AM

Several hundred people with developmental disabilities, their families and care providers rallied Saturday at Houston's Discovery Green against proposed cuts to the state budget that they say would take them away from their homes, friends and communities.

The frustration is over a proposed 10 to 40 percent reduction in state funding to community-based care programs that work with clients diagnosed with mental retardation, autism, Down Syndrome and a number of other conditions.

The state plan to close a budget shortfall estimated to be as high as \$27 billion could force one-third to one-half of all providers to close their doors, said Kimberly Brusatori, CEO of Village Learning and Achievement Center.



# The Budget “Crisis” & IACC

- No person with autism should experience a delay in accessing services that can greatly improve his or her life. There is a clear and present need to expand access to treatments, interventions and services.
- While reducing the deficit is important to everyone, we must continue to work diligently to ensure that this is not done at the expense of the most vulnerable and underserved population of our society.

# The Budget “Crisis” & IACC

## Recommendations

- Letter to Sec. Sebelius that addresses the crisis in lifespan services and supports. This must become the highest priority related to Autism.
- 1. Request aggressive enforcement of *Olmstead* – Home & Community based options

# IACC Recommendations

2. Strengthen *Prevocational Services Definition, Technical Guidelines, and Existing Regulations* to Support Integrated Employment as the Preferred Outcome
3. Strengthen *Supported Employment Service Definition and Guidelines* to Support Individual Integrated Employment as the Preferred Outcome

# IACC Recommendations

4. Add Service Definition for *Career Planning Services* to Support Integrated Employment as the Preferred Outcome
5. States should be required by CMS to ensure a continuous *annual rebalancing of funding* of employment and day services to focus on the preferred outcome of beneficiaries with disabilities securing and retaining integrated employment and optimal economic self-sufficiency.



# IACC Recommendations

6. CMS should develop a strategy to **collect integrated employment outcome measures** and direct states to report on them by aligning these measures to CMS's Quality Improvement Standards in an effort to determine the impact of the recommended changes.

# Many are looking at IACC to ramp up the work and importance of the Services Subcommittee



## Not an option in light of the “Crisis”

Photo redacted due to material inappropriate for a government website. For access to the original slide with photo, please e-mail the author at the address listed at the end of this presentation.



# Questions?



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*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*