



ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES

915 L Street, Suite 1440 • Sacramento, California 95814 • 916.446.7961 • Fax: 916.446.6912

**Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Guiding Principles and Legislative Priorities for 2010**

The Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) will use the following guidelines in the development of our legislative and budget priorities for 2010.

**Person/family-centered focus and self-direction:**

We support implementation of self-directed services contingent upon collaboration, full funding, and safeguards to all consumers and regional centers.

We support provisions that will address resolution of payment disputes between regional centers and other publicly funded agencies so regional center consumers and their families will continue receiving services without interruption.

We support the core concept of the Individual Choice Budget to retain person/family-centered options.

**Lanterman Act entitlement and client rights:**

We support policy discussions regarding full access and funding for services to ensure the continuation of the entitlement, promote full community inclusion and the preservation of consumer and family rights.

We support the rights of persons with developmental disabilities to a free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment as well as access to all community services available to the general population.

We fully support a single, unified system for seamless service delivery to all persons with developmental disabilities, regardless of where they reside. We support uniform developmental center commitment procedures, including annual judicial review to ensure the appropriateness of placement.

We encourage placements from state developmental centers into the community and support the creation of community options for people currently residing in the developmental centers.

We support efforts to reduce the incidence of abuse perpetrated on persons with developmental disabilities.

We also support the protection of client rights by requiring providers to maintain proper insurance coverage and to list the regional center as an additional insured.

**Availability of quality services/service development:**

We support eliminating the prohibition on using purchase-of-service (POS) funds for the development of necessary programs to best fit consumer needs. We also support eliminating the provider rate freeze and instituting an outcome-based system for adjusting rates for regional center providers.

We support expansion of the Medi-Cal Emergency Fund to ensure adequate resources are available to serve people with developmental disabilities during budget delays.

We promote the flexible use of regional center negotiated rates not associated with a local or statewide median rate to ensure adequate reimbursement to service providers

We endorse a rate system that takes into account the reasonable cost of doing business and geographic differentials for service providers.

We support provisions to ensure adequate funding for research into the causes and incidences of autism and other developmental disabilities and efficacy of various treatments and interventions.

#### **Housing and residential services:**

We support the development of community-based housing alternatives which would remain in the system for the sole use of persons with developmental disabilities. These alternatives and service delivery options may include ownership of property by a non-profit housing corporation rather than the service provider, allowing for additional stability for consumers and their families.

We support the use of regional center purchase-of-service funds to enable non-profit entities to provide rental assistance for and/or purchase housing for persons with developmental disabilities.

We support funding a rate system that promotes group homes of four persons or less with each individual having their own bedroom.

We support efforts to provide a clear definition regarding maximum costs for persons residing in supported living. It is recommended that the maximum cost for an individual placement shall not exceed the average annual cost of persons residing in state developmental centers.

We promote the concept of funds from the sale or lease of state developmental center property be placed in a revolving fund solely for the use of developing new, innovative programs and affordable housing for persons with developmental disabilities.

#### **Employment and alternate day time activities for adults:**

We promote the inclusion of adults with developmental disabilities into existing community services, programs, and activities already available to those without disabilities.

We support the development of competitive employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in where they will acquire marketable job skills, develop relationships, and earn their own money.

We support the use of natural supports and existing training networks by employers to minimize the need for paid support and to promote further independence.

#### **Behavioral services:**

We support the development of community-based supports to serve people with developmental disabilities and behavioral/mental health challenges.

We advocate for the development of secure living options and services for people with developmental disabilities and forensic needs as an alternative to state developmental center placement.

**Health-related services:**

We support rate adjustments for Medi-Cal providers to better reflect the additional time and expertise required to serve people with developmental disabilities.

We support the continuation of Department of Developmental Services Wellness Initiatives.

**Services for infants and toddlers:**

We support initiatives which will adequately fund regional center caseload average ratios of 45:1 for Early Start infants and toddlers.

We support funding to ensure services to infants and toddlers are provided in natural environments.

We support adequate funding for the Prevention Program to serve at-risk infants and toddlers.

**Availability of quality services/support for regional center mandates:**

We reaffirm our belief in the community-based nature of regional centers and our need to use public funds in a responsible and reasonable manner while being allowed the flexibility to be responsive to the local community.

We support adequate funding to meet regional center staffing and compensation needs and mandates to better maintain quality services for regional center consumers and families.

We support initiatives that provide adequate rates to support a “market wage” to regional center service provider direct care staff.

We support initiatives to secure funding that reflects the real cost of doing business by regional center service providers.

We promote service quality through the funding and coordination of quality management (including quality assurance) processes including identification of clear expectation, effective management of resources, data collection, and targeted system reform. Specifically, we support the ability for regional center to negotiate rates and performance outcome measures with service providers.

We support the full funding of any additional mandates placed on regional centers to ensure quality services can continue being provided to consumers and their families.

We support the reestablishment of incentives for regional centers that meet or exceed their performance contract objectives.

We support short and long-term budget strategies that recognize the dynamic and growing nature of demands for regional center purchase-of-services funds. We also recognize the need for program development in high cost, high growth and rural areas to meet consumer and family needs.

## **Legislative Priorities 2010**

1. Changing notice of actions from certified mail to proof of service.
2. Amending SB 812 (Ashburn) as a vehicle to address housing needs for people with developmental disabilities specifically amending local housing elements to reflect these needs.
3. Introduction of a bill to address integration of tax incentives for housing.
4. Use of local government redevelopment funds for housing.

*Approved by the ARCA Board of Directors January 22, 2010.*