

## **OCRA Advisory Committee Minutes Friday, February 25, 2011**

**Present:** Billy Hall, Izetta Jackson (Board Member), Russ Rankin (Board Member), Diane Millner (Board Member) and Eric Ybarra

**Staff:** Cara Armstrong, Catherine Blakemore, Jackie Chiang, Maxine Dalaza, Kendra McWright, Jeanne Molineaux, and Alice Ximenez

**Facilitators:** Jennifer Estabillo and Lina Romine

**Introductions and Announcements:** Eric Ybarra called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Committee members introduced themselves.

**Agenda Review:** Members M/S/C (Millner/Hall/Ybarra) to change order of agenda.

**September 24, 2010 Minutes:** Members M/S/C (Millner/Hall/Ybarra) to approve minutes of last meeting.

**East Los Angeles Regional Center Update:** Jackie Chiang, Clients' Rights Advocate, discussed her transfer in February from Lanterman Regional Center office to East Los Angeles Center office. The new office is very different in that she now has a heavier caseload and the trend of East Los Angeles Regional Center's heavy interaction with OCRA continues. Jackie discussed a case regarding special education where a client continued coming home from school with injuries. A series of meetings were held with school and then OCRA was contacted. OCRA reviewed with family, the behavioral support publications from Disability Rights California. A Special Circumstances Instructional Assistant (SCIA) was requested and offered to the client. A question was asked as to clarification on what a SCIA is. This is another name for a health assistant. It was determined that the school was not implementing and using proper strategies or locking wheelchairs.

**Central Valley Regional Center Update:** Kendra McWright, Clients' Rights Advocate, discussed the various OCRA offices that she has held positions in including Regional Center of the East Bay, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Tri-Counties Regional Center and Central Valley Regional Center. Kendra discussed a special education and regional center case where the parent is monolingual Spanish and the child had no schooling for 3 years. The child is Autistic and non-verbal. After going back and forth with

the school, the child was given 1 hour of schooling per week which then increased to 2 hours per week. Once OCRA got involved, an emergency IEP was held and the school district acknowledged that at least 1 hour, 5 days per week is needed for child.

At this time, it has been determined that it is a failure of the school and regional center and a psychologist is currently being requested to see child. Another IEP is forthcoming. A question was raised as to how the parent knew to call OCRA. The regional center caseworker told the parent to call OCRA.

With Kendra's new permanent placement at Central Valley Regional Center office, she inherited 11 regional center eligibility cases. A question was raised about eligibility requirements. Requirements for regional center services include but are not limited to; intellectual disability, autism, cerebral palsy, and 5<sup>th</sup> category (similar to intellectual disability). A question was raised as to whether multiple sclerosis qualifies for regional center services. The disability has to have occurred before age of 18 years old. A question was raised asking if being blind qualifies for regional center services. It does not by itself. A question was raised about reimbursement for experts and Jeanne explained that OCRA does not receive attorney fees in regional center eligibility cases, only for special education cases. Parents who have insurance are also asked to help pay attorneys fees as well.

**Benefits Report:** Catherine Blakemore shared information regarding the Western Center report on budget issues. See handout. Cathy explained that this is possibly a June ballot issue and we will know by March possibly. If it is not approved as June ballot issue, we are looking at a proposed 12.5 billion in cuts. A question was raised asking if \$5.00 co-pay will apply to weekly vision appointments. Cathy will follow up on this question at a later time. A board member talked about receiving an IHSS letter regarding cuts and Cathy explained that most likely this would not be given back as originally promised in the IHSS letter. And, a Healthcare Certification will now be required to get IHSS. Cathy explained that DDS is putting together workgroups to develop potential deduction ideas. A board member discussed how these cuts would affect his IHSS personally. In response, another board member explained how working together with IHSS and ILS workers have filled his support needs.

**RFP Process:** Jeanne Molineaux gave an update and status of new OCRA contract. The process started last summer. OCRA staff started gathering support letters early in the process so they would be ready when the RFP was posted in November. OCRA received a positive response and support from regional centers as it received 14 regional center letters. Letters were also received from all but one Area Board. At this time Department of Developmental Services is working on provisions requested by Disability Rights California. The final contract should be signed within a month or so.

**Capitol People First Trainings Status and Implementation:** Jeanne Molineaux gave update on implementation of the facility trainings. Training started 9 months ago. Billy Hall was asked to participate in these trainings and he will be contacted within two weeks. Jeanne conducted CPF training in Citrus Heights location recently, in a 36-resident facility. The training was well received by residents. The Department of Developmental Services sticker books and DVD were used. A question was raised as to which facilities were being visited and board members expressed interest in participating.

**Recruiting Public Membership:** Members M/S/C (Jackson/Millner/Ybarra) that committee be formed to choose and interview at least 4 public members applications. Billy Hall, Eric Ybarra, Jeanne Molineaux and Alice Ximenez will sit on committee to choose two new public members. Application screening will be done by teleconference. After review by the committee, the final choices will be given to the executive committee to make final approval of new members.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

ATTEST,

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Eric Ybarra, Chair