

**County of Residence: Kern**

**Region: Sequoia**

Eligible for vacant

**Race: Hispanic or Latino, White**

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**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

**Do you want to serve on the State Council and/or a regional advisory committee?**

*Yes, I want to apply to serve on the State Council*

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

I am the parent of a child with cerebral palsy. I have seen his accomplishments and supported him through failures. I have seen people with love, fierce hope and the purest of intention join in the fight to help him achieve his dreams and meet his goals, only to have them meet the obstacles of limited funding and inaccessibility. I have filtered through layers of discrimination applied to non-ambulatory individuals, individuals with limited cognitive function or individuals identified as "uncontrollable". In an effort to educate myself regarding the needs and level of services available to my son and others like him, I became an educational assistant in the local school district for the Special Education Program. I worked in this field for four years before accepting other responsibilities within the school district which allowed me to support students with disabilities in other areas. I continued my education and soon accepted a position as a social worker for child welfare services where I learned that the incidence of abuse reporting increased greatly if the child was identified as having a disability. Further effort to discover services and programs which may assist individuals with disabilities led me to accept social worker positions in the CalWORKs Program and with Adult Protective Services/In Home Supportive Services. I see definite progress in the direction California is heading and

would be honored to share my insight and experience with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

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

Self-Determination Program, Employment First and post-secondary education opportunities for adults graduating high school.

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

I would like to be part of the movement, part of the vision for California's future, a future that returns dignity and independence to individuals with disabilities. A vision that respects the rights of all people and renews faith in the ability to attain the ideal known as the "American Dream", a dream which espouses the idea that anyone can reach their goals with a little hard work and sacrifice. This dream remains out of reach for people who require additional assistance to simply meet their basic human needs, needs able-bodied individuals never have to consider, but with support and clear guidelines from our state government, these dreams can be realized.

**What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?**

I bring real life experience and a heartfelt wish to see all members of our state living a life of their own choice. I am deeply interested in creating opportunities for individuals and in creating a community of inclusion, where all members are seen as people, where disabilities become different abilities and all persons are accepted for who they are without reservation.