



*Serving Consumers of
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center*

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Disability Rights California
Board of Directors
OCRA Advisory Committee

FROM: Anastasia Bacigalupo, Statewide Outreach Coordinator

RE: Annual OCRA Outreach Report
July 2009–June 2010

DATE: August 5, 2010

Overview of the Past Twelve Months

In the month of July, OCRA staff embarked upon the process of evaluating their communities, picking target communities and developing new outreach plans. Statewide staff participated in a training focused on supporting their outreach efforts. The training provided staff with information on how to cultivate new community contacts and how to do a legal clinic. In addition, staff watched a DVD on presentation skills and staff participated in an interactive dynamic implementing the skills discussed in the DVD. Lastly, all staff were acknowledged for their individual and collective contributions to OCRA's outreach effort for the 2007-2009 outreach years.

For August, September and October, 2009, staff finalized their outreach goals and objectives, and began to connect with their contacts within their respective catchment areas. Also, during this period, staff doubled their outreach efforts to reach consumers, their families and circles of supports regarding the Trailer Budget Bill and potential changes to the IHSS program. Staff collaborated with Disability Rights California staff

throughout the state to provide accessible outreach trainings related to the budget cuts and changes to IHSS.

During November and December, OCRA staff worked diligently, seeking opportunities to educate consumers, their families and communities about ways to maintain their services and supports despite the tough budget times. Staff continued its focus on the development of on-going relationships with traditionally underserved communities of color, providing trainings to communities on a variety of subjects including the following: Special Education Rights, IEP Development, IPP Development, Regional Center Fair Hearing Process, Medi-Cal, Social Security, In Home Supportive Services, and Denial of Rights. Staff also conducted numerous client-centered outreaches, training consumers on financial abuse, voting rights, and clients' rights.

In January, February and March, staff redoubled their efforts to provide the Emergency Preparedness self-advocacy training to consumers. OCRA staff used the 'Feeling Safe, Being Safe' materials supplied by DDS with great success. The Emergency Preparedness trainings were so popular with consumers that several offices did multiple trainings over the remaining six months of the 2009-2010 outreach years.

Lastly, for the months of April, May, and June, staff provided large numbers of outreaches and trainings at disability-related events all over the state. Here is a sampling of the spring conferences and resource fairs attended:

- Fresno Disability Awareness Day
- Junior Statesmen of America Conference in Long Beach
- Long Beach Special Education Transition Fair
- Fiesta Educativa in Riverside
- People First of San Diego Conference
- Sonoma Developmental Center Opportunity Fair
- Montgomery County Special Education Resource Fair in Salinas
- Santa Barbara County Office of Education Transitions Fair
- Autism Walkathon in Pasadena
- Tools for Transition Conference in Los Angeles

Target Communities

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 the regional center and other social service agencies.

Outreach Highlights

Over the past twelve months, OCRA has provided 566 outreach trainings and reached 25,555 people. This is an increase of 26 per cent in the number of trainings and 27 per cent in the number of attendees from last fiscal year. This is a very substantial increase in the amount of work required for outreach/training, and there is serious doubt that such a huge increase can be sustained for a long period of time. The increase reflects the families and consumers' needs for current information caused as a result of the substantial changes to the Lanterman Act, Medi-Cal and IHSS laws.

Statewide staff continued to meet their goals and objectives by conducting self-advocacy trainings to consumers and their circles of support. OCRA offices conducted 1 or more self-advocacy trainings on topics like "Emergency Preparedness," "Voting Rights," and "Changes to the Lanterman Act."

OCRA staff look forward to the second year of their two year plan with great anticipation and enthusiasm. The people who comprise OCRA are impressive both on an individual and collective level. It is no great surprise that their outreach efforts are impressive as well.