



State Council on Developmental Disabilities Self-Determination Advisory Committee Application



Name: *Redacted*
 Address: *Redacted*
 County of Residence: Santa Barbara
 Email: *Redacted*
 Phone: *Redacted*
 Race/Ethnicity (optional)*: White
 Regional Center: Tri-Counties

Applicant: 28

I am a:

- Self-Advocate (person with a developmental disability)
 * Family Member
 Other (please explain): _____

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?

Professionally, I am a special education teacher so my knowledge and experience started with my teaching career. However, I became very involved with developmental disabilities field in the most intimate of ways with my daughter's birth. I began my true education as a Board of Supervisor's appointed member to Area Board IX, where I served for two terms. I was then selected and appointed to serve on the California Interagency Coordinating Council for two terms where I helped develop the early intervention program policy, legislation and guidance for our state, regions and communities in collaboration with the Department of Developmental Disabilities. I started the Family Resource Center in Santa Barbara. After moving to Idaho, I worked as staff for the Developmental Disabilities Council and served on the Idaho Interagency Coordinating Council for six years. In addition to a primary role with issues for families and adults, I led the statewide effort to obtain family support for parents of adults living at home.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?

As my daughter has grown to adulthood, I have focused my interests on transition, access to health care and transportation and affordable housing, and supported living and communities of intentional living. I moved from California just as self-determination movement was beginning and returned in 2003.

*State law requires this committee to "reflect the multicultural diversity and geographic profile" of the region.

Please describe any previous experience with Self-Determination and explain why you wish to serve on the Self-Determination Advisory Committee?

My experience with self-determination evolves from my experience serving on the Board of Hidden Wings an organization founded by Rev. Jim Billington and Dr. Julia Billington. The Billington's son was my student in elementary/middle school in Santa Ynez, and they asked me to support them in starting an organization that could provide opportunity for their son with autism and other young adults transitioning from special education /public school to community. Their primary goal has been self-determination through supporting/growing the talents, interests, dreams of young people so that they can stay in the communities of Santa Ynez Valley and neighboring community of Lompoc. I would like to serve on the Self-Determination Advisory Committee to contribute to increasing the awareness, knowledge/understanding and growth of self-determination in tri-Counties area. I think I can contribute the experience of being a parent, share knowledge, collaboration and problem solving skills, and above all, offer my dedication and commitment to self-determination.