

Notice of Public Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Regional Center of the East Bay, Inc. will hold a public meeting on May 24, 2010, in accordance with Article 4, Section 4669.2 of the Welfare and Institutions Code. The purpose of this meeting is to consider Regional Center of the East Bay's proposal for alternate services delivery for out-of-home respite services.

This meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held at:

REGIONAL CENTER OF THE EAST BAY
500 Davis Street, Suite 100
San Leandro, CA 94577

Dated: May 11, 2010
Ralph Griffin, President
Board of Directors
Regional Center of the East Bay, Inc.

PROPOSAL FOR ALTERNATE SERVICES DELIVERY – OUT-OF-HOME RESPITE SERVICES

Pursuant to Article 4, section 4669.2 of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, Regional Center of the East Bay is proposing an alternative service delivery model related to a family's use of respite services. This is being proposed as a temporary measure to preserve the very limited out-of-home respite services available in the East Bay until permanent ongoing solutions are in place.

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

Respite services provide a critically important support to families from the constant care and supervision required by their sons or daughters with developmental disabilities. In-home respite and out-of-home respite services provide qualitatively different types of support for families depending on the unique needs of each family.

Prior to the enactment of Trailer Bill ABX4 9 on July 28, 2009, families at RCEB could determine the type of respite that best met the specific needs of each family as identified through the planning team process. Within the total volume of respite hours allowed in the RCEB Purchase of Service Policy, families could choose either out-of-home or in-home respite. With the implementation of Article 4, section 4686.5 (2) of ABX4 9 a regional center could no longer purchase more than 21 days of out-of-home respite services in a fiscal year and no more than 90

hours of in-home respite services in a quarter for a consumer unless an exemption was warranted as provided in law. This has resulted in a reduction of respite hours for many families who prefer to use out-of-home respite since typically these families at RCEB do not use in-home respite services. For families who have had their out-of-home respite hours reduced, they will now have no choice but to use in-home respite hours for additional support even though that is not ideal to meet the needs of the family.

Out-of-Home Respite facilities have been significantly impacted by this change and are struggling to remain open. If facilities close, it would further reduce options for families needing out-of-home respite. In our community we have only one out-of-home respite facility (The Respite Inn), the loss of which would virtually eliminate out-of-home respite as an option for families in the East Bay.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

RCEB will request a waiver to Article 4, section 4686.5 (2) of ABX4 9 to allow the regional center planning team to exchange up to 50 percent of the in-home respite hours provided in this section of law (i.e. 180 hours annually) for additional out-of-home respite services based on individual need as identified in the Individual Program Plan. This proposal does not increase the total number of respite hours allowable under this section. In fact it reduces the total allowable respite hours and gives the regional center planning team the ability to determine

the type of respite that most appropriately meets the family and consumer's needs.

RCEB and Respite Inn have mutually agreed to improve the referral and admissions process in order to give more families opportunities to utilize respite services at the Inn. This will include:

- jointly reviewing/revising entrance & exit criteria
- streamlining the intake & acceptance process at the Inn
- jointly reviewing referrals that do not result in admission to the Inn
- exploring opportunities to expand the provision of service Monday-Friday

CONCLUSION

This proposal is structured to ensure that it will be implemented within the existing RCEB funding allocation and shall be cost neutral to the state budget.

This proposal could in fact reduce overall respite expenditures by limiting the amount of hours that could be transferred.

This proposal would also be cost effective to the state because families who have an identified need for out-of-home respite would receive the support necessary to keep their family together longer, thereby preventing the increased cost of out-of-home placement.