
New Advocacy Strategies for Changing Policies

April 27, 2020

***** REMINDER: LEND is NOT allowed to do any lobbying activities. *****

The following information is shared with you to assist in any educational activities you might do in the context of LEND, such as educating your legislator(s) on NDD-related issues. Any lobbying you do, including promotion of a specific bill or appropriation asks, must be done as an individual / private citizen, and communications need to come from your personal email address or contact.

Today's Speakers

- Elaine Linn
 - Project Manager, Family Voices of California

- Robyn Linscott
 - Policy Fellow, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris

- Adriana Ruelas
 - Chief of Staff, Assemblymember James Ramos

Objectives

- ❑ Review previous seminars
- ❑ Get an “insider’s view” of Congress and the California Legislature
- ❑ Discuss current issues facing people with IDD
- ❑ Identify strategies for advocacy in a changing policymaking environment

Review

- ❑ Public Policy Advocacy for Systems Change (11/25/19)
 - Becoming an effective systems-level advocate
 - Disability history
 - Storytelling

- ❑ Family and Professional Partnerships in Advocacy (3/16/20)
 - Authentic family engagement
 - Impacting the legislative and budget processes
 - Chronic underfunding of services for people with NDD

New Challenges

Health & Behavior

Direct Care Workers Struggle To Find Protective Equipment

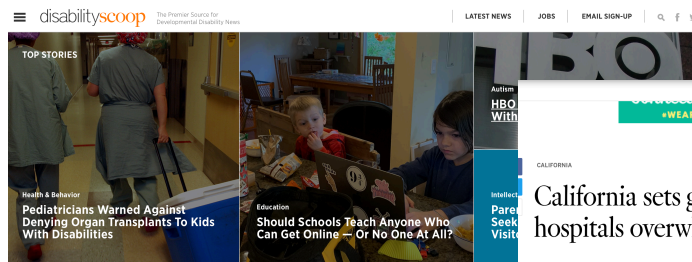
With supplies being gobbled up, disability providers are desperate for masks and other personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of coronavirus in group homes and other settings.

April 14, 2020

DeVos Weighs Waivers for Special Education. Parents Are Worried.

The \$2 trillion coronavirus law could give the education secretary the power to waive special education rules as school districts struggle to teach all their students online.

Coronavirus ravages services for people with disabilities, leaving many at risk



More News

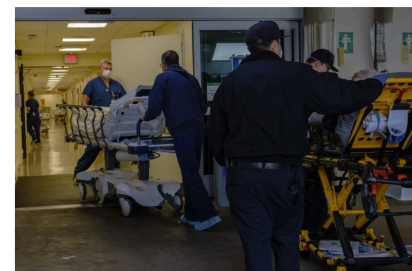


Providers Want To Protect Clients With Disabilities. Nobody's Telling Them How

Californ Sacram
Family Ho
CA Mentor is compassion
an extra bed



California sets guidelines on which patients are prioritized if hospitals overwhelmed by coronavirus



CORONAVIRUS >

Autopsies reveal U.S. coronavirus deaths occurred in Bay Area in early February

O.C. clears the way for golf courses to open amid coronavirus pandemic

Do testicles make men more vulnerable to the coronavirus?

The most important news, advice and distractions for today (free)

Coronavirus live updates: 'Second wave' could be worse for California than the first

Feds Urged To Prevent COVID-19 Disability Discrimination

by Michelle Diamant | April 24, 2020



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Rea

Robyn Lynscott

Policy Fellow, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris



<https://www.harris.senate.gov>

Adriana Ruelas

Chief of Staff, Assemblymember James Ramos



<https://a40.asmdc.org>

<http://www.legislature.ca.gov>

Questions?

This is a Critical Time

❑ **Conflicting situations**

- **Crisis decision making**
- **Ethical questions**

❑ **Necessity beckons**

- **Obvious disparities**
- **Threatened rights**

❑ **A pivotal moment**

- **Shifting priorities**
- **Long term implications**

❑ **Opportunity knocks**

- **Flexible mindset**
- **Creativity reveals possibility**

If not us, then who?

If not now, then when?

- John Lewis
former Freedom Rider

New Environment

Constituent focus

Fewer distractions

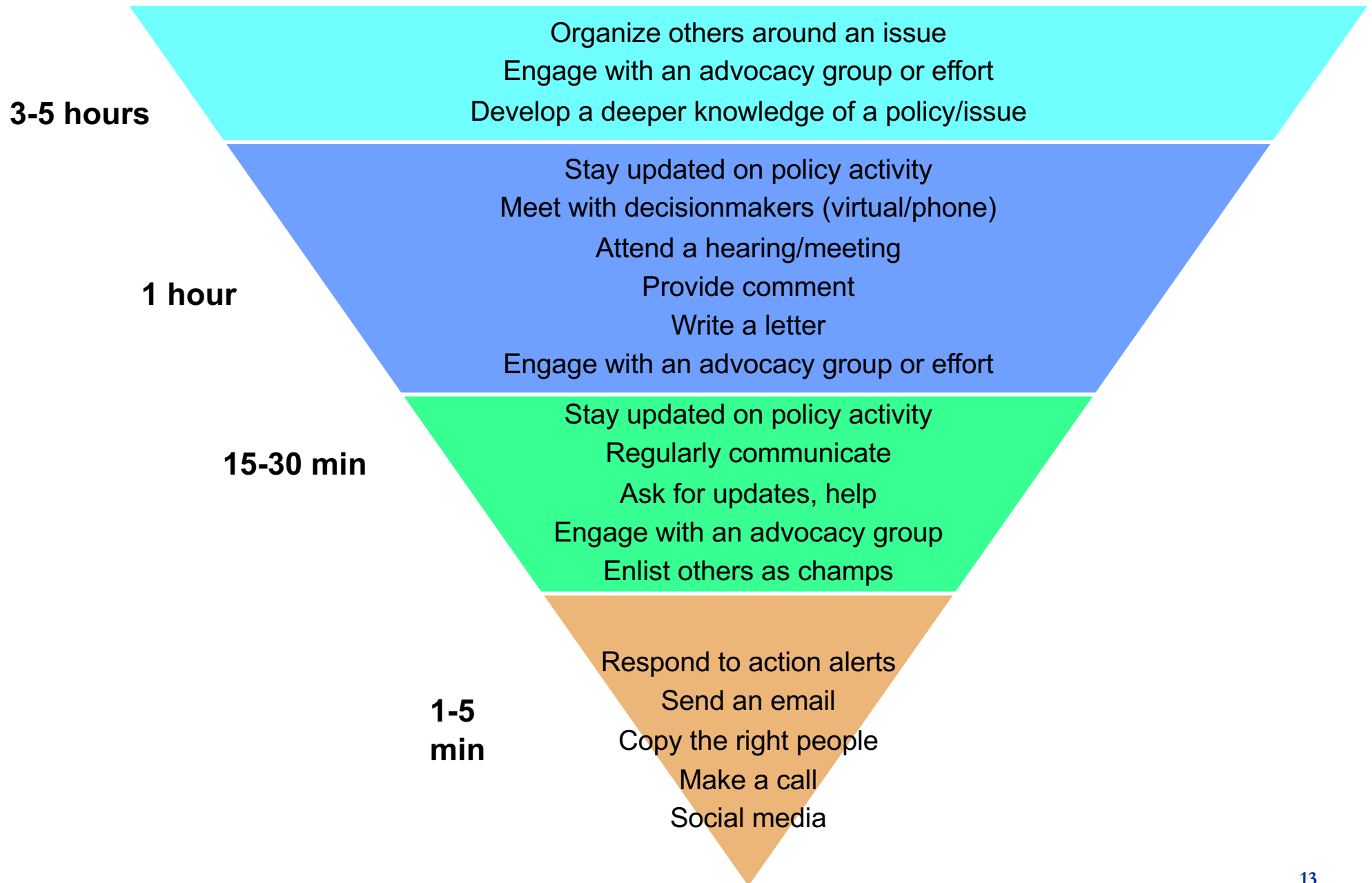
More receptive

Personal relevance

Changing Advocacy

- ❑ **Don't be afraid to contact decisionmakers!**
 - Calls
 - Virtual meetings
 - Emails, letters, faxes
 - Ask for assistance & legislative updates
- ❑ **Share your story**
 - Prepare: Make it meaningful
 - Replace “likes” with action
- ❑ **Weigh in**
 - Activate, participate in committees
 - Engage with advocacy groups
- ❑ **Follow up**

Strategies for Everyone



Elected officials, legislation

- ❑ **Project Vote Smart**
 - votesmart.org
- ❑ **U.S. Congress**
 - Bills: govtrack.us
 - Members of Congress: congress.gov
- ❑ **The California Legislature**
 - Committees, Bills, Calendar, Legislators: legislature.ca.gov
 - Senators & Assemblymembers: findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov

Get Information

Updates

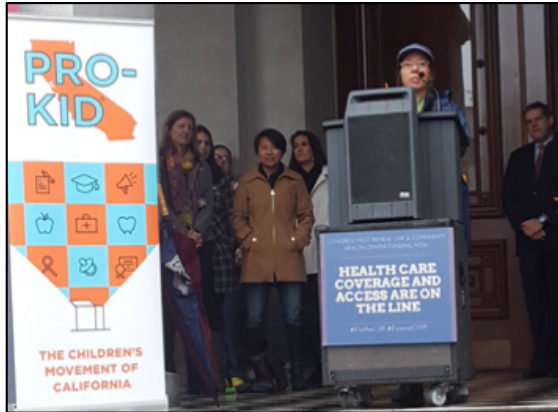
- ❑ **Family Voices of California:**
www.familyvoicesofca.org
- ❑ **Family Voices (national):**
<https://familyvoices.org>
- ❑ **CalMatters (non-profit news organization):**
<https://calmatters.org>
- ❑ **Professional societies, school districts, health systems**

Policies Affecting People with IDD

- ❑ **The Arc CA:** thearca.org
- ❑ **American Association of People with Disabilities:**
<https://www.aapd.com>
- ❑ **Association of University Centers on Disabilities:**
<https://www.aucd.org>
- ❑ **Disability Rights Education and Defense fund:**
<https://dredf.org>
- ❑ **National Down Syndrome Congress:**
<https://www.ndsccenter.org>
- ❑ **TASH:** <https://tash.org>

Questions?

Thank you!



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