



ALTA CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL CENTER

April 1, 2014

Brian Winfield,
Assistance Deputy Director
Department of Developmental Services
1600 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Winfield:

This letter is being written in accordance with Article VII, section 6(b)(i) of the contract regarding data compilation. Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) held a public meeting on March 27, 2014. The meeting notice was posted in all ACRC offices and was posted on the agency website. The notice was also distributed to Service Coordinators to forward to clients/families. There were 43 people in attendance, including 13 members of the Board of Directors at the March 27th meeting. Disability Rights California, Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy and Area Board III were in attendance, as well as parents, clients, providers and staff.

The following items were raised at the meetings:

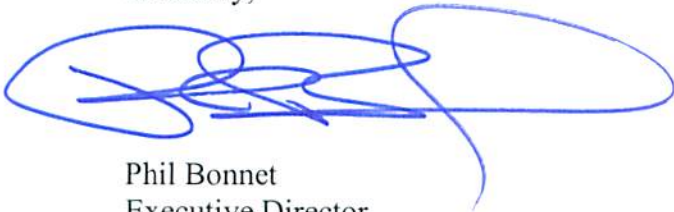
- Comment about the inconsistency of dollars spent on services between the various ethnic groups.
- Comment that language may impact services.
- Comment that cultural issues have an impact on purchased services.
- Comment that the age of the client and the nature of the disability can drive the costs of services.
- Comment questioning the statistical validity of some of the data.
- Request that the State of California do some real analysis of the data to determine the extent of disparity when other factors are considered.
- Suggestion to have meetings in other venues at other times
- Conduct in more languages than English/Spanish (not specific which other languages)
- Comment that I want a more detailed "menu" of regional center services to choose from.

Proposed Strategies:

- ACRC will continue to provide services in accordance with the laws and regulations to meet the individual needs of our clients.
- ACRC will provide ongoing training for staff to ensure that regional center services are provided in a culturally sensitive manner.
- ACRC will continue to employ service coordinators that speak many of the languages spoken by our clients and families. ACRC currently has service coordinators who are culturally sensitive and speak 14 different languages.
- ACRC requests that DDS engage a person qualified in statistical analysis to look more closely at the data – especially as it relates to the costs associated with out of home placement. If DDS will not do this, ACRC will attempt to do it ourselves so we can better understand and explain the differences in expenditures.
- ACRC will continue to work to ensure that regional center services are provided to clients in a fair and equitable manner.

Should you have any question or require additional information please contact me or Peter Tiedemann.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Bonnet', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Phil Bonnet
Executive Director