

Crittenden, Patricia J.

From: Duterte, Patrick O.
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 4:17 PM
To: Board of Supervisors - Announcements; CAO All; HSS GOMER
Subject: FW: CWDA Weekly Media Clips - March 22, 2013

The most interesting news on the Affordable Care Act, IHSS, Sequester and al....

patrick

From: Cyndi Girardi [mailto:CGirardi@cwda.org]
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 3:42 PM
Subject: CWDA Weekly Media Clips - March 22, 2013

Health Care Reform**Fate of Special Session Bills in Limbo**
California Healthline | March 22, 2013

The California Legislature went on spring recess yesterday with the work of the special legislative session on health care still undone.

Proponents of the special session bills hoped to get them through a floor vote by now. One of the reasons the governor called the special session was to get bills passed in time to help set the stage for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

There are six bills, total, as three mirror-image proposals make their way through both houses.

California health exchange to create 500 call center jobs in Rancho Cordova *(full story follows)*
Sacramento Bee | March 22, 2013

California's emerging health care exchange will bring a new call center - and 500 local jobs - to Rancho Cordova City and state officials confirmed Friday that Covered California, the organization that will help implement the federal health insurance overhaul in California, has signed a local lease to open a state service center on White Rock Road in Rancho Cordova. "We welcome them," said city economic development director Curt Haven. "They complement our other companies located in Rancho Cordova. We have a ready and willing work force that will easily fill those jobs." The Covered California call center is expected to open in August. Its 500 employees, including call center agents, managers and technology specialists, will work in a city that is already home to call centers for the likes of Dignity Health, Sutter Health, Delta Dental and Vision Service Plan. The nearly 60,000 square-foot Rancho Cordova site will be one of two statewide call centers for Covered California. A second state center is expected to be announced for another Central Valley location. And Contra Costa County will be the site of a Covered California call center in partnership with the state's 58 counties.

Report: 1 Million Californians Already Benefitting from Health Care Overhaul
KQED | March 21, 2013

Saturday marks three years since the signing of the federal Affordable Care Act, and state health officials have been celebrating by touting the benefits of the health overhaul law. On Thursday, the nonprofit group Health Access released a report that determined more than one million Californians have been able to get coverage through new options provided under the ACA. Those residents include adults with low incomes, people with pre-existing health conditions, and young people who can stay on their parent's insurance plan until the age of 26... ACA proponents also held press conferences around the state.

Contra Costa County supervisors choose Concord over Richmond for call center
Contra Costa Times | March 15, 2013

MARTINEZ - The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors chose Concord over Richmond for a new state health benefit exchange call center and its 204 jobs at the end of a heated, 4½-hour public hearing Friday night... The fate of the seemingly doomed call center has hung in the balance for weeks as the county wrangled with the four public employee labor unions that will represent the new workers, finally reaching a settlement this week. Conquering that hurdle left the county to sign a contract with the state and choose a location. Both tasks have

proved equally difficult. Covered California, the health benefit exchange, demanded the county make a decision on the center by Friday or it would take the jobs elsewhere.

What Will California's Health Benefit Exchange Application Look Like?

KQED – State of Health blog | March 15, 2013

Immediately following the Supreme Court's decision on the Affordable Care Act, the head of California's Health Benefit Exchange laid out his vision for revolutionizing the health insurance market... But as the state has worked to create the actual application for health insurance, the idea of a one-click purchase is far from the reality... The contract for California's application was awarded to Accenture last summer. While a draft of the federal application was just released, stakeholders have yet to see a version of California's application, which, like the federal model is being based on the UX2014 work.

Call for screening of healthcare enrollers meets resistance

LA Times | March 15, 2013

State officials say they need 20,000 people for the job of signing up millions of Californians for health insurance in the coming months, but a battle is brewing over whether these workers should undergo background checks and fingerprinting. At issue is the level of screening these "assisters" should receive before they handle confidential information about the people they are enrolling this year in the state's new health insurance exchange, called Covered California. These enrollers, who will earn \$58 from the state for every application completed, would have access to highly sensitive consumer information such as Social Security numbers, dates of birth, income data and tax returns. Covered California, the state agency implementing the federal healthcare law, says these enrollment advisors must be thoroughly screened to deter fraud and protect consumers. But critics say the state's proposal is overly intrusive and will prevent too many minorities from helping at a time when enormous manpower and quick action are required.

IHSS

Settlement resolves court battles over cuts to California's in-home care program

Sacramento Bee | March 20, 2013

Threats of deep cuts to California's in-home care program for low-income disabled and elderly residents ended Tuesday with the announcement of a settlement in three class-action lawsuits. The pact resolves years of fighting over proposed reductions to In-Home Supportive Services one of many public programs targeted during state budget crises from 2009 to 2012. Both sides applauded the settlement Tuesday as good news for more than 400,000 homebound Californians who receive care that can range from cooking to bathing to transport to medical appointments.

Coordinated Care Initiative

Federal Approval of Duals Plan May Come Soon

California Healthline | March 19, 2013

At a budget subcommittee hearing Monday, Department of Health Care Services Director Toby Douglas said he hopes to get federal approval for the Coordinated Care Initiative within weeks. The CCI, also known as the duals demonstration project, is a plan to move half a million Californians with dual eligibility in both Medicare and Medicaid into Medi-Cal managed care programs. The plan calls for consolidating disparate health care services and funding streams to improve and integrate care for seniors and persons with disabilities, while saving the state money as well... The duals project involves 530,000 people in eight counties: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Mateo and Santa Clara.

Homelessness

SF homeless families' long housing wait

SF Chronicle | March 20, 2013

After more than two months of daily phone calls, Thomas Bailey finally got what he was searching for: a place to call home. For a few months anyway. On a recent afternoon, the 57-year-old unemployed chef and his 10-year-old daughter, Ashanti, moved into Raphael House in the Tenderloin. Approaching the front desk, Bailey asked if they needed to sign in. "Of course!" grinned the pink-haired receptionist, Darlene Williams. "You're coming home, right?" It was one family down, 264 to go. After more than a year of intense focus at City Hall on housing

homeless families - and more than \$2 million in private donations - the waiting list for homeless parents and children searching for shelter has ballooned. The list hit 268 families last month, the all-time peak since the statistic began being tracked seven years ago.

Federal Sequester

Federal sequester hits home for many of L.A.'s poor

Daily News | March 21, 2013

Tens of thousands of Los Angeles County's low-income renters could see a loss in their housing subsidy because of the federal sequester, leading to higher rent payments and a spike in homelessness, according to local officials. City and county officials are in Washington D.C. this week lobbying to try to soften the blow of the cuts, pushing for permission to increase rents so they don't have to throw most recipients off the program altogether... Among those most vulnerable are people like Sylvia Juarez, a 39-year-old single mother of six, who has been on Section 8 housing subsidies for a year, receiving \$1,825 in assistance for a three-bedroom Panorama City apartment after escaping an abusive relationship.

Agencies serving Sacramento-area seniors expect sequester cuts

Sacramento Bee | March 20, 2013

Agencies that serve seniors in the Sacramento County region are bracing for the hit: Federally funded programs for older adults - including the popular senior nutrition program - face automatic, across-the-board budget cuts as a result of the sequester. But so far, no one knows exactly how much will be cut, or when, and no one wants to scare elderly recipients who use these services... More than three dozen agencies in the seven-county region served by the Area 4 Agency on Aging are on hold until they receive official word from the California Department of Aging, which distributes federal dollars to Older Americans Act programs.

Other

California women still face hurdles from economy, budget

LA Times PolitiCal blog | March 19, 2013 *(full blog item follows)*

Even as California's economy and budget improve, much of the progress has bypassed the state's women, according to a report being released Tuesday morning. "Women have not shared equally in the emerging recovery, and recent years' budget cuts continue to cloud the economic outlook for women and threaten their economic security," said the report from the California Budget Project and the Women's Foundation. Employment among women slipped from December 2010 through December 2012 even while men were steadily finding new work. The average salary for female workers has also dropped, falling from nearly \$33,000 in 2006 to less than \$31,000 in 2011. Challenges for women extend to how the governor and lawmaker have cut spending to close budget gaps in recent years, the report said. Women are much more likely than men to rely on welfare from CalWORKs, and those benefits have been trimmed multiple times. The report also said it's harder for many women to find work because the state has cut back spending on child care and preschool. In 2007, there were more than 461,000 spots available for children. Gov. Jerry Brown's latest budget proposal, which would take effect July 1, includes less than 346,000 slots.

Addressing girls' health needs at juvenile detention centers

L.A. County health and probation officials are trying to better identify and treat problems of girls in custody that often go undiagnosed and untreated.

Los Angeles Times | March 16, 2013

Latrice lifts the sleeve of her gray sweatshirt to reveal small, dark lines — scars from slicing her forearm over and over to drown out pain from years of sexual abuse. She says she was an alcoholic, dropped out of school in the eighth grade and got pregnant at 16. Now 18, she is in Los Angeles County's juvenile justice system because she violated probation... Her health issues — and those of about 9,400 girls in juvenile detention centers around the nation — are serious and complex. Many of the girls don't have regular doctors, so their physical and emotional problems often go undiagnosed and untreated. That continues when they enter a system that was designed for boys and has been slow to adapt to girls... More than one-third of girls in custody nationwide have a history of sexual abuse, compared with 8% of boys. Girls also have had more physical abuse, suicide attempts and drug-related problems, according to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Few juvenile justice centers have shown they meet minimum healthcare standards, and girls are less likely than boys to get the care they need.