

OCRA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 20, 2013

Present: Billy Hall, Amy Kalivas, Jean Townsend, Lakeisha Burke, Herb Anderson, and Judy Mark

Staff: Katie Hornberger, Hannah Liddell, and Maria Ortega

Facilitators/Attendants: Zina Guerrero, and Meaghan Bryant

Introductions: Katie Hornberger introduced Committee Chair, Billy Hall. Mr. Hall called the meeting to order 2:15 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda and Last Minutes: The agenda was discussed. It was M/S/C (Hall/Kalivas/Burke) that the March 1, 2013 OCRA Advisory Committee Minutes be approved. Anderson and Mark abstained.

Lanterman Regional Center Update: Hannah Liddell, Clients' Rights Advocate for Lanterman Regional Center in Los Angeles, gave the committee an overview of the work OCRA does for Lanterman RC clients.

Ms. Liddell has been the CRA for OCRA since March and Ms. Liddell highlighted some recent cases:

- Family who had a child with autism was being repeatedly threatened with eviction by a manager. CRA wrote a letter on their behalf explaining why such behavior was discriminatory and that if the manager issued any eviction, she would need to send CRA a copy as CRA would be answering on the family's behalf.
- 35 year-old client had had an accident as a child, where a truck struck her and she needed to have part of her brain removed. Lanterman denied eligibility. OCRA argued that the traumatic brain injury had affected her cognitively in the same manner as an intellectual disability. OCRA funded a comprehensive evaluation by a neuropsychologist and client was found eligible under the fifth category. A discussion of regional center eligibility criteria ensued.

- Client was in a segregated special education school setting. CRA advocated at his IEP and negotiated a more integrated educational environment.
- Client is a four year old with autism. CRA advocated at the in-home assessment and assisted parent in receiving approximately 60 hours of IHSS per month.
- Client was admitted voluntarily to College Hospital a year ago. Lanterman RC was trying to commit him to Fairview Developmental Center against his wishes and the wishes of his parent. OCRA managed to deflect him and is assisting the family with client's move back to the family home with 2:1 supports.
- Client who was admitted to Fairview Developmental Center under a 6500 was assisted by OCRA in returning to the community within a year, or just shy of the time limit as stated by the law. Reviewed the new placement laws pertaining to developmental centers and other restrictive settings. New admissions to FDC cannot remain there over one year. The client moved into her own apartment with 24-hour supported living staff.

Ms. Hornberger discussed Developmental Centers. She explained the different DCs, the locations and the bed capacity of each of the DCs. Ms. Townsend said that at one time she lived in a DC but did not remember which one. Ms. Mark stated that she would like to tour one.

Billy Hall asked if people with Muscular Dystrophy (MS) qualify for Regional Center Services. Ms. Hornberger responded that they would not necessarily qualify. However, Ms. Hornberger added that if they have MS and epilepsy or another qualifying diagnosis they would qualify under that other diagnosis.

OCRA Annual Report Update: Katie Hornberger gave the committee highlights from the annual report. During the past year, OCRA resolved 9,241 issues for consumers, an increase over last year. OCRA also participated in 368 trainings last fiscal year, presenting to approximately 13,197 people. OCRA served clients at various service levels including: 1) Direct Representation, 2) Council and Advice, 3) Referrals, 4) Brief Service.

Ms. Hornberger discussed that OCRA has developed a new Clients' Right Bingo game with assistance from Maria Ortega. This self advocacy tool has actual photographs of people engaging in different activities. This Clients' Rights Bingo game generates discussion concerning clients' rights, responsibilities, and what those rights look like. This training tool is very important to clients, giving them the needed tools to speak up and empowers them to advocate for themselves. It was suggested by board member (Anderson) that OCRA bring samples of the Client's Right Bingo to the next board meeting. He also would like to attend one of those trainings in the Oakland area.

New Member: Billy Hall reviewed the process undertaken to find a new Advisory Committee member. Mr. Hall, Ms. Kalivas, and Ms.,. Hornberger reviewed application packets and conducted interviews. They suggest that the Committee appoint Cheryl Hewitt. The committee felt that Ms Hewitt will be a good fit for OCRA. She is a consumer of San Andreas Regional Center, She has a degree in social work and has been active in the disability rights movement for many years. It was M/S/C (Hall/Burke/Mark/Townsend). All approved.

Other: Judy Mark is involved with the legislative unit and is working on the SB 468, the Self-Determination bill that is awaiting the Governor's signature. Ms. Mark provided the following summary: Establishes the Self-Determination Program providing individuals with developmental disabilities with an individual funding allocation to give them greater control over the purchase of services and supports needed to implement their individual program plans. Ms. Mark encouraged people to write the Governor in support of this bill and offered to assist people. She also suggested that this topic be added to the agenda for the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

The Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.