News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports

THE GATES PORTAL

Ripping Up Carpets

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February 3, 2020

Key Events This Week

General Assembly will be in four days this week, taking off on Friday.

Advocacy Days this week

Thursday, Feb 6th from 8am - 12:30pm

Topic: Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE)

Friday, Feb 7th from 8am - noon Mental Health Day at the Capitol (Freight Depot for updates and breakfast)

Budget Details

Last week the House Appropriations Committee held subcommittee meetings to hear from agency directors and commissions as well as take public comment on the Amended FY 2020 budget. The House Human Resources Subcommittee had a lot to cover so they took two days. GVRA Executive Director Shawn Ryan was the first to present last Wednesday and he a painted a very dismal picture of the failings over the past decade of GVRA. He told the story of how he explains his work to his mother as one who "rips up carpets".

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Special Announcements

Watching last week's hearing is worth every second. You will see ED Ryan at the very beginning of the video and then you can fast forward to 2:29:50 to see me testify.

The next day on Thursday BHDD Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald did not sound as pessimistic as she did the week before. While going through the $80 million in budget cuts over 15 months she said that capacity would be maintained. However, Larry Gluth, executive director of Bobby Dodd Institute laid out a strong case to restore at least $500,000 this year to intensive family support services. Currently there are 400 people being served and another 400 waiting for supports. The proposed million dollar cut in this fiscal year and next will keep these families waiting, create crisis, and put small providers in jeopardy. In this video you can listen to Comm Fitzgerald at 31 minutes in and then Larry Gluth and myself at 1:48:42.

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Days

 Register Here and events will be from 8am - 12:3pm. I believe the sold out is if you want to have lunch.

- Feb 6: Inclusive Post Secondary Education (IPSE) Day (SOLD OUT)
- Feb 19: Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Day (SOLD OUT)
- Feb 27: School to Prison Pipeline (SToPP) Day
- Mar 11: Employment Day

New Bills

Rep. Carl Gilliard (D-Garden City) proposed two bills last week to address the minimum wage in Georgia. The first bill, HB 804, would prohibit employers from paying less than minimum wage to people with disabilities and HB 805 would change the minimum wage from $5.15 to $7.25/hour. There are several exceptions in HB 804 in terms of employing people with disabilities; such as a person's disability offers

many restrictions to employment or performance of the job. Both bills have been assigned to the House Industry and Labor Committee. This committee is scheduled to meet this Wednesday but neither bill is on the agenda.

Rep. Rick Williams (R-Milledgeville) has introduced a bill to prevent healthcare providers from discriminating against recipients of organ transplant who have a physical or mental disability. The bill is HB 842 and has been assigned to the House Insurance Committee. It is being called Gracie's Law and is being supported by the Georgia Council on Developmental 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

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