



California's protection and advocacy system  
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## **#12: Fact Sheet on California's Budget Cuts to Developmental Disability Services & Programs - July 28, 2009**

### **Quality Assurance Systems<sup>1</sup>**

The State Legislature required the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to reduce the DD Budget by 334 million dollars. As a result, there are changes to the types and amounts of services that regional centers can purchase. This fact sheet describes the changes to the quality assurance system. This new law only changes the way information is collected. It will not change or limit services and supports you currently receive.

Quality Assurance Systems allow the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and your Regional Center to evaluate different things about the services and supports you receive. These evaluations are typically done by people who collect information from you and your family about your overall satisfaction with your services and supports and how those services and supports improve (or don't improve) the way you live. The information that you and your family provide also helps DDS improve the provision of services and supports for you and other consumers in the future.

The changes to the Lanterman Act provide new standards that consolidate (combine) three different types of Quality Assurance Systems that are currently being used into one. The purpose of these changes is to develop

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<sup>1</sup> The changes are part of the Budget Trailer Bill (TBL) ABx4 9. You may find the law at [http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab\\_0001-0050/abx4\\_9\\_bill\\_20090728\\_chaptered.pdf](http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/09-10/bill/asm/ab_0001-0050/abx4_9_bill_20090728_chaptered.pdf). The changes affecting Quality Assurance Systems are found in Welfare & Institutions Code, Sections 4418.1(k)-(l), 4570, 4571, & 4648.1(i).

an improved, unified Quality Assurance System. This means less paperwork for you and the people who collect the information, improved communication between the people who collect the information and DDS, and better analysis of the information that is collected so that DDS can improve the way its system works. The old Quality Assurance Systems will no longer be used starting January 1, 2010, which is the date the new Quality Assurance System will start.

## **How the Law Changed**

As of January 1, 2010, the following Quality Assurance Systems will no longer be used:

- Evaluations of people with developmental disabilities who moved from a developmental center to the community.<sup>2</sup>
- The Life Quality Assessment (LQA) for people with developmental disabilities living in out-of-home placements, supported living arrangements, or independent living arrangements.<sup>3</sup>
- Triennial evaluations of people with developmental disabilities living in Community Care Facilities.<sup>4</sup>

The new law says that by January 1, 2010, DDS and other stakeholders are supposed to identify a new Quality Assurance System that includes assessments of consumer and family satisfaction, provision of services, and personal outcomes. Once the new system is developed, DDS will contract with an agency to collect information for those assessments. More details will be available once the new Quality Assurance System is identified and developed.

## **Will the new law change any of the services or supports you receive through your IPP (Individual Program Plan) or IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan)?**

No. This new law will not change or limit the services and supports you currently receive. DDS already collects information from you and your family for their Quality Assurance Systems. The new law simply changes how and when the information will be collected.

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<sup>2</sup> Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4418.1

<sup>3</sup> Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4570

<sup>4</sup> Welfare & Institutions Code Section 4681.1