

CALABLE ACT BOARD

Monthly Update

March | 2019 |

Accounts / Assets

As of March 25, 2019, total enrollment in CalABLE reached 936 accounts opened, with over \$3.1 million in assets under management. In the coming months, CalABLE staff will begin analyzing enrollment data in comparison with outreach efforts in order to determine the effectiveness of our outreach and educational events. This data will be presented on a monthly basis.



Contracts

- The amendment to the TIAA Program Administration Contract has been drafted to reflect the addition of fees associated with the prepaid debit card. This was an item that was voted on and approved at our February 26 Board Meeting. The amended contract is currently making its way through the STO internal review, and will be forwarded to the Department of General Services for final review and execution.
- The contract to extend the services of our investment consultant is also making its way through internal routing. This contract is expected to be executed by March 31.
- The contract with Sagent Marketing has been fully executed. Sagent and CalABLE staff kicked off the collaboration with our first team meeting on March 21st.

Outreach

Since our last Board Meeting, CalABLE staff have been very busy providing presentations and participating in informational discussions regarding program enrollment. Here is a snapshot of our activity and reach since the February board meeting:

- 1,375 prospective account holders, family members, service providers and disability advocates attended CalABLE presentations offered throughout the state, many hosted by regional centers and family resource centers in Southern California, Northern California and the Central Coast.
- CalABLE gained 180 followers/subscribers to its social media platforms and email listserv.
- Deputy Executive Director Carrie Fisher Stone provided CalABLE training via videoconference to 150 service providers in the Redwood Coast Regional Center network (locations in Ukiah, Eureka, Crescent City, Lakeport and Fort Bragg); representatives from the Social Security Administration offices in these areas were also in attendance.
- CalABLE was a sponsor of, and exhibitor at, The Arc of California/United Cerebral Palsy's 12th Annual Developmental Disabilities Pubic Policy conference in Sacramento; Executive Director Dante Allen coordinated with the World Institute on Disability and the ABLE National Resource Center on a panel discussion on financial inclusion for people with disabilities.
- Deputy Executive Director Carrie Fisher Stone provided a CalABLE presentation via webinar with over 150 viewers participating online.
- Staff have started distributing presentation evaluations at each event in an attempt to survey presentation satisfaction and solicit feedback and recommendations for future presentations. Attendees are consistently rating presentations as very good and excellent, with a noted appreciation for clear, concise, organized and effective delivery.
- Staff are starting to build the foundation for the CalABLE Ambassador Program by conducting research on best practices and developing a program outline, project plan, and application process.

Upcoming events and presentations

- April 3 at 4:00 p.m. CalABLE will present at the Laurel Ruff Transition School Open House and Information Fair at 525 Garfield Ave. in Sacramento. Contact <u>lausmith@sanjuan.edu</u> for additional information.
- **April 17** at 10:00 a.m. CalABLE will present to the North Bay Regional Center at 2351 Mendocino Avenue in Santa Rosa. Contact Mary Eble for additional information at mary@northbayhousing.org.
- April 19 at 1:30 p.m. CalABLE will present to the <u>California Supported Life Network Leadership</u> <u>Conference</u> at the Paradise Point Resort 1404 Vacation Road in San Diego. Those interested in attending can register <u>here</u>.
- April 24 at 10:00 a.m. CalABLE will be an exhibitor at the California Department of Business Oversight Financial Literacy Month Resource Fair at the Reagan Building in Los Angeles, 300 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, 90013. Contact <u>Antonia.Villasenor@dbo.ca.gov</u>.
- April 25 at 6:00 p.m. CalABLE will join special-needs attorney Margaret Fulton for a presentation on CalABLE and Special Needs Trusts at the UC Davis MIND Institute, 2825 50th Street in Sacramento. Pre-registration required by emailing <u>ddcenter@ucdmc.ucdavis.edu</u>.

 April 26 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. CalABLE will host an information table at the California Department of Business Oversight Financial Literacy Month Resource Fair at 1315 10th Street in Sacramento. Contact <u>Kue.Lee@dbo.ca.gov</u>.

Other noteworthy topics

- Ohio hoping to grow accounts for disabled—Journal-News article
- Staunch ABLE supporter and National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) President and C.E.O., <u>Sara Hart Weir</u> has decided to step down this year to pursue opportunities
- Michigan ABLE (MiABLE) launches statewide education and awareness campaign

Legislative Efforts

The <u>ABLE Age Adjustment Act</u> (Hollen, Casey, Moran, and Roberts) was introduced in congress. S. 651 would raise the age of onset of disability for ABLE eligibility from 26 to 46. This will mean that more individuals who become disabled in adulthood would be eligible to open ABLE accounts. The National Association of State Treasurers (NAST) selected this measure as one of its top legislative priorities for this year at its recent legislative conference.

<u>AB 416</u> (Fong) was introduced in the Assembly in March. CalABLE appeared at Assemblyman Vince Fong's request and provided information on how the program has been going since launch. AB 416 would provide a tax deduction to CalABLE contributors.

<u>AB 736</u> (Irwin) seeks to create conformity between federal and state tax laws in order to ensure that the federal improvements made to ABLE accounts by tax reform in 2017 are available to all California residents as well.

CalABLE was invited to present to Assembly Committee on Revenue and Taxation for both of these bills.

Next CalABLE Act Board Meeting

May 28, 2019 | 1:30 p.m. |915 Capitol Mall Room 587