



*Serving Consumers of
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeanne Molineaux, Director

FROM: Anastasia Bacigalupo, OCRA Outreach Coordinator

RE: Semi-Annual OCRA Outreach Report
July – December 2010

DATE: January 25, 2011

The demand for OCRA to conduct outreach trainings and presentations every year is always extremely high and the past six months has been no exception. During this review period, OCRA staff conducted more than 200 outreach trainings and presentations. Below is a breakdown of the distinct types of outreach that staff provide (self-advocacy trainings, general and targeted outreach) statewide. With general and targeted outreach, 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. During this review period, OCRA staff conducted 19 self-advocacy trainings to 772 attendees. Topics presented during this review period were Emergency Preparedness/ Being Safe, Feeling Safe, Self-Advocacy/ Client's Rights, Hands off My Money/ Money Management, Voting Rights, and Community Living Options/ My Own Choice.

Outreach Trainings and Presentations Statewide

OCRA is required to conduct a minimum of 160 trainings per contract year, so over the past six months OCRA met and surpassed our annual goal with

205 trainings to 10,141 attendees. Although staff have established contacts in their respective catchment areas, they are encouraged to seek new or innovative ways to connect with their community and the professionals that serve them. What follows is a description by staff of new or innovative outreach trainings and presentations they provided over the review period:

- **Summer Institute on Neurodevelopment Disorders:** *“People from all over the state attended this institute that focused primarily on Autism. We had a table and set up an intake clinic to answer individual questions from attendees.”*
- **Logan’s Run:** *“The event was aimed at raising awareness about individuals with Autism. The event was particularly important for our office because it was held within our catchment area in the San Fernando Valley and afforded us the opportunity to partner with Jay Nolan Community Services, a service provider that assists many consumers of NLACRC.”*
- **Dominican College Autism Fair:** *“This fair catered to consumers, family members, professionals, care providers and regional center staff. What was really wonderful about the fair was that it really did cover Autism from infancy to adulthood. I saw several teens and adults that I had worked with when they were very young.”*
- **Client's Rights Training to Hope House:** *“This outreach was unique because we were asked by the administration of Hope House CCF to provide a training to its staff on Clients’ Rights. This outreach was impactful for the clients living in this facility because staff did have questions that they sent in advance and participated in discussion during the training.”*
- **UCLA Early Childhood Partial Hospitalization Program:** *“It was important for our office to provide this outreach because often times parents in the program have children who have been recently diagnosed with Autism and they are very interested in and appreciative of the information we share. It is impactful to our community because these parents find out about OCRA for the first time, feel extremely relieved that they can come to us with any legal questions they have, and they share what they learned about OCRA with other parents.”*
- **In Service at Travis Fairfield Air Force Base:** *“This outreach was unique because we actually were able to do outreach to the air force*

base community which is constantly changing. It is a challenge for us to outreach there because of all of the security issues and maintaining a contact on the base. The audience was comprised of air force base hospital staff (nurses, medical technicians, and social workers), parent advocates, and parents.”

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, 15 offices have targeted the Latino community through their outreach plans, 3 offices have targeted Asians, 3 offices have targeted African Americans, and 1 office has targeted the Native American community. The selection of the target communities for the 2009-2011 outreach years shows OCRA’s continued effort to build lasting relationships of trust with leaders and members in communities typically underserved by social service agencies.

OCRA staff are encouraged to seek new or innovative ways to connect with their targeted communities. What follows is a description by staff of new or innovative targeted outreach trainings and presentations they provided over the review period:

- **Congreso Familiar:** *“We love participating in this event because it covers the entire Bay Area, and people come from all over because it is the main event for Latino families from our regional center. There are classes that parents and others can take. The booths and tables are ready for display in the courtyard, for when the participants break for lunch. During lunch, the participants enjoy live entertainment performed by consumers. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming.”*
- **Hmong Healthy Families Fair:** *“This was an impactful outreach to the Hmong community because many attendees were recent immigrants to this country.”*
- **8th Annual LAUSD Special Education Resource Fair:** *“This was impactful for the Latino community because we were able to educate the community about our office and the legal services we offer in the area of special education.”*
- **Native American Tribal Council Pow-Wow:** *“This was an impactful event because we educated the Native American community about*

developmental disabilities, regional center and OCRA. We conducted intake on site and provided answers to individual legal questions.”

- **Urban League Harvard Head Start:** *“This outreach connected our office to additional Urban League head starts serving the African-American community within our catchment. This outreach was impactful for us because there was a nice balance of disabled and non-disabled children and the parents were very appreciative of the information because they did not know much about over age 3 services at the regional center.”*
- **Asian Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California Statewide Disabilities Conference:** *“This outreach was unique because it brought together professionals of different disciplines who provide services to people with disabilities who also happen to be Asian Pacific Islander. The professionals shared their experiences working with the Asian Pacific Islander community. It was also unique because consumers and parents were given the opportunity to share their experiences and provide helpful advice with other conference attendees regarding the Individualized Education Program process and the Regional Center system.”*
- **Solano County Outreach on Special Education:** *“We planned this with the Area Board and Matrix in response to complaints from families and professionals regarding basics rights violations at IEPs in the county. It was unique because we were working with other agencies and collaborating to outreach to a community who seemed in need of some very basic information. There are a lot of Latinos in Solano County and the parent advocates were mainly Spanish speaking.”*

I am excited to see what the next six months brings as we close not only the 2010-2011 outreach year but our two year plan spanning 2009-2011.

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