



## Membership Application

**MM-422**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Sacramento**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: African- American

I am a: parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

**Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:** No

**Are you a member of a nongovernmental agency that does not receive regional center funding?**  
No

**Do you want to serve on the State Council:**

**Do you want to serve on a Regional Advisory Committee:** Yes, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

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

My interest in the development disabilities field began during my youngest daughter's infancy when I noticed her behaviors that differed from my other children when they were infants. At age three she appeared to be afraid of other children. At the suggestion of her nursery school teacher, my daughter was evaluated for the first time. The evaluation results were inconclusive and prompted me to explore alternative learning environments for her. I was becoming her advocate. That was 1977. After many years of struggles and sometimes unpleasant experiences for both of us, she became a regional center client in November 2012 at age 39. I continue to advocate for her and, in the process, for others in the developmental disabilities field as well.

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

As a current member of the Regional Advisory Committee, Sacramento, I have focused my advocacy on two State Council on Developmental Disability goals:

Goal One, Self-advocacy including self-determination and person-centered planning and the IPP.

I was appointed by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities Sacramento office to the Alta California Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee. As a Family Advocate on that committee my efforts focus on ensuring clarity of components of the self-determination materials that self-advocates and families must fully comprehend in order to receive the benefits of the program. I share with my Regional Advisory Committee colleagues as much information as possible about progress in implementing the program, notify them of self-determination advisory committee meetings, and I present information about the State Council and self-determination to local family service agencies that may serve families with a family member with a developmental disability.

Goal Three, Housing

As a former employee in the affordable housing field, I share information with Regional Advisory Committee members about local and statewide affordable housing issues that impact our developmental disability community including homelessness, reasonable accommodations, wait list openings at local affordable housing, and the benefits of our community becoming a part of the greater affordable housing movement at the local and state level in order to help achieve our own housing goals.

**Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:**

I wish to be re-appointed to serve a second term on the Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee in order to continue informing and sharing information with the Regional Advisory Committee about the Self-determination Program currently in its initial stages of implementation and over the next few years as it becomes fully functioning; also sharing suggestions, comments, and questions from the Regional Advisory Committee to the Self-Determination Advisory Committee whose role is to provide oversight of the Self-Determination Program.

With the recent passage of bond measures ensuring increased funding to build more affordable housing, opportunities for clients now living at home, to live independently, could increase dramatically in the not too distant future. As more affordable housing is being planned, as a Regional Advisory Committee member I would like to be a part of local outreach efforts to inform clients and families well in advance of construction completion to help ensure their success in attaining affordable housing placement.

For these opportunities and others that may arise, I would like to be re-appointed to the Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee.

**What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:** I am a strong vocal advocate for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families. As my role developed beginning in 1977, I have learned to explore opportunities that were previously

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unknown to me, to always persevere, to not remain discouraged, to speak out when necessary, and always to stay on course with my mission to ensure quality long term services and support for my daughter as well as for others, to not only survive but to thrive throughout their lives.