

**May 2020**

**Advocacy in Action:**

The Auxiliary Advocacy committee had a Zoom meeting with Sarah Verity on April 21st. Sarah updated the committee on Bryan's and Sarah's efforts to reach out to legislators regarding funding to the Intellectual and Developmental Disability community. **Bryan's message to the Board of Gatepath covered the following information.**

**“Advocacy Alert: California State Budget:** As you may know, the California State Legislature is reconvening to prepare a revised budget for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. We are hearing there will be sweeping budget reductions to programs. Sarah and I spoke with Assembly member Mullins office last week, highlighting how devastating any reductions to our already woefully underfunded system would be. Sarah and I (all the heavy lifting was done by Sarah) prepared the attached “Position Piece” for Assembly Member Kevin Mullin and his Chief of Staff, Carol Ong.

Our Position Letter covers the overall state of the DDS system and it highlights the significant damage any budget cuts to DDS would have on an already underfunded and fragile system. I plan to post portions of this letter on LinkedIn and on our social media channels. In addition I'm planning to make a short video on the topic as well.”

**Bryan and Sarah will be coming to the Auxiliary with an action plan on how our group can help in this call to action. Please stay tuned and we will contact you soon.**

Cathy Nessier