
Advocacy Director's Report

September 24, 2010 Report

This report represents a summary of the work Disability Rights California advocacy programs and projects reported through July 31, 2010; some activities on the legislative and press front may be more current. I'd like to thank those who provided the material to make this report possible.

COMMUNICATIONS

Our media work this quarter focused on our investigation of nursing homes; our class action case on behalf of Sacramento County mental health clients; our statewide voters' hotline for the June election; the need for legislation in support of parents with disabilities; and development of new communication tools, including a YouTube video and e-newsletter.

Press releases

The May 3 press release from our Investigations Unit, "Report finds incidences of abuse by nursing home staff not treated as crimes," resulted in an in-depth KPFK interview of Directing Attorney of our investigations unit Leslie Morrison, who was the main author of the study. Based on encouraging responses from state authorities, we are hopeful that some of our recommendations to improve reporting of abuse by nursing home staff will be accepted.

A June 1 press release announced our June 8 Election Day hotline for voters with disabilities and was reported in several local and community papers.

On May 5, we issued a release announcing the filing of a class action case asking the court to stop Sacramento County from shutting down contracted outpatient mental health services. The County planned to

substitute services by its own staff and ignore the need for continuity of care of approximately 4000 people using its community-based clinics. The resulting steady stream of press and television coverage has lasted for more than two months with the following highlights:

- May 7—Sacramento Bee, Associated Press, KCRA, Capitol Weekly, Daily Journal and California Business Journal;
- May 14—Sacramento Bee editorial supports our request for injunctive relief prior to consideration by the courts
- June 4—Sacramento Bee editorial calls for rethinking mental health cuts
- June 9—press release announces motion for injunction by Disability Rights California, Western Center on Law and Poverty and Cooley LLP
- July 20—our press advisory announces July 21 hearing to decide on injunction and the advice of the Department of Justice in the case that the Americans with Disabilities Act precludes the County’s plan
- July 21 press release announces injunction granted, resulting in follow-up stories by several papers. The Sacramento Bee reported on the importance of the injunction and ran stories in August about the large numbers of mental health clients filling the hospital waiting rooms in the Sacramento area.

In July, we worked with an advocacy group, Fathers and Families, on our co-sponsored bill to change family court law so that disability is not used as a reason to restrict custody and visitation rights of parents with disabilities. On August 18, the Los Angeles Daily News featured an op-ed by Glenn Sachs of Fathers and Families and Margaret Johnson, advocacy director, explaining the bill that has been signed into law by the governor.

Communications Goals: Goal 2

Disability Rights California Staff: Barbara Duncan

Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

NDRN Conference Plenary Highlights Media Work of People with Disabilities and Film Festival Award Given to Film about Disability Rights California's Laguna Honda Case

Disability Rights California co-organized a plenary session at the National Disability Rights Network's Annual Conference in Los Angeles to demonstrate improved progressive portrayals of disability in the media since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Several actors, artists, and reporters recognized included Alan Toy and Andrea Friedman for their award-winning television and film representations of life with a disability; and musician Nathaniel Ayers and reporter Steve Lopez for the book and film, "The Soloist," about Ayers' journey back from living on the streets of Los Angeles. Television and films clips featuring our investigations and lawsuits were shown to the 600 participants in the NDRN conference.

"Far from Home," a documentary about the Laguna Honda Hospital case, won a prize at this year's International Disability Film Festival known as Superfest, held in June in Berkeley. Lead counsel, Elissa Gershon, and named plaintiff Mark Chambers took numerous questions about the film and case from the more than 200 Bay Area participants.

Communications Goals: Goal 1

Disability Rights California Staff: Barbara Duncan, Elissa Gershon

Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

Website Features ADA Celebrations

This quarter, we promoted dozens of local Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) 20th anniversary celebrations throughout the state, participated in several, and fully supported the largest annual advocacy event, Disability Capitol Action Day in Sacramento. Held in May, program speakers reviewed the importance of the ADA, both historically as a landmark federal anti-discrimination law concerning people with disabilities, and its impact today as the keystone for anti-discrimination lawsuits. A few of our best staff photographers were present and we featured a series of their work on the website.

Communications Goals: Goal 3
Disability Rights California Staff: Barbara Duncan
Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

Website Provides Information on the State Budget and Public Interest in Mental Health Issues Rises

Top five search terms this quarter were In Home Supportive Services (IHSS), conservatorship, Lanterman Act, autism and special education.

Mirroring last quarter, the public is most interested in the impact of the budget cuts as reflected in the top 10 publications visited online, including both our IHSS and regional center fact sheets about new rules and restrictions. Also in the top 10 were the usual “best-sellers”: *Special Education Rights and Responsibilities*, *Rights under the Lanterman Act*, *Tort Claims*, and *Restraint & Seclusion in California Schools*. New this year is the consistent appearance of our *Advocacy Plan* in the top 10 visited publications.

New topics of interest breaking into the top 10 this quarter were psychiatric services and emotional support animals on the English website; and the publication, “When can a student receive medication at school?” on the Spanish website.

Although the vast majority of website visitors are from California, since January 2010, we had over 900 visitors from Canada and over 850 from the United Kingdom; and in total, visitors from 156 countries thus far this year.

Communications Goals: Goal 3
Disability Rights California Staff: Barbara Duncan
Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

Enewsletter and YouTube Video Developed

We developed an enewsletter that provides people who subscribe an email that gives highlights from our homepage and links to other areas of our website, such as About Us and the legislative pages. Work on a YouTube video about Disability Rights California is just about completed. The video gives an overview of the organization

and encourages people to contact us for help with disability related legal issues.

Communications Goals: Goal 3

Disability Rights California Staff: Barbara Duncan, Adam Borovkoff

Grant/Funding Source(s): Equal Access

Publications on CD!

We released a second version of our Publications Interactive CD. To date, we have distributed over 700 CDs. The CD contains several of our most popularly requested publications: *Rights under the Lanterman Act*, *Special Education Rights and Responsibilities*, many of our fact sheets on budget cuts, and our standard informational color brochure. It has multiple language versions of these publications in an easy-to-use format.

As we develop, update, and make our publications easier to read and use, we want to make their location on the web site user friendly with greater accessibility enhancements. Some of the access enhancements will include non-English short cut buttons to monolingual publications, a more accurate publications index, better publication category layout, a more simplified key issues structure, and a better method of separating external publications from our publications.

Public Education Goals: Goal 2, Objective A

Disability Rights California Staff: Adam Borovkoff

Grant/Funding Source(s): Equal Access

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

NOTE: Legislative activities are current at the time this report is prepared, however, the legislature moves quickly and things can change overnight. For the most current information about legislative activities reported here, check our home page and legislative website: <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/> and <http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/legislature/index.htm>

California Budget:

See February 6, 2010 and June 25, 2010 *Advocacy Director Report* for background information on the California budget.

The governor released his May Revision on May 14, 2010. The Assembly and Senate Budget Subcommittees considered the January and May budget proposals, rejecting some items while holding most open for the Budget Conference Committee's review. The Conference Committee rejected many of the governor's proposals along party lines, while the Democratic majority came up with their own plans to close the budget gap. There is still much to be decided and lawsuits to stop some cuts are still pending.

We created a chart of the governor's January and May budget proposals affecting people with disabilities and updated it with the decisions made by the budget committees. The decisions of the budget committees are not final, as proposals will change because pending issues are still being worked on by the legislature. See the chart here:

<http://www.disabilityrightsca.org/legislature/budget/2010/May%20Revision%20Chart%20updated%208-13-10%20final.htm>

Budget: Nursing home funding

We participated in two state-convened stakeholders meetings about the future funding of nursing homes, and joined with other advocacy groups to reform the reimbursement system, to ensure that more public dollars are used on care, and fewer dollars are given for uses that do not benefit the residents. For the first time, the administration

agreed with our request that the guaranteed profit for nursing homes be removed from the reimbursement system, and that other expenses are denied, as they bear no relationship to the care given the residents.

Budget: IHSS

The IHSS program was again threatened by a major cut – the governor proposed an approximate 50% cut – while nursing homes were in line for a rate increase until we succeeded in getting the administration to view nursing home profit differently (see above). We educated legislators about the disparity with which these long-term care services are treated, and urged them to look at a universal budget to provide more funding for home and community based services, such as IHSS. Such services are cheaper, preferred by the users of the services, and in line with the integration mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the *Olmstead* decision.

Along with other groups, we support the concept of a fee on IHSS services, which would bring in substantial new federal dollars of approximately \$200 million per year. The fee would have no effect on consumers or providers, but would constitute a “match” for federal money. The idea is gaining acceptance in the legislature since it will help ameliorate cuts to IHSS by replacing some state money with federal money.

This winter, the administration unveiled a plan to purchase military-style cameras, with fingerprinting capacity, to fingerprint and photograph the 450,000 people who use In Home Supportive Services as part of its “anti-fraud” campaign. See February 6, 2010 and June 25, 2010 *Advocacy Director Report* for background information on this issue. Legislative subcommittees, including members of both parties, expressed their unhappiness with this enormous expenditure, especially in light of the severe budget shortfall and the lack of any cost/benefit analysis. While the administration has not withdrawn its plan, it seems likely that the legislature will not allow it to go forward on the scale and with the costs as proposed.

Budget: Mental Health

See June 25, 2010 Advocacy Director Report for background information.

The May budget revision proposed shifting responsibility for provision of mental health services needed by special education students to local education agencies. Due to concerns about the ability of education to provide these services, the conference committee agreed to the following compromise:

- Reject the governor's proposal to eliminate the state mandate on counties to provide special education mental health related services pursuant to AB 3632 in 2010-11.
- Reduce by \$52 million in General Funds (non- prop 98) for payment to the Department of Mental Health of AB 3632 mandate claims in 2010-11.
- Use \$133 million in General Funds (non- prop 98) for payment to Department of Mental Health of prior year AB 3632 mandate claims.
- Appropriate \$3.0 million in one-time federal special education (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) funds and adopt budget bill language directing the Department of Education to contract for statewide technical assistance to Special Education Local Planning Areas (SELPA) regarding best practices in mental health related service delivery for students with disabilities.

Budget: Education - Behavioral Intervention Plans

See June 25, 2010 Advocacy Director Report for background information.

In response to the Governor's budget proposal to suspend most Kindergarten through twelfth grade mandates, the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) put forward alternative proposals for overall reform of state mandates. We met with LAO representatives and budget committee staff to help them understand the importance of

Behavior Intervention Plans, and how careful examination of the law before any changes are made is imperative to protect the best interests of children with disabilities. Ultimately, they decided to take a faster approach to ridding the state of the mandate by reconciling state and federal law requirements through a budget trailer bill. We worked with budget committee staff and LAO representatives on the language of the trailer bill. We stressed the importance of BIPs and the importance of wording the bill in a way that would not release schools from any of their current obligations. We negotiated language that released the state from the mandate while preserving the underlying statute and related regulations.

Public Policy Goals: Goals 3, 4, 6

Disability Rights California Staff: Evelyn Abouhassan, Deborah Doctor, Brandon Tartaglia, Margaret Johnson, Catherine Blakemore

Grant/Funding Source(s): Equal Access, Trust Fund

Other Legislative Work

Special Education and Truancy

Senator Leno introduced SB 1317, a bill that allows for criminal penalties for parents whose children are “habitually truant.” The bill contained no provisions for children with disabilities who may be truant because their educational service and support needs are unmet by the education system. We worked with the author’s office to get provisions for special education students amended into the bill. Unfortunately, after many attempts to negotiate language, we could not reach an agreement that would not create additional state costs. In order to ensure students with disabilities needs are met, Senator Leno’s office offered to send a letter to the Senate Daily Journal stating that the intent of the bill is to ensure supports and services are in place for children with disabilities.

Public Policy Goals: Goals 3, 5

Disability Rights California Staff: Evelyn Abouhassan, Brandon Tartaglia

Grant/Funding Source(s): Equal Access, Trust Fund

Ensuring Diversity in Department of Developmental Services Stakeholder Processes

During this quarter, we worked on legislation to ensure diverse representation when the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) convenes stakeholder organizations to make decisions about the provision of services for persons with developmental disabilities.

Currently, "stakeholder organizations" means statewide organizations representing the interest of consumers, family members, service providers and statewide advocacy organizations. AB 2204 (Beall) would have required DDS to consider the state's ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic diversity when convening a stakeholder group. The bill as amended in the Assembly Human Services Committee also requires DDS to take into account sexual orientation and gender identity diversity.

The bill made it to the Senate Appropriations Committee. We met with committee staff, the author's staff, and legislative representatives from the Pro Tem's office to discuss the importance of the bill and urge its passage. We drafted support letters and testified about the perception of discrimination that would be perpetuated in the disability community if the bill did not move. Unfortunately, because of the perceived, but not actual cost pressures that the bill could create, the bill died in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Public Policy Goals: Goals 3, 5

Disability Rights California Staff: Evelyn Abouhassan

Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

Ensuring that an Individual's Individual Program Plan Team Makes Decisions About the Needs and Provision of Services for a Person with Developmental Disabilities

Last year's budget process reduced the developmental disabilities service system by \$334 million. The legislature reduced services such as respite and supported living services; suspended services like camping and social recreation; and required the use of private insurance and least costly vendors.

Advocates became aware that regional centers were implementing the reductions, in some cases, without going through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process as required by the Lanterman Act. In response, The Arc of California sponsored a bill (AB 2702) to make sure that the IPP process is followed when services are changed pursuant to the budget bill. We also found that regional centers do not always tell people with developmental disabilities and their families about exceptions and exemptions to the service limits or the process for requesting exceptions and exemptions.

We supported AB 2702 (Chesbro) as it moved through the legislature by testifying in committees, working on amendments with the sponsors, and drafting letters of support. We met with representatives from the Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS), the Pro Tem's office, and The Arc of California to work on amendments to help it pass out of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Because of perceived costs, the bill did not move out of the committee.

To ensure enforcement of the current IPP provisions in the Lanterman Act, we will work with the DDS and other stakeholders, including The Arc, to develop a program advisory for distribution to regional centers. The advisory will explain what regional centers must do in regards to the IPP process before implementing changes in services because of last year's budget bill.

To make sure that regional center clients are told about the changes in the law and exceptions to service limits, we worked with stakeholders to develop trailer bill language that requires notice about the exceptions and exemptions. Other stakeholders involved in developing the notice included The Arc of California and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ACRA). The language we helped develop was adopted by the budget committees.

Public Policy Goals: Goals 3, 5

Disability Rights California Staff: Evelyn Abouhassan, Catherine Blakemore

Grant/Funding Source(s): Trust Fund

Medicaid 1115 waiver:

See February 6, 2010 Advocacy Director Report for background information on the Medicaid 1115 waiver.

We participated in the administration's stakeholder meetings about its submission of a Medicaid waiver that would, among other provisions, mandate managed care for people with disabilities who use Medi-Cal. This change has the potential for great benefit, but an equally great possibility of harm if the transition to managed care moves too quickly, if health providers are not ready to serve an enormous influx of members with disabilities, and if those members have no way to exit managed care if it does not meet their needs. We worked closely with Western Center on Law and Poverty, National Health Law Project and Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund to formulate position papers, meet with legislative and administration staff, and educate people about the possibilities and pitfalls of the upcoming waiver. The administration submitted the initial waiver proposal to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS); we participated in calls and letters to CMS staff to lay out our concerns. As of this date, the state has received a two-month extension of the existing hospital waiver, which does not include any of the proposed provisions affecting people with disabilities.

Public Policy Goals: Goals 3, 5

Disability Rights California Staff: Deborah Doctor

Grant/Funding Source(s): Equal Access

Help America Vote Act State Plan Submitted to the Election Assistance Commission

The federal Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) created federal standards for voting systems, provisional ballot requirements and posting voter information at polling places, and mandated the creation of a single, statewide list of registered voters.

Each state and territory is required to have a State Plan to comply with HAVA. California's State Plan was published in 2003, and the first State Plan update was published on September 30, 2004.

The HAVA State Plan 2010 update explains progress made by California on meeting the federal requirement, as well as other procedures and processes that will be used to continue managing HAVA's implementation at the state and local levels. Adoption of the HAVA State Plan 2010 update is one step in a required process that will make California eligible to receive additional federal funds appropriated by Congress in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Disability Rights California staff was appointed to the HAVA State Plan 2010 Committee. In this role, we commented at every step of the way on the proposed update. Our comments focused on improving access to voting systems, access to voter information, and training of poll workers about the rights of voters with disabilities as well as developing performance measures for voting system accessibility. The HAVA State Plan 2010 update was submitted to the Election Assistance Commission on July 29, 2010. The HAVA State Plan 2010 update is located here:

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/hava/state-plan/state-plan-final.pdf>

Public Policy Goals: Goal 5

Discrimination Goals and Objectives: Goal 4, Objective B

Disability Rights California Staff: Margaret Johnson, Fred Nisen, Hillary Sklar

Grant/Funding Source(s): PAVA

SELF ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

PEER SELF ADVOCACY

PSA Groups at the Northern Valley Catholic Social Services Second Home and the Crestwood Treatment Center in Redding

Some of the subjects studied by the groups this past quarter included stigma and discrimination, working while disabled, vocational rehabilitation, and crisis planning to avoid seclusion and restraint. Group members have been receptive to the information presented and interested in learning more.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B
Disability Rights California Staff: Mark Olberg
Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI

Napa State Hospital PSA Group

From June through August, two law students from Boalt Law School participated in the Napa Advocacy Project. Students met privately with residents and helped them understand the steps they need to take to resolve problems related to their commitment.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B
Disability Rights California Staff: Debi Davis
Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI

Crestwood Center in Sacramento

After waiting for over 6 months, residents of Crestwood Center in Sacramento have access to a computer for personal use. They submitted a petition request last year to the facility and through their advocacy succeeded in getting the petition approved.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B
Disability Rights California Staff: Louis Williamson
Grant/Funding Source: PAIMI

Sonoma County Self Advocacy Work Continues for Another Year

Sonoma County Mental Health renewed our contract to provide peer self-advocacy groups under the Mental Health Services Act. Our services include providing self-advocacy groups and self-advocacy workshops. This past quarter we held workshops on advance directives for clients of the Wellness and Advocacy Center, and Buckelew Programs in Santa Rosa; and at the River Road Empowerment Center, Guerneville.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Sonoma Contract goals and PSA Goal 1, Objective B

Disability Rights California Staff: Linda Kehoe

Grant/Funding Source: Sonoma Contract

The “Vocation Station” at Patton State Hospital

As a result of collaborative efforts between Disability Rights California staff and clinical service staff at Patton State Hospital, the first peer-support drop-in center will be held once a month for residents on all 3 compounds. Called the “Vocation Station,” all residents will have access to our assistance and self-help materials at a specified location and time. This service is in addition to the peer self-advocacy group that meets monthly at Patton during resident’s “free time.” Efforts are underway to increase the frequency of these self-advocacy groups so that residents can attend a group on a weekly basis while getting individual assistance at the Vocation Station drop-in center. In this way, we plan to meet the needs of Patton residents.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective A (Self-Advocacy Groups)

Disability Rights California Staff: Garnet Magnus

Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI

The Benefits of Self-Advocacy in the Community

This was the third year that we presented a series of three workshops about mental health disabilities and patients’ rights for people in the Spanish-speaking community in Los Angeles. During one of the

workshops, a participant expressed her dissatisfaction with the services she had received at a local clinic. She said that they were not providing her with the medications she needed in a timely manner because they needed to confirm that she was qualified to receive them. The delay and lack of medication negatively affected her health and wellbeing. A speaker at the workshop happened to be the director of the clinic where she had gone for assistance, and said that he would ensure that she and all future clients would receive respectful and fair treatment. By expressing her concerns, this participant effectively demonstrated the benefits and positive effects of self-advocacy and asserting one's rights. Not only would she receive better services, but other members in the community would also benefit from her courage to speak up. In addition to the weekly self-advocacy groups, these workshops provide an avenue for people in the community to learn about their rights and practice their self-advocacy skills.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective A (Self-Advocacy Groups)

Disability Rights California Staff: Senobia Pichardo

Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI

Celebration of 20 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

We attended the 20-year celebration of the Americans with Disabilities Act at the Westside Independent Living Center in Los Angeles. We provided information about the advancements made for the rights of people with disabilities. For many participants from the local monolingual Spanish-speaking community this was their first exposure to the history of the disability civil rights movement in the United States. A local city councilmember gave a motivational speech regarding his efforts to improve city access, thus providing attendees with insight into the issues that people with different disabilities face and ways to ensure access. We let people know about the self-advocacy groups that we provide in the Los Angeles area and encouraged them to attend to learn more about their rights and how to advocate for themselves.

Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B (Outreach, Education and Training)

Disability Rights California Staff: Rosy Tellez

Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PEER SELF ADVOCACY

We provided 32 trainings, presentations, and outreaches this quarter on a variety of topics such as: Abuse Prevention, Emergency Preparedness, Rights of People who Live in Facilities, Rights to Community Based Living Options, Individual Program Plan (IPP) Rights, Rights to Choice in Service Delivery, Effective Strategies for IPP Rights in Tight Budget Times, Changes to the Lanterman Act, Appeal Rights, Voting Rights, Civic Participation, How to be an Effective Polling Place Monitor, Rights of People Served by the Regional Center System, and the Importance and Right to Speak Up For Yourself. In addition we provided information about our services to approximately 1,019 people and groups such as: The Regional Center of the East Bay, The Self Advocacy Coordination Project, Sierra College Rocklin, The Arc of Culver City, the Choices Conference in Stockton, The Casa Del Sol facility in Stockton, The Lincoln Training Center in Los Angeles, The Empowerment Institute in Sacramento, the Choices day program in South Lake Tahoe, Solutions Plus in Los Angeles, Milestones day program in Vallejo, The Arc of Alameda County in Union City and Hayward, Abilities First in Los Angeles, The People First of San Diego Regional Conference, The People First of California Statewide Self Advocacy Conference United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of San Diego, UCP of North San Diego, Sonoma Developmental Center, Lanterman Developmental Center, and Canyon Springs ICFDD.

Developmental Disabilities Peer/Self Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B

Disability Rights California Staff: Daniel Meadows, Maria Marquez, Marinda Reed and Scott Barron

Grant/Funding Source(s): PADD, PAVA

AC Received Assistance when Changing Regional Centers

AC contacted us with the help of a family member because she was concerned about her upcoming Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. AC had recently moved to a new area and now received services from a different regional center. She was not familiar with the services available to her and was concerned that she would not get the services that she needed. AC wanted information about her rights and the available services in her new community as well as assistance making contact with a local self-advocacy group. We gave AC materials about regional center service rights and how to change from one regional center to another. We provided AC and her family with information and tips for having a successful IPP meeting. We gave her contact information for the local People First chapter. AC reported that she had a very positive IPP to establish her new services and that she had attended a People First meeting and was eagerly awaiting an upcoming event.

Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective A

Disability Rights California Staff: Marinda Reed, Daniel Meadows, Scott Barron and Maria Marquez

Grant/Funding Source: PADD

Spring Training at Programs, Colleges, Conferences and Developmental Centers

We provided training at The Arc of Culver City on rights in facilities to 30 people served by the program. We provided participants with information about the rights of people who live in facilities such as group homes, intermediate care facilities, skilled nursing facilities and other types of congregate care settings. We also provided information about individual program plans and voting rights. Our training included user-friendly materials, a power point presentation, and a question and answer session to address specific areas of concern as well as hear how others had solved rights issues.

Since there were elections this summer, we worked with developmental centers, community groups and providers to get the word out about the importance of civic participation and voting rights

for people with disabilities. We conducted 16 nonpartisan voting rights, civic participation, and poll monitoring trainings for a variety of community groups and programs affecting approximately 437 people including at such facilities as Sonoma and Lanterman Developmental Centers and Canyon Springs ICFDD. Participants learned about the importance of voting, how to register to vote, accessibility issues, voting rights of people with disabilities, different ways of voting such as voting by mail or with adaptive voting equipment, and about the right to receive assistance with the voting process. Participants received information on researching candidates or issues and accessing non-partisan voter information such as the Easy Voter Guide.

At the San Diego and People First of California conferences, we presented training at each conference serving approximately 204 people. One of the trainings was about the changes to the Lanterman Act, individual program plans (IPP) and appeal rights because of last year's California budget. This training focused on how to keep needed services, how exceptions and exemptions are handled, IPP rights, and how to appeal proposed service changes or denials.

The other training was an overview of service rights for people with developmental disabilities and the important self-advocacy, specifically the right to speak up for yourself. Information was given about regional center rights and the IPP process. Participants practiced self-advocacy skills and as a result felt more comfortable discussing their needs and preferences in IPP meetings or with service staff.

Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 1, Objective B

Disability Rights California Staff: Marinda Reed, Maria Marquez, Daniel Meadows, Lori Shepherd, Nakida Gooding, Scott Barron

Grant/Funding Source: PADD, PAVA

Members of the Self Advocacy Board of Los Angeles County, Area Board X and Disability Rights California Collaborate to Develop a Generic Resource Hand Book, "Bandaging the Budget"

We worked in collaboration with the Self Advocacy Board of Los Angeles County (SABLAC) and the Developmental Disability Area Board X, who received a grant from the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, to create a booklet to give information about low cost or free resources to help people impacted by state budget cuts. The resource guide entitled, “Bandaging the Budget,” took six months to complete. It provides information on resources for meeting health and other needs. The guide is organized by regional center service areas within the Los Angeles area. Some of the categories included are dental services, mental-health services and eye exam services, as well as information on local food banks and other generic services. The project printed 2000 copies and distributed them to each regional center in the Los Angeles area and to many local programs. “Bandaging the Budget” is also available in electronic form on some participating regional center websites and the SABLAC website. See <http://www.areaboard10.org/downloads/Bandaging%20the%20budget%20booklet.pdf>

Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal1, Objective C

Disability Rights California Staff: Marinda Reed, Maria Marquez, Daniel Meadows, Scott Barron

Grant/Funding Source: PADD

Consumer Advocacy Network Face-to-Face

We are collaborating with the Consumer Advocates Network, a group of consumer advocates and representatives from regional centers and other federal and state stakeholder groups, on the annual Face-to-Face meeting. The Face-to-Face will provide a forum for discussion and continuing education regarding best practices and emerging issues within peer self-advocacy services.

Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal1 Objective C

Disability Rights California Staff: Marinda Reed, Maria Marquez, Daniel Meadows, Scott Barron

Grant/Funding Source: PADD

CALIFORNIA MEMORIAL PROJECT

Researching the Lives of Camarillo State Hospital Residents and Placing California Memorial Project Monuments and Remembrance Day

In May, we met with a representative of a local cemetery, Conejo Mountain Cemetery, in the city of Camarillo, where we believed Camarillo State Hospital residents to be buried. After researching the names of Camarillo State Hospital residents who died while living at the institution, we could not document their final resting place and thus cannot ascertain where individuals are buried. We will continue our research in hopes of locating the final resting place of individuals from this state hospital.

One of the goals of the California Memorial Project (CMP) is to place a monument or memorial on the grounds of current and former state hospitals to honor and recognize the lives of people with psychiatric or developmental disabilities who died while living in them. Thus far, memorials have been placed in Stockton and Ukiah, and another will be placed on the grounds of Patton State Hospital in October of this year. This year's Remembrance Day ceremony and moment of Silence will take place on Monday, September 20, at various sites throughout the state. Everyone is invited to the event.

Peer Self-Advocacy: Goal 2, Objective A (California Memorial Project)

Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Goals: Goal 2, Objective A

Disability Rights California Staff: Robyn Gantsweg, Alicia Mendosa, Daniel Meadows, Marinda Reed

Grant/Funding Source(s): PAIMI, PADD