

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

2010 Amended Budget



By Dawn A. Randolph, MPA
GATES Legislative Consultant

Last week was the fastest movement under the Gold Dome I have ever seen in my 15 years at the Capitol. On Tuesday the Appropriations House Subcommittee on Human Development chaired by Rep. Penny Houston (R- Nashville) passed out the 2010 Amended Budget with very few changes, and only a few thousand restored in services for older Georgians. Immediately Wednesday morning the full House Appropriations Committee passed out the same budget with no changes from the subcommittee level and then the full House took up the budget Thursday. No hearings at all.

After much research and digging it was finally uncovered that CRP programs would realize between an 8-10% cut in funding for the final quarter of the year (send Charles Hall an email to request a spread sheet on the specific cuts - chall@asginfo.net) Considering that the State Budget is down 12.9% from FY 2009 and revenues continue to be well below previous years by 8-10% per month we are glad it isn't more at this time. At one point it was rumored that it would be down 25%, but so far that has not been proven true.

What is disturbing is the speed that this budget is moving through the legislature with no opportunity for public input from those impacted. The Senate Appropriations subcommittee's also only had one meeting to hear from Commissioners about the budget and now the full Senate Appropriations Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 16th to pass on the FY 2010 Amended Budget to the full Senate who will vote on it by weeks end. Again, no hearings to allow for public testimony.

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Special
Announcements



*State Use
Council*

10:00 AM
March 25, 2010
Floyd Building
(Capitol Square),
Atlanta

*Working
Wonders Day
Luncheon*

Noon
March 25, 2010

By Thursday, February 18th, we will be halfway through the session for the 20th day. Little legislation is being considered. While the focus is on the budget it appears the legislature is mostly acting on the Governor's recommendations with some tinkering around the edges. The greatest statement was to send a budget forward from the House without a medical bed tax on Hospitals and Care Management Organizations of 1.6%, however the threat is if this tax is not approved providers in the Medicaid system will see over 16% in reimbursement rates for services.

ACTION: Contact your State Representative and Senator to let them know that cuts to your program mean loss of jobs and increased unemployment for Georgia's most hard to employ citizens, individuals with disabilities.

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Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



Empire Room -
Floyd Building
(Capitol Square),
Atlanta

*GATES Board
Meeting*

9:30 AM

April 30, 2010

Location - TBD

*THE PORTAL is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to:
Charles Hall,
chall@asginfo.net*

GATES

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