

**Disability Rights of California
OCRA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 7, 2014, 3:00pm
Declan Suites, San Diego, CA**

PRESENT: Herb Anderson, Billy Hall, Amy Kalivas, Judy Mark, Lakeisha Burke, Cheryl Hewitt, Jean Townsend

STAFF: Catherine Blakemore, Katana Austin-Burrell, Katie Hornberger, Andrew Mudryk, Milanka Radoslevecic, Alice Ximenez

GUESTS: David Oster, Marta Leyva

FACILITATORS: Meaghan Bryant (Maxim Healthcare), Adrian Degroat (Maxim Healthcare), Arlisa Glenn (Maxim Healthcare), Zina Guerrero (Maxim Healthcare)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Billy Hall called the meeting to order. Committee members and all present introduced themselves. New member Cheryl Hewitt was introduced.

2. Agenda Review

The Committee reviewed the agenda.

It was M/S/C (Burke/Townsend) that the agenda be approved.

3. Approval of September 20, 2013 Minutes

The Committee reviewed the minutes.

It was M/S/C (Burke/Townsend) to approve the September 20, 2013 OCRA Advisory Committee minutes.

4. OCRA Report

Katie Hornberger shared information from the OCRA Semi-Annual Report. OCRA received more calls than the same period last year; 5038 service requests were completed. Staff spent a lot of time on cases regarding consumers living in institutions. Cases regarding managed care have increased and OCRA continues to handle many cases regarding in-home supportive services, special education and regional center. The advocacy report section is to help people understand the types of cases that OCRA works on. Twitter and Facebook social media is now used by OCRA; everyday a tweet is sent out with an OCRA success story. The number of 'likes' on the DRC

Facebook page has increased a great deal. Many OCRA stories are retweeted and reposted, which helps people learn of the services available to them. Members recommended ways to increase DRC's outreach:

1. Putting client stories on U-Tube.
2. Contacting the press to talk with advisory committee members regarding ways to help other consumers.
3. Call San Jose for free community broadcasting system that is open to the public.
4. Participate in community events such as runs, walkathons and anything related to general health.
5. Share success stories by creating a one-page flyer.
6. Look at how other similar agencies share information such as Children's Defense Fund, etc.
7. Go to smaller media markets like Fresno and Riverside, because they are always looking for stories.
8. Reach out to extended communities including churches, which are important to many members of the Latino community. By reaching the family, you can reach people with disabilities in their families.

Marta Leyva recommended contacting universities to share OCRA information. Universities need to know how to refer consumers to get services. Private advocates need to be informed also.

Ms. Hornberger shared information regarding new hires in OCRA. Scott Baron and Daniel Meadows have been transferred to OCRA as non-lawyer Peer Advocates. They are consumers of services. They are focusing on helping others learn to speak up for themselves by coaching and mentoring in the community.

Ms. Townsend asked about housing modification cases and if OCRA does those. Ms. Hornberger shared information about a case regarding a woman needing her bathtub modified. OCRA filed for hearing in order to have the regional center pay for modifications. OCRA won the case for the client. The client would have had to move out otherwise, into a facility possibly, which the client did not want. Ms. Hornberger stated that OCRA also works on other types of housing matters and shared a case regarding a client that needed to go to hearing to stop the termination of his Section 8 voucher. He was accused of subleasing his home. He said he was just helping

homeless people at times and not having people live with him. So OCRA staff helped prepare the client for a hearing and attended with him. They focused on the fact that you can have occasional overnight guests under the law. They proved that his guests were not residing at the home but rather overnight guests and won the case.

5. Capitol Action Day

Ms. Hornberger reviewed the Capitol Action Day flyer. This event will be held on May 21, 2014, in Sacramento. It is a day to share personal experiences and it includes rallies and opportunities to set up appointments with legislators. There are many new legislators now. OCRA Advisory Committee members are welcomed to attend the event. The Legislative Committee and OCRA Advisory Committee will coordinate jointly. The focus this year is on in-home support services and the overtime issue. The Governor is proposing a 40-hour limit per week. Judy Mark, Catherine Blakemore, Evelyn Abouhassan, and Cheryl Hewitt will help coordinate the event.

6. Self-Determination

Ms. Hornberger shared that a new law passed that allows consumers to determine their own services. Although it is early the process, consumers are encouraged to get the idea of self-determination into their IPPs. The Department of Developmental Services has set up an advisory committee to help implement the new law. DRC has created a fact sheet and Ms. Hewitt volunteered to share her power point she created when she worked on self-determination in Michigan. The Committee discussed how a You Tube video may be a good way to get this information out to everyone and members volunteered to be in the video. It was also suggested that the video could be a good OCRA Advisory Committee project. The OCRA peer advocates are working to simplify this information and are working on some outreach strategies. Ms. Mark created a one-page information sheet she will share.

The Committee agreed that self-determination will be a standing item on the agenda.

7. Recognition of Retiring Members

Ms. Hornberger honored the outgoing members and thanked them for their outstanding service to the OCRA Advisory Committee. Certificates were presented to Lakeisha Burke, Billy Hall, Amy Kalivas and Jean Townsend.

8. Recruitment of New Members

Ms. Hornberger recommended a plan to fill two or three vacancies. The sub-committee will include Cheryl Hewitt, Judy Mark, Herb Anderson and Katie Hornberger.

Billy Hall adjourned the meeting at 4:43p.m.

Attest,

Billy Hall, Chair