

July 18, 2017 Open Forum Public Comment by Lori Parlin

On June 6, 2017 there was confusion about the Board policy regarding interaction with the public during public comment. County Counsel said he would look into the policy. At the very next meeting on June 20, I asked during Open Forum why the clarification by County Counsel wasn't the first thing on the agenda so that everyone would know what to expect at meetings. After public comment closed, 4 out of 5 supervisors assured the public that we would get that clarification at the Good Governance meeting, which was yesterday, July 17. There was no clarification given at the Good Governance meeting. Why not? The public is being told that transparency is important to this Board, yet it has been almost a month and we haven't had an agenda item to discuss this issue. I do not understand why there is a resistance to providing the public with this document that was meant to provide clarity about your own policies. May I please have a copy of County Counsel's document now and will you please agendize this issue so that you may discuss it and share it with the public? That is what Good Governance suggests you do.

June 20, 2017 Board of Supervisors response to request for County Counsel's document of Board policy regarding Board interaction with the public

Novasel: Point of clarification, the confusion of that meeting that we had, I've asked County Counsel, discussed with County Counsel as a part of our next meeting, I think it's our next meeting, good governance, that will be during that discussion we'll be talking about it.

Ranalli: I was going to make the exact same comment. It would seem the most appropriate place for us to have the discussion would be good governance and we do have that scheduled and coming up, and so I believe that County Counsel will follow through on his remarks last meeting to lead us in that discussion for us to reconcile how that should be done.

Hidah! I would just like to add that County Counsel has provided the Board commentary and guidance in terms of how the public session is administered. So the Board has thoroughly reviewed that information. It is part of a public document so that hopefully in the good governance discussion will come forward and everybody can share with that particular interpretation because there are boundaries within the Brown Act of what can and can't be done and this is one of those things that you have to have guidance to make sure you're staying on the right side of the fence. So that'll come out in the good governance discussion, I believe. County Counsel has been responsive to the Board's request.

Frentzen; I appreciate Board members clarifying that. Meanwhile, while we are waiting for the good governance, if any member of the Board has a question for the public while they are at the podium I hope and pray that we ask that question before we deliberate because we don't want to make decisions based on something that's not clear. So, that would be the rule that I would set until that.

OPEN Forum

L. ANZINI PUBLIC COMMENT

7/18/17

July 18, 2017

To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and Recorder;

Thank you very much for your consideration of sending letters to our representatives encouraging them to VOTE NO on the US Senate Health Care Bill.

The latest revisions of this bill still remove millions of people from receiving health insurance and will have a very negative impact on seniors, those with pre-existing conditions and low/moderate income people. It will destabilize our health insurance market and raise premiums and deductibles for many people.

The key stake holders all agree that this bill is not good for Americans or the Health Care System. This includes physicians, hospitals and health insurance companies.

Please request that our Health Care system needs improvement through a non-partisan approach to improve the Affordable Care Act for Americans. This behind the scenes work is not democratic and needs to proceed respectfully through the process to get input from all of our congressional representatives, stakeholders and the American people.

Time is of the essence, so we are providing the FAX numbers for key legislators in order to get your letters there as soon as possible.

Dianne Feinstein - US Senate
FAX# 202-228-3954

Kamala Harris - US Senate
Fax# 202-224-2200

Mitch McConnell - US Senate
Fax# 202-224-2499

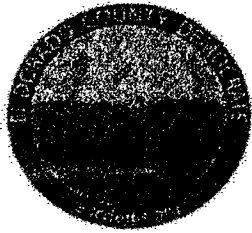
Paul Ryan - US House of Representatives
FAX# 202-225-2012

Tom McClintock
FAX 202-225-5444

Thanks again for all you do.

Maureen Dion-Perry

Maureen Dion-Perry
El Dorado Progressives, Health Care Work Group
Phone 530-651-4245



El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

July 6, 2017

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On behalf of the Democratic Party of El Dorado County, and El Dorado Progressives, we urge you to adopt a Resolution *opposing* the US Senate 'Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017' (BCRA). These are our reasons, which a great number of Independents and moderate Republicans also share.

El Dorado County has made great progress in recent years with the targeted funding and support from the Affordable Care Act. In a recent editorial by James Whipple, CEO Marshall Medical Center and Jayne Moore, Senior Vice President El Dorado Savings Bank, they talked about the need to protect access to health care coverage. "While the uncertainty and political debate may cause uneasiness, we believe that this is a prime opportunity to reaffirm a top priority: That Californians maintain access to quality, affordable coverage. The expansion of coverage has benefited people of all ages, incomes and circumstance."

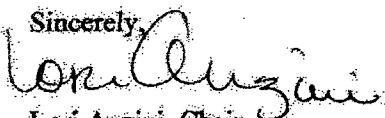
They described the cascade of health care benefits. "The ability to take advantage of preventive treatments and other types of care results in a more productive population. Similarly, when illness or disease strikes, people aren't foregoing treatment. As a result, employees stay on the job instead of calling in sick, students attend and thrive in school and seniors are better able to deal with chronic conditions. Financially, being able to prevent illness is much less expensive than having to treat it, not to mention the greater good of our population having healthy lives vs suffering with pain and illness. It is not only the right thing to do, taxpayers will benefit too."

1. Locally tens of thousands of people have benefited from the ability to enroll in expanded Medi-Cal for low/moderate income people. Half of the enrollees are children. The BCRA greatly reduces the number of El Dorado citizens who would have coverage under Medi-Cal for their health care. These citizens, on limited incomes, would then flood the Emergency Rooms of Marshall and Barton Hospitals for immediate care which federal law requires the hospitals to provide but these patients would be *without* insurance to pay for that care. Such a flood of uninsured patients could seriously jeopardize the *financial stability* of these local institutions.

2. The BCRA punishes people who have their insurance lapse for whatever reason (including job loss, prolonged disability, or bankruptcy) by not allowing them to regain health coverage for half a year. During that time, they would likely go for health care where they cannot be turned down for lack of insurance – to the local Emergency Rooms, further increasing the financial stress on our local hospitals.
3. Under the BCRA, insurance companies can charge older citizens up to *five times more* than younger people. El Dorado County has a large population of senior citizens, many of whom are on limited incomes and would not be able to afford being gouged by such high health insurance premium costs. Again, these seniors may well have to go without health insurance, and become yet another tide of uninsured patients flooding the Emergency Rooms for no-pay care.
4. This means that people now covered under the Affordable Care Act would *lose the guarantee* that *pre-existing conditions* will be covered. Instead, individual states would determine which conditions are covered or whether any pre-existing conditions at all are covered.
6. The reduction in funding for Medi-Cal funds will also impact the employment of many of the staff members at those hospitals, supporting services (home health care for seniors), convalescent operations, pharmacies, and several other health agencies that the County relies on for supportive services. This scenario will impact our local economy of jobs, sales tax revenues, rents/mortgages, and the domino effect of people not contributing or spending their dollars in El Dorado County.

We urge you, our elected representatives, to adopt a Board of Supervisors Resolution in opposition to the 'Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017' and in support of efforts to increase access to truly affordable health care for all of our residents. And we request that you send that Resolution to Congressman Tom McClintock, Paul Ryan and Senators Diane Feinstein, Kamala Harris and Mitch McConnell.

Sincerely,



Lori Anzini, Chair
El Dorado County Democratic Party



Sean Frame, President
El Dorado Progressives

To the board,

We as eligibility workers work hard to protect the health and wellbeing of the people of El Dorado County, by providing food assistance, medical insurance, and cash assistance. Keeping families healthy, well-fed, with roofs over their heads, and assisting them financially during the most trying times in their lives, we help those most in need to achieve a self-sufficient and sustainable lifestyle. The cash and medical assistance we provide goes right into our local communities and economy.

According to data from the California Department of Social Services, \$20,295,000 were issued to El Dorado County residents in CalFresh benefits alone, from May 2016 through April 2017, averaging over \$1,690,000 per month. The Economic Research Service of the USDA has reported that every dollar of CalFresh or SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in the local community and economy. This amounts well over \$36,000,000 over the year, at more than \$3,000,000 per month.

Our division is a powerful and important piece of the local economy and community, in service to our residents.

My name is Cheyne Close and I moved to El Dorado County in 1998, and returned here after college- I love this area and want to remain living and working in this county. I have been a HHSA employee since December 2011, where I started in Clerical, moved to File Clearance in December 2013, and began as an Eligibility Worker in March 2014.

Having started in Clerical as an Office Assistant and moving to File Clearance as the applications from Covered CA began pouring in, I saw firsthand the impact on the Eligibility Workers. They were inundated with thousands of brand new applications for families that had never needed to utilize our agency's services and the functionality between Covered CA and our system was, and is, flawed. Our Intake Workers at the time were overwhelmed and as fast as new procedures and regulations were put into place, system functionality would stall, placing those thousands of applications in limbo.

When I moved to Eligibility that March our training group started with Medi-Cal in an attempt to help alleviate the masses of applications that still awaited determination of aid. The ongoing stress of a large caseload and next to no experience at the time caused even more of a delay in determining benefits- our presumed determinations needed to be authorized prior to granting of aid and the clients were upset- understandably so, these applications had been waiting for processing for months, outside of federal processing regulations.

Over the next 3 years our processes, experience, program knowledge, and functionality availability has grown and become more streamlined, but the amount of eligibility workers available to process these incoming applications and renewals has stayed fairly consistent despite the increase in applications and ongoing cases. Out of my training class of 10, 4 left for higher paying positions- 2 went to other counties to continue working in Eligibility at higher pay, and 1 remained in the county with a higher paid position in HHSA. We lost 3 others to the stress of the constantly high caseloads.

Our clients now make up a more diverse population- we have higher income families whose children are the only aided members, some who have congruent cases with Covered CA, some who have employer sponsored insurance. Undocumented children also now make up larger portion of our clients. Barriers to aid exist continue to exist- due to high caseloads, and continuing system flaws, access to aid can be delayed in various ways- troubleshooting system errors, client contact, and waiting for needed verifications all impact aid determinations.

I currently hold a caseload of approx. 900 cases, the majority of which contain both CalFresh and Medi-Cal programs. I constantly worry about my caseload and the possibility of error that exists with such a high caseload. If I make a mistake it directly impacts my clients monetarily and possibly physically. My experience and program knowledge lends itself in the favor that I will not make those mistakes, but those are not the only factors at play, nor am I the least experienced or most experienced Eligibility Worker.

The County Wide Strategic Plan states its intent to provide efficient customer service for the safety, protection, and well-being of our residents, businesses, and visitors. A barrier to aid in the form of high caseload stress does not help me attain this goal. I am also a long term El Dorado County resident- I love this county and its local businesses. If an Economic Development goal is to encourage staff and residents to reinvest their wages in El Dorado County government and business to continue to allow our area to grow and thrive, I need a reason to do so.

July 18, 2017

Dear Sirs and Madams;

The purpose of this letter is to inform the board of some of the issues that are of most importance to me as an employee of EL Dorado County. Because the process of negotiations continues, I feel the need to share these concerns with you. Some of these concerns include case load size, retention of new employees and how this affects the community we serve.

I am aware that your goal is to enrich our county and its residents. A big population of this county's residents are people that we serve. Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, our case loads have tripled in size. The new rules and regulations that are in effect require an eligibility worker to have some knowledge in a tax accounting and insurance broker. Our job description has drastically changed; what we are required to do and know is now greater than before but unfortunately our rate of pay has not changed. Now, to be able to determine eligibility requires knowledge of three different professions. This takes me to my next point which is the retention of Eligibility Workers.

There have been many job openings for Eligibility Workers, yet these same positions are filled over and over, sometimes twice per year. The reason for this is our new hires get the training they need to be eligibility workers but by the time they finish training, they learn that other counties pay more for the same job. New Eligibility Workers leave the county for higher pay. Once again the caseloads go up causing additional stress on current employees. This additional stress sometimes leads to some employees going out on stress leave adding even more cases to the remaining workers.

When I started working for this county, a regular caseload was 200- 300 cases per eligibility worker, now those numbers are up to 800-1000. It is almost impossible to try to keep up with this amount of work. I believe if the rate of pay was compatible to nearby counties, the issue of extremely high caseloads would be close to non-existent. The impact of having high caseloads due to the turnover rate of Eligibility Workers severely affects the public we serve. A critical group of individuals are those who have mental health issues and are in need of medical insurance to get medications. If these individuals do not get the medical assistance they need, (for lack of health insurance) the consequences can be severe to the point where the involvement of law enforcement can be expected. Therefore, having more employees to process the work timely can stop a chain reaction of potentially disastrous events. Families and individuals who need food assistance to survive can be negatively impacted because of high caseloads. Unfortunately, some of these cases get delayed in the granting process because of the overwhelming amounts of cases that need to be managed at the same time. Delaying of essential food benefits can be devastating to those in need and once again the potential for a chain reaction of events that can escalate in a negative way would be imminent.

These are only some of the many examples and concerns that are of high importance to me because they very much affect the people we assist on a daily basis. Everything that negatively impacts our clientele comes down to one major factor, the low rate of pay that El