

Regional Center Services

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Outline of Presentation

- What is the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy?
- Regional Center System
 - Services Available
- Regional Center Eligibility
 - Requirements
 - Application Process
- Regional Center Eligibility Appeals

What is the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy? (OCRA)

- OCRA is part of Disability Rights California
 - We represent Regional Center Consumers
 - We are NOT part of the Regional Center
- Provide free legal advocacy services in various areas of the law
 - Regional Center Services
 - Benefits (IHSS, Medi-Cal, Medicare, Social Security, CCS etc.)
 - Special Education



Regional Center System

- The Lanterman Act establishes the Regional Center system. (W&I §4500 et seq)
- It is intended to give people with developmental disabilities the right to services and supports that will allow individuals to more normal and independent lives. (W&I §4501)

Services and Supports

- To lessen the effects of the developmental disability.
- Have a normal, independent, and productive life.
- To learn new skills.

Categories of Services

- Assessment Services
 - Habilitation and Training
 - Treatment and Therapy
 - Preventive Services
 - Living Arrangements
 - Community Integration
 - Employment/Day Programs
 - Family Support Services
 - Relationship Services
 - Emergency and Crisis Intervention
 - Specialized Equipment
 - Transportation Services
 - Facilitation Services
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Advocacy
- (W&I §4512(b))

Securing Services

- The Individual Program Plan is the process to secure services:
 - It is a contract between the RC and the consumer.
 - It must list all services provided.
 - Must be person centered
- The regional center must investigate and use creative and innovative ways to meet the family's need and keep the child in the family home. (W&I §4685(c)(2))
- It is the regional center's responsibility to ensure that all needed services are being provided.

Regional Center Eligibility

- Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation, or a condition similar to or requiring similar treatment to Mental Retardation. (W&I §4512(a))
- Originate prior to the age of 18.
- Be substantially disabling.
- Expected to last indefinitely.
- Not be solely physical, solely learning, or solely psychiatric. (17 CCR §54000)

Substantially Disabling

- Significant functional limitations in 3 or more of the following areas:
 - Self-Care,
 - Receptive and Expressive Language,
 - Learning,
 - Mobility,
 - Self-Direction,
 - Capacity for independent living, and
 - Economic self-sufficiency. (W&I §4512(I))

Application Process

- Contact Regional Center (RC).
- RC determines if assessments are needed.
- RC completes assessments.
- RC has 120 days to complete assessments, or 60 days if 120 days could cause delays in development, health, or a more restrictive placement.

Regional Center Eligibility Appeal

- RC must provide you with a written notice of action (NOA) stating whether or not you are eligible for RC services.
- You have 30 days to appeal.
- You can also reapply instead of appealing.

A Closing Note

- This is a quick overview of a complex system and process.
- Therefore, feel free to call us for more detailed information or to answer specific questions about your case
- We can provide:
 - Counsel and advice
 - Review notices and records
 - Publications with legal information
 - Sample letters for doctors or specialists
 - Referral lists
- Our Number: (415) 499-9724