



CDC Report

Board Meeting ~ Los Angeles

November 2007

In this issue

Below is a report from the California Dialysis Council's Board Meeting held November 16, 2007 in Los Angeles, California.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

REGULATORY REPORT

FEDERAL ISSUES
UPDATE

NETWORK REPORT

MEDICARE / MEDI-CAL
REPORT

PROGRAM REPORT

NEXT OPEN BOARD
MEETING

• LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Mike Arnold delivered the legislative report. The big news is the State Budget - our Medi-Cal reimbursement rates are at risk again. The five year forecast issued re: State Budget reveals a 10 billion dollar deficit for the 2008-2009 fiscal year - worsening in the future if correction is not made.

Voters will probably be unwilling to pass a future deficit reduction bond, as they did in 2004. A crisis situation is looming. About 50% of the budget is for education, 10% for higher education, 5% for criminal justice costs. That leaves only 15% of the budget from which to take the \$10 billion-unless there are "revenue enhancements!" Most is the 35 billion dollar Medi-Cal program. When the legislature seeks to cut back, one of few places to go is the Medi-Cal program.

Our Corporate
Partners

[Visit Amgen's Website](#)

There are three ways to cut the Medi-Cal Program: Reduce eligibility, reduce benefits, or reduce reimbursement rates to providers. Eligibility is not likely to be touched, special interests groups will protest reduced benefits; which makes reimbursement rate cuts the most likely target.

CDC needs to expand the activities of the CDC-PAC. We must support legislators who support high quality care. To be effective in this effort, we need \$100,000 by February 1, 2008 in order to participate in the June elections. Corporate contributions are permitted under law. Checks



[Visit Roche's Website](#)

Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Meeting Information](#)

may be made payable to the CDC PAC and sent to the CDC Sacramento Office, 1127 11th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. The recommended approach is that no cuts should be made, but if they are made, they should not include dialysis since it is life sustaining service. Mike Arnold recommends a more proactive approach. Get in front of key legislators early.

Two concurrent Special Sessions are running on Water and Health Care Reform.

The Water Session will probably not produce any results as the Governor and Democrats support very different approaches. The key stumbling block is above ground storage.

Health Care and Health Care Reform Special Session progress has slowed due to the impending deficit. Arnold and Associates is watching this very closely to make sure it would not significantly change how we currently operate.

The legislature is now in recess and will return January 7, 2008 for the 2008 legislative session.

The CDC Legislative Status Report was reviewed. This is a listing of all the bills CDC is following. The LSR is available on the CDC website : http://www.caldialysis.org/status_report.htm . Accessing in this manner allows you to link directly to the whole bill and other information.

The following three bills were reviewed:

AB871 introduced by Davis from the LA area.

Assemblyman Davis is new and wants to do something in field of diabetes/hypertension. He had introduced a 'spot bill' which is now a 2 year bill and must be out of the House of origin by 1/30/08. The Board will invite Mr. Davis to a future CDC meeting to discuss how we may help him in this important effort.

AB961 Hernandez (optometrist - interested in children) has introduced a larger bill re: eye care, also sponsored by the Diabetes Association. Due to cost, this bill has not moved forward.

AB74 Dymally - seeks to create the UC Institute of the Study of the Phenomenon of Obesity and Diabetes Experimental Research (PODER).

• REGULATORY REPORT

Our request for someone from the Licensing and Certification Branch of the Department of Public Health to attend the Board meeting to discuss dialysis in skilled nursing facilities has not produced results. We shall continue to request that someone from Licensing and

Certification attend a future meeting. CDC still has legislation that can be pursued, but Dr. Peter Crooks recommends monitoring this issue for now. More time is needed to see how this pans out and if additional Skilled Nursing Facilities start to provide the needed care. CDC will continue to monitor.

• **FEDERAL ISSUES UPDATE**

Note: This new category is a combination of the previous NRAA and KCP Reports.

The ESRD reimbursement bundling proposal is still alive in Congress - it is believed that a Medicare bill will come out after Thanksgiving. This could be small in scope with just a physician fee schedule fix and not include any ESRD provisions. If the bill is more comprehensive, and includes ESRD payment reform, bundling will likely be included. There are a lot of unknowns about what the approach is going to be to get a bill to the President's desk.

The Medicare Secondary Payor (MSP) extension from 30 - 42 months is a key element in House bill as a "pay for" for the provisions in the bill. Large groups of employers are pushing to squash this provision as well as making statements that they should not reimburse more than Medicare does.

• **NETWORK REPORT**

Vickie Peters, the new Executive Director, gave the following report:

1. The new ESRD Conditions of Participation are due in February 2008. There was a training session in Baltimore on 12/7 & 12/8 for state surveyors. More information on details and when the final rules will be posted should be coming out after this meeting.
2. In February 2009, the CMS CROWN-Web data program should come on line. This is an electronic entry program, to include patient-specific data covering many required CMS projects, including forms (2728, 2746), studies (CPM), etc. and will require some entry at the facility level. Training will be provided for facilities by the Network in advance of this roll-out.
3. Local Kidney Coalition of Southern California (Jessica & Cecilia) is continuing its work with underserved populations in the area, with Jessica participating and providing resources at health fairs.
4. There was very good coordination among dialysis providers during the recent October wildfires. The Network went into "disaster mode", updating the Network website and sending out daily faxes to facilities that contained information on facility closures, patient resources and other relevant

Email: mail@caldialysis.org

Website:

<http://www.caldialysis.org>

Tel: 928-717-1156

updates.

5. The local and national AV Fistula First initiatives continue to make progress, with local AVF rates at 51.5% and national rates at 47.5 %. New national data shows that along with a significant increase in AVFs, there is no increase in the rate of long-term catheters (over 90 days), despite some medical articles claiming the contrary. Network 18 has several local initiatives related to AV Fistula First, including a buttonhole cannulation survey that was sent out to facilities. The information has been given to the statistician for analysis. Focus now is on fistula maintenance and preservation.

• MEDICARE / MEDI-CAL REPORT

Medicare: Dr. Carol DiRaimondo discussed the issue of dialyzing observational status dialysis patients in the inpatient hospital setting. It is not clear if it is legal in California to dialyze outpatients in a hospital that does not have a license to provide dialysis services. Carol has sort a number of opinions, but to no avail. No one present had any insight. Carol will continue her research and report back at the next meeting.

CMS Contracting Reform - Palmetto was awarded the J1 MAC (CA included) contract. Palmetto GBA will assume full responsibility for the workload no later than June 2008.

Medi-Cal: No report

• PROGRAM REPORT

Mary Brattich reported that the Exhibitors Prospectus has be sent to potential exhibitors and is also available on our website at: http://www.caldialysis.org/Annual%20Meeting/Exhibitor_Letter_&_Prospectus_2008.pdf

Program Committee Conference calls are in process to finalize the content of the conference.

• NEXT OPEN BOARD MEETING

January 18, 2008 ~ Oakland

For more information and a registration form, please visit our web site at: www.caldialysis.org/next_meeting.htm

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to mail@caldialysis.org, by mail@caldialysis.org
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by