

**Disability Rights of California
OCRA Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 16, 2016, 5:00 p.m.
Manhattan Beach Marriott, Manhattan Beach, CA**

PRESENT: Elizabeth Gomez, Cheryl Hewitt, Esther Kelsey, Judy Mark, David Oster, Angela Van Ostran, Howard McBroom

ABSENT: Charles Ehrlich

STAFF: Koleen Biegacki, Catherine Blakemore, Erica Edwards, Katie Hornberger, Marsha Johnson, Jesse Magano, Andrew Mudryk

INTERPRETERS/FACILITATORS: Rachel Groner (CLIP), Marcia James, Nicole Pancino (CLIP), Louise Sylvester, Matthew Richard TenEyck

GUEST: Kayla Biegacki (Volunteer), Suzette Lin, Eric Heckman, Hector Ramirez

1. Welcome and Introductions

David Oster called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Members and staff introduced themselves.

2. Agenda Review

The Committee reviewed the agenda.

3. Approval of March 11, 2016 Minutes

The Advisory Committee reviewed the minutes. It was M/S/C (Mark/Kelsey) to approve the amended March 11, 2016 meeting minutes. The amendment was made to the last paragraph of Item 4 and was amended to read, "Ms. Mark highlighted a new group called Self Determination Now, sponsored by LA Autism Society, and other local groups." Cheryl Hewitt abstained.

4. OCRA Report

Katie Hornberger summarized from the Office of Client's Rights Advocacy (OCRA) Annual Report, that during the past year, OCRA resolved 10,144 issues for 6,589 consumers, which represents an increase (.2%) in clients served, and an increase in the number of cases of people in institutions which are more time intensive.

Ms. Hornberger reported that consistent with previous years, the largest number of consumers OCRA served by age during this time period, 1,378 out of 6,589, were individuals in the 4-to-17 years-old age group.

Ms. Hornberger noted Asian consumers make up a growing 6.5 percent of regional center consumers, but a slightly lower 6 percent of consumers served by OCRA.

Ms. Hornberger explained that the packet included quotes and letters from clients and families who have been helped. Ms. Hornberger also noted that the Annual Report has information related to the timeliness of calls to OCRA.

Ms. Hornberger reported on a case in the OCRA Advocacy Report. Ms. Hornberger stated that when Shirley was 14 years old, her parents placed her in a developmental center as there were very few community services and supports for people with developmental disabilities. Shirley's parents (who became her conservators) felt comfortable with her institutional home and resisted exploring possible community options despite the fact that Shirley does not have significant medical or behavioral needs. Shirley remained in institutional care for almost 50 years. With developmental centers closing, Shirley's conservators, now her siblings, faced the inevitability of a move. Still, they resisted community placement, often out of fear. OCRA became involved with Shirley a year before her move to the community, when notified of her IPP as required by statute. OCRA met with Shirley and attended meetings at the developmental center. OCRA also partnered with the SLS provider and the regional center, attending a number of long, emotional meetings, working to answer the conservators' questions about community placement.

Ms. Hornberger noted that Shirley recently made the move to her new home in the community. She lives in a large home with a spacious back yard within a few miles of her family. Eventually, two housemates will join her. On a recent visit, Shirley was delighted to show OCRA her new home. She has the master bedroom with an attached bathroom and a walk-in closet. Shirley is very comfortable in her room, which is beautifully furnished with a queen bedroom set and a comfortable recliner that she picked out. Shirley has many framed pictures of her family on her wall. Her SLS staff reports that she loves participating in activities of ordinary life which were unavailable to her in the institution, including doing laundry, loading and unloading the dishwasher, and assisting with meal preparation.

Shirley appreciates getting to know her new community. She loves to be out and about every day, enjoying grocery shopping and sipping coffee at the local bookstore. Shirley particularly enjoys people-watching, especially delighting in children and babies (a rare sight in her time at the developmental center).

5. Discussion Regarding Next Meeting in Conjunction with Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, May 2017

Ms. Hornberger presented an option for the next Advisory Committee meeting in May of 2017 to be held in conjunction with the statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, instead of holding it in March of 2016. Ms. Hornberger explained that the conference is a two-day conference for people with developmental disabilities. There are six sessions on a variety of issues. They have key-note speakers and a variety of other activities for people to participate in. Ms. Hornberger announced that OCRA would pay for the conference for each committee member and it would not count as a committee members one conference per year.

There was a discussion about having the committee meeting in conjunction with Capitol Action Day. Ms. Hornberger explained that Capitol Action Day is a day of rallies and meetings with your Representatives, however it can be hard to schedule meetings around that time frame due to the busy schedules.

A motion was made to have the next OCRA Advisory Committee meeting be held in conjunction with the Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference in May of 2017 in Sacramento and to have a presentation of some sort by OCRA at the conference. It was M/S/C (Mark/McBroom).

6. Appreciation of Public member Cheryl Hewitt and Chair David Oster

Ms. Hornberger presented David Oster with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Oster thanked everyone. Mr. Oster noted that Elizabeth Gomez will be the next Chair of the Committee.

Ms. Hornberger presented Cheryl Hewitt with a Certificate of Appreciation. Ms. Hewitt thanked everyone.

7. Nominating Committee for Public Member

There was a discussion about who would like to volunteer to be on the nominating committee. David Oster, Howard McBroom and Angela Van

Ostran volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Ms. Hornberger explained that she would be contacting the nominating committee to discuss applications. There was a discussion about ensuring that the nominating committee look for diversity in the applicants.

There was a discussion about the committee member's terms and Ms. Hornberger noted everyone's terms on the committee.

There was a discussion about the stakeholder meeting and the committee members noted that it went well. Ms. Hornberger reported that OCRA is in the planning stages of another meeting to be held in late October.

David Oster adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

David Oster, Chair