



*Serving Consumers of
South Central Los Angeles Regional Center*

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 3, 2009

TO: Jeanne Molineaux, Director

FROM: Anastasia Bacigalupo, OCRA Statewide Outreach Coordinator

RE: Semi-Annual Outreach Report, 2007-2009 Reporting Period

On July 1, 2008, OCRA staff began the second year of their current two-year outreach plans. On December 31, 2008, OCRA staff ended the first two quarters of the remaining outreach year ending in June 2009. OCRA staff met their commitment to developing on-going relationships within their communities, increasing community contacts and the strength of individual office relationships with members of their communities.

The OCRA outreach committee and the OCRA Supervising CRAs continue to encourage staff to seek out opportunities to educate consumers, their families and community leaders. In December 2008, DDS presented an outreach training on emergency preparedness to OCRA staff. The training was a "Train the Trainer" type of presentation, with hands-on participation of staff. DDS staff gave OCRA staff materials to be used in outreach presentations and OCRA is in the process of developing an approach for staff to use these materials in an effective and thoughtful manner.

Over the course of the first and second quarters, OCRA 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: Early Start/Intervention, IEP Development, IFSP Development, IPP Development, Regional Center Fair

Hearing Process, Supportive Living Services, Medi-Cal, Social Security, In Home Supportive Services, Alternatives to Conservatorships, Voting Rights and Denial of Rights. OCRA also conducted numerous client-centered outreaches, training consumers on financial abuse, voting rights, and clients' rights.

Over the past year, OCRA has provided more than 175 outreach activities statewide including participation with groups that develop activities statewide and impacted more than 8,100 people. Below are highlights from the review period. It is a sampling of the work by staff to creatively reach out and meet the training needs of consumers, family members, support groups, vendors, and other providers statewide.

July

Foster Care and Children with Special Health Care Needs

Katie Casada-Hornberger gave a presentation at the Family Voices conference on the foster care system. She addressed how children with special healthcare needs within the foster care system are significantly impacted by moving between counties and competing service systems. She offered caregivers strategies and solutions to issues around decision making authority, signatory rights and the transition process.

August

Multi-Lingual SSI Clinic

Katy Lusson and Amanda St. James conducted a SSI Clinic for English, Spanish and Cantonese speaking attendees. Katy and Amanda worked individually with families to address their questions and concerns.

September

"Transdisciplinary" Advocacy: A Presentation to Service Providers

Matt Pope and Lucy Garcia provided a presentation on how various service systems work to provide regional center clients with services and supports. It contained tips for service providers working within those systems to assist clients and families better advocate for the wants and needs of a client.

October

Voting Rights Series

Jackie Coleman did a series of Voting Rights outreach presentations. She provided materials on OCRA and voter information. She had an interactive

“question and answer” discussion with consumers at several day programs about their voting rights and helped consumers who wished to register to vote. She provided assistance by reading and explaining how to fill out the numbered areas of the form correctly.

November

Transition Training for DD High School Students

Kathy Mottarella and Gina Gheno provided a transition from high school to higher education training to consumer students and staff at Santa Barbara Community College, using the bingo self-advocacy training materials.

December

Reaching out to Non-Target Groups: Hmong Asian Community & Native American Community.

On December 30th, Arthur Lipscomb first conducted an introductory outreach to the Hmong community on the Hmong New Year, covering topics related to OCRA and Disability Rights California. Then, on December 31st, Arthur attended the New Year’s Eve Red Road Pow Wow, an event put on by the local North American Indian community, providing information on OCRA and Disability Rights California.