



*Serving Consumers of
Inland Regional Center*

Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy
1585 South D Street, Suite 206
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Tel: (909) 383-1133
TTY: (877) 669-6023
Fax: (909) 383-1113

www.disabilityrightsca.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeanne Molineaux, Director

FROM: Beatriz Reyes, OCRA Outreach Coordinator (South)
Kendra McWright OCRA Outreach Coordinator (North)

RE: Semi-Annual OCRA Outreach Report
July – December 2011

DATE: 2/3/2012

The demand for OCRA to conduct outreach trainings and presentations every year is always extremely high and the past 6 months has been no exception. During this review period, OCRA staff conducted 169 outreach trainings and presentations to 8,088 attendees. Below we have provided a breakdown of the distinct types of outreach staff provide (self-advocacy trainings, general and targeted outreach) statewide. OCRA staff contributed their thoughts as to why the highlighted outreaches were unique and/or impactful.

Self-Advocacy Trainings

Normally, each OCRA office conducts a minimum of one self-advocacy training per contract year. Topics presented during this review period included: Emergency Preparedness/ Being Safe, Feeling Safe, Self-Advocacy/ Client's Rights, Hands Off My Money/Rights to Money Management, Voting Rights, and Community Living Options/ My Own Choice.

Voting Training Provided for Central Valley and Kern Regional Center

Clients: *The Primary Advisory Committee at CVRC hosted a Self-Advocacy Conference on November 10, 2011. Our office and DRC presented a Voter Rights Training during the breakout session. The training lead to a lively discussion about how to vote, who can vote and the value of voting.*

Consumer Rights Bingo Training Provided to Ability First Day

Program: *The OCRA office serving consumers and families of the Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center facilitated a self-advocacy activity with over 25 adult consumers attending the Ability First work program in Pasadena on August 29, 2011. The consumers participated in a bingo game in which they learned about their rights as regional center consumers, as well as specific rights for those participants that lived in group homes and other facilities in the community. All the consumers were very participatory and given the individual opportunity to share their comments after choosing a bingo card that identified a specific right. Everyone had a fun time learning.*

Outreach Trainings and Presentations Statewide (General Outreach):

Given that OCRA is required to conduct a minimum of 160 trainings per contract year, over the past 6 months we have met and surpassed our annual goal with 169 trainings to 8,088 attendees. Staff have worked to create and maintain contacts in their respective communities and have been encouraged to seek out new outreach opportunities to ensure that OCRA is reaching-out to all members of their catchment areas. What follows is a description by staff of new or innovative outreach trainings and presentations they provided over the review period:

Napa County Special Education Transition Fair: *Every year our office has a table at this event. Transition aged special education students, families and professionals attend the fair. The event was created for transition aged people to gather resources and learn about support services for adults. A variety of agencies that provide services for people who have disabilities have tables at the fair. OCRA enjoys participating in this event because it is fun way to help students learn about their rights.*

Take Back the Power on Abuse and Neglect of Older Adults and People with Disabilities: *OCRA, in collaboration with Orange County Behavioral Health, Dayle McIntosh Center, Area Board XI, Orange County*

Adult Protective Supervision, Regional Center of Orange County, and the UCI Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect planned and executed the 8th Annual Disability Rights Workshop entitled "Take Back the Power" on abuse and neglect of older adults and people with disabilities. Topics included warning signs and risk factors for physical, emotional and financial abuse, prevention and local resources, bullying, institution/caregiver abuse, and hoarding. The workshop featured Laura Mosqueda, M.D. from the Center of Excellence on Elder Abuse & Neglect at UCI as opening key note speaker, Leslie Morrison, Esq. and Michael Stortz, Esq. from Disability Rights California, a panel from the Anaheim Family Justice Center, and other knowledgeable speakers in individual break out sessions. Attendance was at the maximum capacity of 185 people. The surveys completed by the attendees indicated that all expectations of the workshop had been met, and noted that the information provided at the workshop by highly knowledgeable presenters was greatly appreciated. CRA provided the OCRA brochure at the resource table and spoke to many attendees about what OCRA is and how OCRA can assist consumers of the regional centers.

Targeted Outreach:

Organizationally, OCRA has made a commitment to actively outreach to and serve people with developmental disabilities from traditionally underserved communities. Of the 22 offices statewide, 18 offices have targeted the Latino community through their outreach plans, 1 office has targeted Asians, 2 offices have targeted African Americans, and 1 office has targeted the Native American community. OCRA continues to build lasting relationships of trust with leaders and members in communities typically underserved by social service agencies.

North Los Angeles County Outreach on IHSS: *Our office planned this in conjunction with Jay Nolan Community Services in response to complaints from families and providers regarding recent change to the In-Home Supportive Services Program (IHSS). It was unique because we were working with a local community agency to provide information to the consumers and families as to how to advocate for their rights despite recent changes in the law. The audience included a combination of English and Spanish speaking consumers, families and advocates who primarily reside and serve the San Fernando Valley Area.*

Diploma v. Certificate of Completion: *Celebracion de Familias Excepcionales* asked the Kern OCRA office serving consumers of Kern Regional Center to give a presentation on the difference between receiving a Diploma vs. Certificate of Completion to a group of 20 mono-lingual Spanish speaking parents. In addition, there was an emphasis on the importance of developing an out of high school transition plan early on. Parents were so thirsty for knowledge that they then began asking questions about parental rights with adult children and conservatorships. At that point the training took an exciting turn where we discussed a client's right to autonomy as the core of everything we believe in and do, and educated the parents and others on alternatives to a conservatorship such as powers of attorney or advanced health care directives, which can help parents remain an important part of their children's lives after they turn 18-years-old. Parents were very appreciative and receptive to the information they received and asked to be part of the next presentation OCRA puts together.

We are excited to see what the next 6 months brings as we work to provide outreach to our communities with a focus on serving those communities which have been traditionally underserved.

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate outreach presentations and trainings statewide for OCRA.