



Public Comment
Delivered to the Department of Developmental Services
Concerning Service Disparities For Deaf Consumers
By
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www.SGPRC.net

- I am the parent of two developmentally disabled Deaf men and have been involved with the Deaf community virtually my entire life.
- Regional Centers in general, and the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center (SGPRC) in particular, have historically under-served, ill-served and simply not served developmentally disabled Deaf persons.
- For example, in the Southern California region, not one Regional Center employs a Deaf service coordinator. In fact, to my knowledge, there are no Deaf employees at any of the Southern California regional centers or the Department of Developmental Services.
- Regional Centers fail to understand that the Deaf community represents a cultural and linguistic minority. This impacts their ability to relate to and serve the Deaf community.
- The SGPRC, for example, has refused to hire a Deaf service coordinator (see attached Notice of Proposed Action).
- There are no Deaf Regional Center vendors. Those vendors who do serve Deaf clients do not employ persons trained to work with Deaf persons or certified in American Sign Language.
- The failure of Regional Centers to adequately serve the Deaf Community is not because there is no need. Indeed, there have been cases of Deaf persons whose lives have been severely impacted by failed Regional Center services.
- I believe that Regional Centers have avoided providing services for Deaf persons because of the costs associated with hiring trained and certified persons.
- What is the one thing which could be done to promote equity of services for Deaf persons?

One or more of the Southern California Regional Centers should hire a Deaf service coordinator. This person could provide services for several Regional Centers. A Deaf service coordinator would bring a level of understanding to the Regional Center; he or she would mentor vendors providing services for Deaf persons. A Deaf service coordinator would be an ambassador to the Deaf community representing the promise of the Lanterman Act.

SAN GABRIEL/POMONA

REGIONAL CENTER

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION



December 20, 2013

Carl Argila
P.O. Box 1219
Pico Rivera, CA 90660-1219

RE: ARGILA, Cavan
UCI#: 7317917
DOB: 05/14/1981

Dear Mr. Argila :

We have received your correspondence of 12/8/13 via e-mail received on 12/9/13 requesting a service coordinator who is deaf. San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center is denying this request.

The reason for this action is as follows:

There is no provision in law that requires the regional center to provide a service coordinator who has the same impairment as the client or that is fluent in the client's language. The use of an interpreter is an acceptable means of communicating with the client

Enclosed is a Notice of Proposed Action form (DS 1803) indicating the proposed action to be taken, the reason for the action, and the effective date of the action. As with any Regional Center decision, this proposed action is appealable. If you decide to appeal, you may choose to request an informal meeting with the SG/PRC Director or his designee prior to the Fair Hearing. We encourage you to use the informal meeting, as we have found this to be a helpful resolution process. You may also request mediation. Mediation is a voluntary meeting used to resolve disputes. It is conducted by a mediator from the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Please indicate your choice on the attached Fair Hearing Request form. If you are currently receiving a service for which a modification or termination is proposed, or currently authorized to receive such a service and wish to continue receiving that service, you must file the Fair Hearing Request form no later than ten (10) days after you receive the notice.

CONFIDENTIAL CLIENT INFORMATION
SAN GABRIEL/POMONA VALLEYS
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
See California Welfare & Institutions Code, Section 4514