

# DAYBREAK

## DIGEST

Spring 2011

### **Budget Cuts: Services in Jeopardy**

**T**he State of Texas is facing a budget crisis unlike any it has experienced in recent decades. Going into the 82nd Legislative Session, legislators were tasked with balancing a budget which had a \$27 billion shortfall for 2012-13. As a result, massive cuts have been proposed to Medicaid and Education spending.

The proposed spending cuts are so drastic that most, if not all, companies that provide HCS and ICF/MR services will no longer exist. Funding for HCS services will be reduced by 29% and the ICF/MR program will lose 34% under the current budget proposal. It will simply be impossible for HCS and ICF/MR providers to operate with such dramatic cuts. Both programs sustained 2% rate cuts in February, 2011 on top of the 1% reduction the ICF/MR program took in September, 2010. As little as an additional 1% or 2% could be devastating to many, many providers. What this means is that consumers currently receiving these services will either receive no services or will have to move into State Supported Living Centers.

It is critical that the decision makers in Austin know that cutting these services will have dire consequences for thousands of Texans. Our elected leaders must look at the severe impact the cuts will have on our consumers, families, employees, and contractors. While the State is trying to save money for the two year budget period, it must also understand the long-term costs of effectively eliminating these services.

Daybreak has been very active in voicing our concerns to members of the legislature and their staff. Additionally, we are working very closely with the Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas to make sure that our elected leaders understand the profound impact these cuts will have on over 26,000 consumers in Texas. Please see PACSTX information sheet on page 2 which you can use when making calls to your legislator's offices as talking points. There are many companies and advocacy groups working hard to get the message out, but we cannot do it alone. We understand that our representatives and senators have been tasked with a difficult job in extremely difficult times, but we must help them understand the true cost of cuts to the HCS and ICF programs.

### ***How Can You Help? Contact your State Representative and Senator***

**Visit <http://www.fyi.legis.state.tx.us> to find your local legislators.**

- Be respectful of our elected officials and their staff.

***Call the legislator's office or write them a short, personal note indicating:***

- How losing services will impact you and your family.
- Ask that a member find a way to avoid making these devastating cuts.
- Be specific that you are concerned about budget cuts for "Home and Community Based Services" (HCS) or ICF/MR depending on your situation.

**Visit <http://www.pacstx.org> for more information.**



*Daybreak: Empowered people united to enhance quality of life physically, emotionally and spiritually.*



**PACSTX**

## ***Providers Alliance for Community Services of Texas***

### ***What is HCS?***

- Medicaid Waiver program—alternative to State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs)
- Provides services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live with their family, in their own home, or in community settings, such as small group homes.
- 21,700 consumers are served by about 450 companies
- Approximately 50,000 people currently on waiting list

### ***What is ICF-MR?***

- Medicaid entitlement program
- Provides residential and habilitation services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or a related condition.
- 6,000 consumers are served by 175 companies

### ***Who are the clients we serve?***

- Most people served in the HCS and ICF/MR programs have spent years on the waiting list for services or have been institutionalized in State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs).
- A high percentage of consumers served in HCS and ICF/MR have minimal to no family involvement or other support systems.
- Many service recipients have significant medical needs and physical disabilities which require assistance with daily functions such as bathing and eating.
- Many consumers also have considerable behavior challenges.

### ***What cuts are being proposed for these programs?***

- Both programs received rate cuts of 2% on February 1, 2011, in addition to the 1% cut sustained by the ICF/MR program in September 1, 2010.
- HCS funding will be reduced 29% and ICF/MR funding will be reduced by 34% based on the proposed budget in H.B.1 and S.B.1.
- The proposed budget cuts for these programs save \$282 million in General Revenue. However, this reduction causes the State to forego \$1.28 billion in federal funds.

- ***THESE MASSIVE CUTS WILL DEVASTATE HCS AND ICF/MR PROVIDERS AND MAKE THE PROGRAMS UNSUSTAINABLE***

- This means 27,700 consumers could be displaced from their homes or go without services altogether.
- Approximately 32,300 employees of HCS and ICF/MR providers will be unemployed.
- 450 companies will go out of business.
- The State will be faced with more expensive alternatives to care for vulnerable citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities which include:
  - State Supported Living Centers at annual cost of \$127,000 per person per year compared to \$45,000 in HCS/ICF.
  - Increased costs to the Medicaid system for emergency, inpatient hospital, and other medical services.
  - Increased costs to the criminal justice system.

***Home and community based services and community based ICF/MRs have long been the most efficient service delivery programs for people with I/DD, both at less than half the cost of State Supported Living Centers. We want to work with you to assure that HCS and ICF/MR remain a viable, cost effective method of providing services to people with disabilities.***

# My Future Is In Your Hands

**On** March 1, 2011, providers and consumers from all over Texas met at Morgan's Wonderland in San Antonio to present a united front to the State of Texas against further budget cuts for IDD services. Hundreds of consumers and providers attended the rally at Morgan's Wonderland – a park specifically designed for individuals with special needs - and later boarded buses to head to the steps of the State Capitol in Austin to make sure our voices were heard. All participants at the rally wore red shirts emblazoned with "My Future is in Your Hands" and received hand-outs that listed all representatives at the Capitol, with messages urging the community to get involved and contact their local representatives.

Gordon Hartmann, founder of Morgan's Wonderland, spoke to how the proposed cuts of up to 30% would detrimentally affect thousands of individuals currently receiving services. Eva Longoria, actress and activist, also lent her celebrity to the cause. Ms. Longoria referenced her sister, Liza, who currently resides in a group home in San Antonio, and talked passionately about how the proposed reduction in rates would bring a negative impact to her sister and other individuals in Texas. Eva stated that this group of individuals with special needs was not asking for an increase in funding, only that the funding we have so diligently fought for in the past decade be left untouched, as serious cuts will most surely lead to a termination of much-needed services. We were immensely proud of the turn-out for this event, and believe that this rally did have an impact on the Legislature and our State Representatives and reiterates that indeed, our future is in their hands.



**G**ordon Hartman, founder of Morgan's Wonderland speaks to the crowd at the Rally. He founded Morgan's Wonderland for his daughter, Morgan, who is disabled. Wonderland is the only theme park in the world specifically designed for people with disabilities. Gordon is also going to be the keynote speaker for the July American Association of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities conference in San Antonio.



Eva Longoria is pointing to everyone in the crowd, saying that we won't stand for cuts to serve those with disabilities.



**E**va Longoria and her sister, Lisa. Once Eva mentioned Lisa's name, Lisa ran up on stage. Eva said Lisa "was the greatest thing in her life."



A crowd of concerned individuals and families listened intently to the message Gordon and Eva were sending. It was time to stand up for your future.



Eva and Gordon were both so responsive to those with disabilities. They made sure they signed and took pictures with anyone who was interested.

*Daybreak: Empowered people united to enhance quality of life physically, emotionally and spiritually.*



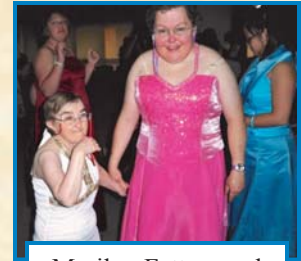
# A Night To Remember



Tina Holmes, Thao Luong,  
Cristy Jewell & Misty Jewell



QUEEN Nedra Matthews receives  
a surprise of a dozen red roses



Marilyn Feters and  
Shanna Fugitt



Candy Flores



Amy Caldwell



PRINCESS Jeanette Rigsby



Sherry Stepanski



Jacob Fehr



Julie Jarrett and Cindy Davis, Area  
Director for Lubbock



Paul Gonzales



Billy Newman crowned KING of  
the prom by Ghirmai Sergeant



PRINCE Randy Araneviz

Lubbock Prom  
photos are on  
Pages 4,5, and 6.



Submitted by Cindy Davis, Lubbock Area Director and  
Esmeralda Martinez, Office Coordinator

Lubbock Daybreak hosted their first Prom and the theme was **"A Night To Remember"** and it was just as promised. The day started off early with special grooming for all the men and women with fancy hairdos and haircuts, manicures, bubble baths and pampering for everyone!

Everyone was very excited and couldn't wait for the Prom to start. Karen Daniel, Tiffany Mann, Kawanna Pegues and Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Lubbock donated prom dresses for the women. Levine's Clothing store gave Daybreak great discounts for the men's suits and shoes. Janet Clark did many of the women's hairdos and TJ did the nails. Michelle Edwards, Gordon and Tiffany Mann did the decorations that were provided by Spoil me Rotten at a discounted rate. That night some of our consumers arrived in royal coach, some with dates and some came with their parents. We crowned our first King and Queen for 2010.



*King Billy Newman  
Queen Nedra Matthews  
Prince Randy Arenivaz  
Princess Janet Riggsby*



Our live DJ played a musical variety with requests encouraged. Snacks were served throughout the night and a fountain of punch flowed at the table.

The big question was at the end of the night—"When will the next Prom be?" It was a magical, fun-filled, exciting night.



*Daybreak's Night To Remember!*

Submitted by Cindy Davis, Lubbock Area Director, Tiffany Mann, Foster Care Coordinator and all the caring, great team members at the Lubbock Daybreak office



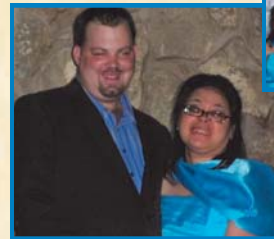
PRINCESS Jeannette Riggsby  
PRINCE Randy Arenavis



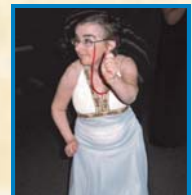
Hilda Price



Misty Jewell  
Cristy Jewell



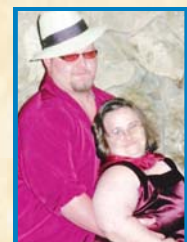
Cody Gootee & Thao Luong



Marilyn Fetters



Wilbert Harper  
Ruby Sullivan



Jeremy Hensley  
Missy Good

*Daybreak: Empowered people united to enhance quality of life physically, emotionally and spiritually.*



Michelle Edwards  
Thao Long



Missy Good and  
Marilyn Fetters



Laurel Dammier  
Kim Shields



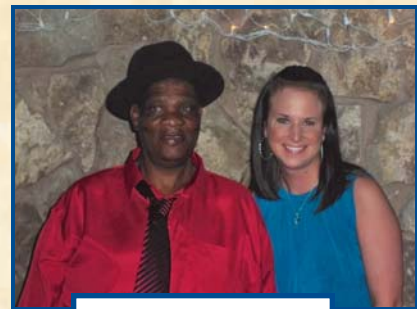
Jaime Brown, Pam Boyd and  
Debra Ridge



Matthew Williams  
Ricky Morris



Jesus Duarte  
Melinda Deleon



Wilbert Harper  
Rebecca Wise



Janet Clark  
Isaac Flores



Russell Byrom



Sherri Stepanski  
Matthew Coon



Tina Holmes  
Thao Long



Jeremy Hensley  
Missy Good



Cristy Jewell, Steven Cate and  
Misty Jewell



Marilyn Fetters  
Victoria Riojas



Maria Larralde  
Melinda Deleon

Submitted by Cindy Davis, Lubbock Area Director and  
Esmeralda Martinez, Office Coordinator

# Jenifer Hernandez



*We*'re pleased to welcome Jenifer Hernandez as Daybreak's new Behavior Analyst. Jenifer will follow our consumers behavioral needs and write, implement and monitor any formal behavior programs.



*Jenifer and her husband, Ricky*

Jenifer completed her undergraduate degree at University of Texas, Austin in 2003. While there, she was introduced to Behavior Analysis. Jenifer worked part time with individuals with disabilities teaching self help skills, helping build social skills, improving communication and reducing problem behaviors. Upon return to the Dallas/ Fort Worth area after obtaining her degree, she expanded her experience and continued her education, earning a Masters degree in Psychological Sciences from University of Texas Dallas and becoming a Board Certified Behavior Analyst.

Jenifer writes: "My wonderful husband, Ricky and I live in Fort Worth with our quirky cat, Morticia, who only responds to the name "Baby!" We go to concerts and see stand up comedians every chance we get. I like to read, bake and play Mario on Wii. I'm so excited to be working for Daybreak doing what I love."



Submitted by Shelly Heck, Director of Quality Assurance

## Marjorie Sims

Congratulations to Marjorie Sims, Accounting Coordinator in our Burleson office. She just completed her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting! Marjorie has been with Daybreak since February of 2009 and has been a wonderful asset for us all.



Submitted by Mason Morgan, Chief Financial Director

*If you have a story, a photo, a recipe, a handy hint, please send it to me! I'd love to hear from all my families and Daybreak team members.*



**Glenys Dobbins,  
Newsletter Editor  
Daybreak  
P. O. Box 1775  
Burleson, Texas 76097-1775  
Phone: 817/447-2700**

*Daybreak: Empowered people united to enhance quality of life physically, emotionally and spiritually.*

# DAYBREAK STAR



*David Jones* came to Daybreak in

*March of 2006 first in the Texas Home Living program and then on to Home and Community Based services in December of 2008 and currently lives at the Daybreak McFadden group home in Temple. He is very independent, loves his home and roommates and is active in the community participating in Special Olympics Track and Field and ARC activities each week.*

*David recently came to work at Daybreak part time as a maintenance tech where he is responsible for janitorial duties at the Daybreak campus in Temple, consisting of over 14,000 square feet of offices and the Empowerment Zone Day Habilitation facilities. His supervisor reports that he is doing an excellent job and is always willing to pitch in and be a part of the Daybreak team. We are very proud to have David as part of our Daybreak family and believe he is truly a "Rising Star".*



Submitted by Tracy D. Andrews, Temple Area Director

**Pending Budget Cuts Inside**



P. O. Box 1775  
Burleson, Texas 76097-1775

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BURLESON, TEXAS  
PERMIT #136

*Daybreak: Empowered people united to enhance quality of life physically, emotionally and spiritually.*