

**OFFICE OF CLIENTS' RIGHTS ADVOCACY  
Protection & Advocacy, Inc.**

**MEMORANDUM**

Date: August 10, 2007

To: Jeanne Molineaux, Director

From: Emma Hambright and Lisa Navarro  
Outreach Committee

Re: **OCRA Annual Outreach Report  
July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007.**

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**BACKGROUND**

Starting July, 2005, OCRA staff began working on their new two-year targeted outreach plans. Targeted outreach plans select an underrepresented group in a catchment area, which becomes the focus of an office's outreach. The plans were created to emphasize the importance of building relationships with consumers, parent groups, and other agencies and to increase trust between the groups and OCRA, to better identify and serve the needs of the target community.

Over the past two years, staff met with various groups, organized events, and returned to the groups to continue to build relationships. While the first year of the plan placed more emphasis on identifying various groups to whom to meet, the second year of the plan focused on providing outreach and ensuring each target group's training needs were being met.

For the plan year July 1, 2006, to June 20, 2007, staff provided approximately 367 substantive trainings for families, consumers, and agencies. Of these 367 trainings, approximately 157 trainings were to targeted communities. The remaining trainings were to self-advocates, regional center staff, vendors, and other community groups. Self-advocacy trainings included such topics as "Clients Rights in a Residential Setting,"

“Clients Rights Bingo;” Voting Rights;” “Hands Off My Money;” and “Micro Enterprises.”

### **TARGET OUTREACH**

As part of the two-year plan, OCRA staff review the regional center statistics, statewide census reports, and internal service numbers in order to select an underserved community of color in their catchment to target. Due to the composition of the state, 16 of the 21 offices chose to target the Latino community. Two offices, Redwood Coast and Far Northern, chose to target the Native American community, while Orange County and East Bay chose to target the Asian community and the South Central office targeted the African American community.

Recognizing the increasing statewide need to reach out to the Latino community, OCRA participated in Fiesta Educativa conferences in Salinas, San Jose, Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Gabriel. At the conferences, staff ran legal intake clinics and provided substantive trainings on voting rights, transition to adult services, the IEP process, IPP development, Social Security eligibility and avoiding overpayments, In Home Support Services, and Alternatives to Conservatorship.

In an effort to meet the needs of the Native American communities in the North, OCRA staff focused their efforts on education rights in Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino Counties, and on disability rights training for Feather River Tribal Health at Rowell Family Empowerment Center.

In April, 2007, OCRA staff in Los Angeles participated in a two-day conference hosted by the Special Needs Network to educate the African American community on issues relating to Autism. On April 28, 2007, OCRA staff organized a resource booth at the “Cure Autism Now” walkathon in Pasadena, attended by more than 10,000.

### **OCRA’S COMMITMENT TO SERVICE TO UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS**

OCRA’s statistics on the ethnicity of consumers served for the past years show OCRA’s continuing commitment to serve underrepresented communities. The percentage of consumers from various ethnicities served by OCRA was:

Ethnicity	% OCRA Clients FY 2006-2007	% OCRA Clients FY 2005-2006	% OCRA Clients FY 2004-2005	% OCRA Clients FY 2003-2004	% OCRA Clients FY 2002-2003	% OCRA Clients FY 2001-2002	% OCRA Clients FY 2000-2001	% OCRA Clients FY 1999-2000
African-American	9	10	10	10	10	9	9	8
Latino	29	29	29	28	27	24	24	24
Native American	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Asian	5	4	4	5	4	3	5	4
Pacific Islander	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Multicultural (self-identified)	3	3	5	3	4	4	4	3
White	44	45	44	47	49	47	48	56
Unknown/Other	8	7	7	5	4	11	8	8

### **UPDATE ON POLICY AND PROCEDURAL CHANGES**

OCRA staff elected to continue to develop outreach plans in two-year increments in order to develop and sustain the relationships they have built within their communities. The next two year plan will run from July, 2007, through June, 2009, and will be reviewed on both a quarterly and annual basis for progress.

**SAMPLES OF TARGET OUTREACH ACTIVITIES FROM**  
**JANUARY 2007 THROUGH JUNE 2007**

1. 1/20/07, NBRC, conducted a training on “Respite Changes” to parents in Sonoma.
2. 3/3/07, RCEB conducted substantive training regarding “New Rules for IHSS” to Friends of Children with Special Needs in Oakland.
3. 2/22/07, GGRC conducted training regarding “SSI” in Spanish to parents group in San Rafael.
4. 3/14/07, VMRC provided “18 tips for Getting Quality Special Education” in Spanish to parents at Walton School in Stockton.
5. 3/9/07, VMRC conducted training regarding “Requesting Special Education Assessments” to a Spanish speaking parent support group in Houghson.
6. 6/23/07, VMRC conducted a parent training regarding Conservatorship to Spanish speaking parent support group.
7. 4/5/07, OCRA staff participated in the California Conference on Native American Council in Sacramento.
8. 4/27/07, FNRC conducted training regarding Lanterman Act and Regional Center Services to community leaders in Oroville.
9. 1/8/07, RCRC conducted a self-advocacy training and presentation about OCRA in Ukiah.
10. 5/30/07, RCEB conducted a self-advocacy “Being Your Own Advocate” in Oakland.
11. 4/6/07, CVRC, Self-Advocacy Bingo at the Central Valley Production Center in Fresno.
12. 3/01/07, FDLRC, “Respite and the Fair Hearing Process” to parent group Mi Familia Su Familia.

13. 5/4/07, NLARC, “Alternatives to Conservatorship” for Spanish-speaking parent group, Cultivar y Crecer.
14. 6/23/07, HRC, Special Education basics for Spanish-speaking parent group Fuerza Inc.
15. 1/16/07, ELARC, education rights for the Rio Hondo College Disabled Students Program.
16. 4/27/07, RCOC, Emergency / Disaster Preparedness Workshop for CEAID.
17. 6/27/07, SDRC, Introduction to OCRA and basics of Medi-Cal eligibility at the Infant Toddler Development program.
18. 1/26/07, WRC, training on IPP’s and Regional Center Services to Fundacion Alianza de Familias Especiales.
19. 4/21/07, SGPRC, Medi-Cal/SSI and Your Rights for the Chinese Parents Support Group.
20. 5/26/07, KRC, first Spanish Language Conference in the San Joaquin Valley for Celebración de Familias de Excepcionales.
21. 6/28/07, IRC, self-advocacy training on regional center services and supports for See Me as I Am.
22. 4/20/07, TCRC, substantive training for the Coalition to End Family Violence in Oxnard.
23. 6/6/07, SCLARC, “My Child Turns 18. What are my Options?” training to Spec Ed Multicultural Advisory Committee (SEMAC).