



ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL CENTER AGENCIES

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ARCA Statement of Goals and Objectives Fiscal Year 2009-10

Section 1.02 of the ARCA Bylaws states the following:

“The mission of the Association of Regional Center Agencies is to represent the autonomous regional centers in supporting and advancing the intent and mandate of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act. The Association shall function as a leader and advocate in promoting the continuing entitlement of individuals with developmental disabilities to all services that enable full community inclusion. The Association shall also participate in the development of public legislative policy and serve as a focal point for communication, education, training and prevention services.”

The mission statement envisions an Association that:

- Is a leader in the field of developmental disabilities and advocates on behalf of people served by regional centers.
- Analyzes systemic issues and promotes ideas and strategies that lead to a more seamless and user friendly system.
- Actively participates in public policy arenas, including the California Legislature, where issues related to developmental disabilities are deliberated.
- Develops and disseminates information related to developmental disabilities as well as the California developmental services system.
- Reviews information related to regional centers and prepares and disseminates responses or opinions.
- Represents regional center interests with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and other state agencies.
- Works in cooperation with other groups and organizations to promote and maintain services for persons with developmental disabilities and the regional center system.

The following goals are intended to promote the vision of a strong and active ARCA for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

California Legislative Process and Regulation Development

1. Sponsor at least one bill that enhances services to persons with developmental disabilities.
2. Work cooperatively with state departments (primarily DDS) on legislative issues.

3. Sponsor ARCA Grassroots legislative day.
4. Track pertinent state and federal legislation affecting California's developmental services delivery system.
5. Maintain and update ARCA bill file for association members.
6. Provide expert witnesses and testimony on specific legislation tracked by ARCA.
7. Develop an ARCA-approved legislative agenda.
8. Develop and maintain ongoing relationships with key legislative members and staff.
9. Monitor the Health and Human Services Agency Olmstead Advisory Committee and provide information as necessary.
10. Comment and testify on state regulations affecting persons served by regional centers.

State Budget Process and Related Issues

1. Develop positions on major budget issues.
2. Provide in-depth budget analysis (including written and oral testimony) for the 2009-10 fiscal year budget revisions.
3. Review and respond, if necessary, to health care reform initiatives.
4. Monitor all budget hearings related to regional center budget appropriations.
5. Provide oral and written budget testimony regarding the 2009-10 fiscal year Budget Act and revisions.
6. Work cooperatively with staff from DDS, Department of Finance, Legislative Analyst's Office, and the California Legislature on budget proposals relating to the developmental services delivery system.
7. Develop budget initiatives for consideration by the Executive and Legislative branches.
8. Propose budget allocation methodologies and strategies to DDS.
9. Review regional center Sufficiency of Allocation Reports in conjunction with DDS.

10. Work cooperatively with DDS in performing the regional center business needs assessment for the development of a new information system as well as modify and enhance the current decentralized system.
11. Actively participate with DDS in efforts to increase federal financial participation.
12. Analyze regional center Purchase of Service projections to ascertain statewide trends.
13. Analyze regional center expenditures by service code to determine major drivers of regional center expenditures.
14. Cooperate with DDS on the definition of regional center purchase-of-service service codes and rates set by regional centers.
15. Maintain communication with the Administration, the state constitutional offices, the Legislature and financial institutions regarding regional center funding and cash flow issues.

External Relations and Consumer Issues

1. Develop and maintain pro-active relations with stakeholder groups and organizations within the developmental services community.
2. Develop and maintain effective relationships with staff from the DDS and other key state departments.
3. Negotiate Regional Center standard agreement contract language with DDS.
4. Promote initiatives to reduce the incidence of developmental disabilities.
5. Promote research programs which lessen the impact of developmental disabilities among infants and children.
6. Provide support to epidemiological research activities related to the increasing numbers of persons diagnosed with autism in California.

7. Continue participation on Mental Health Collaborative. Continue to engage contractors to implement the work plan developed by the committee and approved by DDS and DMH.
8. Facilitate, on behalf of the Mental Health Collaborative, at least four regional planning conferences on improving access to public mental health services for regional center clients. The first year would be on children's services.
9. Monitor the development of innovative community resources serving individuals with dual diagnoses.
10. Continue to work with DDS regarding Community Placement Plan and developmental center admission issues through the ARCA Community Placement Plan Task Force.
11. Participate with DDS and other stakeholders to continue providing feedback and technical assistance on the self directed services waiver program.
12. Work with DDS and stakeholders on the development of an individual budget model for service delivery.
13. Monitor the development of innovative community resources to serve regional center clients involved with the criminal justice system.
14. Advise ARCA members on a periodic basis of significant legislation and/or initiatives impacting services to persons with developmental disabilities in California.
15. Participate on the Coalition for the Preservation of the Lanterman Act. Develop common points of consensus when feasible.
16. Assist in the development of employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities through the ARCA Employment Committee.
17. Work in conjunction with DDS, the Governor's office and the ARCA Employment Committee to promote employment for people with developmental disabilities through the Governor and First Lady's Employment Initiative for People with Developmental Disabilities.

18. Participate in the Disability Inclusion Project to increase the number of persons with developmental disabilities participating in the Ameri Corps program as members and volunteers.
19. Continue to participate in actions through the Housing Committee that will increase community integrated housing opportunities for regional center consumers.
20. Work with the Housing Committee to create a program that will enable regional centers to create affordable permanent housing options.
21. Provide technical assistance and resource development to regional centers on housing issues and related topics.
22. Work with the Housing Committee to implement the recommendations of the housing White Paper.
23. Continue to work with DDS on the implementation of SB 1175.
24. Conduct an ARCA housing needs survey, dependant on appropriate grant funding.
25. Establish the ARCA general 501(c)(3) that will enable ARCA to accept donations for ARCA related activities.
26. Establish a housing 501(c)(3) that would allow ARCA to assist individuals with developmental disabilities with housing by assisting other regional center related 501(c)(3) organizations in developing and maintaining affordable housing opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The housing 501(c)(3) will administer public and private funding for the development of housing opportunities for people with developmental disabilities.
27. Support emergency/disaster planning and preparedness activities through the ARCA Emergency Preparedness Task Force and interaction with the DDS Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Internal Issues and Relationships

1. Provide staff support and assistance to ARCA meetings, committees and groups.
2. Support one Board Member Delegates Group planning session.
3. ARCA Executive Director, Legislative Advisor, and Policy Analyst will attend meetings of regional center boards at their request.
4. Support the ARCA Consumer Advisory Committee to provide primary consumer perspective and representation to the ARCA Board of Directors and ARCA Executive Committee.
5. Review the ARCA Bylaws as necessary.
6. Hold conference calls with regional center directors and, when necessary, board member delegates regarding time sensitive and important issues in between regularly scheduled ARCA meetings.
7. Provide training and orientation to ARCA board member delegates at each ARCA meeting.
8. Revise the ARCA Strategic Plan, pending adequate resources.
9. The ARCA Executive Director will provide information and analysis to ARCA “discipline groups” including Chief Counselors and Administrators.

Education and Training

1. Work cooperatively with DDS in promoting statewide and local wellness initiatives.
2. Provide support, training and consultation to regional center administrators.
3. Provide input to the following Legislative Select Committees
 - Senate Select Committee on Autism and Related Disorders
 - Assembly Select Committee on Disabilities

- Assembly Select Committee on Workforce Development within the Developmentally Disabled Community Services.
4. Continue the development of an ARCA Grassroots program to assist and support existing regional center efforts.

Public Relations and Information Sharing

1. Update ARCA public relations plan.
2. Assure that any new public relations materials are consumer-friendly.
3. Coordinate media training at the request of regional centers.
4. Respond to crises and media press coverage of the regional center system providing ARCA point of view.
5. Respond to media requests for interview and comments about issues affecting the regional center system.
6. Maintain ongoing working relationships with local and statewide media persons.
7. Produce ARCA yearly calendar and distribute to legislators and other interested parties.
8. Provide timely information to ARCA members regarding significant events and actions affecting the developmental services delivery system, including budget and legislative updates.
9. Maintain the ARCA web site with current and up-to-date information on legislative and other activities, events, and meetings. Update the website with new initiatives that ARCA is directly involved with, specifically on housing and employment.

Approved by the ARCA Board of Directors 6/19/09