



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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May 15, 2020

Happy Friday!

I say that quite genuinely, amidst the release of the May Revision of the Governor's Proposed Budget in January. Given the state of the state, fiscally speaking, we knew to expect challenges as funding once available no longer exists in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. That said, I have gratitude. The May Revise, as it's commonly known, continues to propose an increase in funding to the developmental disabilities services system and the Governor has included "triggers" that will allow California to reverse budget reductions, in certain areas, if federal funding is received. Gratitude.

While remembering to be grateful, I have to acknowledge that the pandemic has created hardships – and the proposed budget for fiscal year 20-21 includes funding cuts for our service system. In the face of navigating budget cuts, I look back at how the pandemic has truly upended our lives, requiring us to adapt and persevere, and I am reminded that our communities and our state adapted and persevered! We have learned so much about our capabilities as a regional center, a service delivery system, and as a community in the last eight weeks! And as we move into the new fiscal year, we will navigate, we will plan, and we will continue to learn more together! I'm sharing my optimism for a future that is arguably uncertain, and even so, I still choose positivity. It's been said that positivity doesn't mean being happy every day (or happy with the proposed budget) – it means knowing that better days are coming. We all get to be a part of creating those better days.

Meantime, know that we are meeting with service providers to prepare for the safe return to community-based services when the time comes. Be assured we will rely on guidance from our local county public health department as well as the Governor's office in making decisions about returning to the community. To be sure, you can count on Service Coordinators to continue to conduct program planning, coordinating, and connecting consumers and families to services and resources; Community Services will continue to work with, and support service providers, and Fiscal will continue to ensure payments are processed!

May you have a fantastic weekend, and stay safe!

Very truly yours,

Ruth