



Dialogue

Volume 19, No. 3
Summer 2005

Consumer Spotlight

William Porter and LeRoy Bastion – Friends for Life

By Karen Taylor

LeRoy Bastion was born in Long Beach, California in 1918. William Porter was also born in Long Beach but in 1919. Both men were institutionalized at a very young age because they had a developmental disability. One was actually sterilized by the state in darker days for people with developmental disabilities. But about 30 years ago, these two men became roommates and found in each other a friend for life. Bill and LeRoy were both well-known and loved by the staff members at Regional Center as well as at Victor Guest Home where they lived for 10 years.

This is a memorial article for two men whose resilience and love for life set an example for those around them, but even more, spread love and joy to those who knew them. In the past couple years, the health of both men deteriorated, and they went to live in the same nursing home. Sadly for those who had grown to love them, both men passed away last April, full of years – Bill at 85 years of age and LeRoy at 86.

Bill and LeRoy had mild intellectual disabilities as well as special talents and engaging personalities. LeRoy was mellow and accommodating while Bill had an outgoing way

about him, with a good sense of humor – he liked to joke a lot. Amy Williams, manager of RCOC's San Juan Capistrano office, recalled that "Bill and LeRoy would banter back and forth like two old gentlemen sitting on the porch on a hot, summer day."

LeRoy loved nothing better than putting together jigsaw puzzles, and Bill would while away the hours playing his harmonica. His favorite tune was "You Are My Sunshine."

LeRoy and Bill were nearly inseparable. When they were able to work in the community, they were employed at the same place through Goodwill's supported employment program Project SCOP, rode the same bus and shared the same job coach. As they entered their "golden" years, they attended the RIO workshop together in San Clemente. The only



LeRoy Bastion (left) and Bill Porter enjoyed a friendship that enriched their lives for many years.

variance from their togetherness routine was when they agreed to switch roommates at their group home to separate two other guys who didn't get along, and when Bill was spending time with his sweetheart, Holly (not her real name).

"Bill and LeRoy would banter back and forth like two old gentlemen sitting on the porch on a hot, summer day."

Amy Williams, RCOC South Area Manager

Marites DeVera, owner of the group home where Bill and LeRoy lived, said of Bill and Holly, "They would sit together holding hands, and she would put her head on his shoulder. They would sing together, 'You Are My Sunshine.' When Bill's health [and eyesight] deteriorated, Holly was so sad because it wasn't like before. Bill didn't look at her or [joke] around with her anymore."

A poignant memory of LeRoy related by RCOC staff member Judy Ohlson-Young illustrates how much conditions have improved for people with developmental disabilities. Judy shared a story from 13 years ago.

See "Friendship," page 10

Dialogue

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2005-06 Board Meetings

Sept. 1 • Nov. 3 • Jan. 5 • March 2 • May 4

The public is welcome to attend. Meetings start at 6:00 p.m. and are held in the Regional Center Board Room at 801 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana.

RCOC Administration

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RCOC Legislative Update

A Quick Read of the Issues

By Tresa Oliveri, RCOC Board of Directors

There's not a lot to report

on the legislation front, so we thought a snapshot of current



issues would give you a quick read of what's going on in the state capital that relates to services for people with developmental disabilities.

Ballot Initiative

◆ The governor's state budget control initiative on the November ballot is a major concern. It would limit the growth of state spending based on an average increase of revenues in order to avoid a deficit situation. While it's important to solve the budget crisis and avoid another in the future, the potential negative effect on services for developmental disabilities is if state

revenues fall while the numbers and needs of people with developmental disabilities continues increasing. There needs to be some safety net so that services vital to people's lives don't get squeezed out by limited budget resources.

Legislation

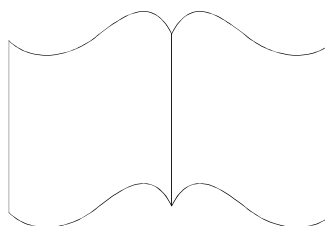
◆ Not a lot of legislation is of great consequence to people with developmental disabilities this year. See the "Legislative" link on the Web site of the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) at www.arcanet.org for bill highlights.

Medi-Cal Reform

◆ Medi-Cal reform could have a major impact on people with disabilities. The state administration would like to expand the use of managed care among people with disabilities and other groups. If that happens, we hope the system will reflect the successes we in Orange County have experienced with CalOptima while avoiding some of the early challenges.

Did you know? Past issues of *Dialogue* can be found at RCOC's Web site at

www.rcocdd.com



CEO's Corner

RCOC Board Directs Significant Initiatives

By Bill Bowman, Chief Executive Officer

The major role of the RCOC board of directors is to set policy that drives the actions and direction of the



agency. In committee and full board meetings, the members examine service trends and growing areas of need expressed by people with disabilities and their families. That research and discussion has led our board to undertake four new initiatives that determine RCOC's priorities in the near future. The focus of these activities is to ensure the health and safety of people with developmental disabilities in Orange County and enhance their quality of life.

Services for Aging Consumers

First, the board sees a real need to walk alongside elderly parents who have aging sons and daughters with developmental disabilities. Many parents who have their adult children with disabilities living with them don't plan for the time when they can no longer care for those children. It can be a difficult and overwhelming issue to think about. We want to assist and encourage families in the process of making complex decisions about their child's future. We currently have a gerontology specialist on staff dedicated to giving guidance and resources to service coordinators of consumers with parents in their 70s, 80s and 90s.

Employment Opportunities

RCOC's board is also considering the issue of meaningful work for people with developmental disabilities. From the National Core Indicators survey data, we've learned from people with disabilities that it's important to them to feel that their lives and contributions are valued. They want to work, and they want to have a sense of being more invested in their local communities.

RCOC's board members determined RCOC's priorities based on service trends and growing areas of need expressed by people with disabilities and their families.

As a result, the board has devoted much thought and discussion to this subject and has revised the RCOC guiding principle relating to work. The new language reads, "Consumers have the opportunity and support to work in employment settings that are meaningful to them, that are valued by the community, and in which they are appropriately compensated." As an organization, we will be examining what's happening in the community with regard to employment, and looking at ways we can assist with creative and innovative ideas to address this area of need with service providers and employers.

Service Innovations

On another front, the closure of Agnews Developmental Center in northern California is being planned

by a partnership between the Department of Developmental Services and the community. The group is working to formulate innovative service options for the people who will leave that institution. We want to tap into the ideas and opportunities that come out of that effort and make available similar resources for people in Orange County who currently reside in developmental centers. We are excited about the possibilities to team up with the great service partners we have, and we appreciate the support that the Department is providing in this endeavor.

Self-Directed Services

The fourth initiative of the RCOC board is self-direction, also known as self-determination or self-directed services, which allows consumers and/or families to purchase their own services directly. The state is working on a federal waiver to set up a state-wide program of self-directed services for a specific number of people with developmental disabilities. Implementation of the state's program is likely to be delayed until fiscal year 2006-07. We at RCOC want to be ahead of the curve and start planning now for how we can provide such opportunity in Orange County. We would like to incorporate more flexibility to give people a wider range of options, and we want the program to be available to as many consumers as wish to participate.

Please feel free to attend the RCOC board of directors meetings to hear further discussion of these initiatives. The meetings take place the first Thursday evening of every other month. The complete schedule of the meetings is on page 2 of this newsletter.

Consumer Advisory Team (CAT) Update

New Chairman Starts His Term

By Jay Connor, committee chairman

Hi everyone,

I'd like to reintroduce myself.

From 1994 to 2000 I served two

terms on the Regional Center board of directors and also served as the CAT chairman during that time. I am glad to be back. Three years ago I moved into an apartment in Tustin with my brother, Andrew. For the past 10 years, I've worked part time at Cole Vocational Services as the telephone operator. In my spare time I enjoy going to baseball games at Angel Stadium.



Future Plans for CAT

My hope for future CAT meetings is to have a consumer representative from every day program and every supported employment program participate in the group. I would like to have all parts of the county represented so that we can talk about issues that are important to everyone.

Past CAT Meeting

At the CAT meeting in June, Laurie St. Pierre from Area Board 11 told the group that the Area Board would like to start a People First chapter in Orange County.

CAT member Hallie Long gave a report about the Abilities Expo at the Anaheim Convention Center. We also talked about plans that some CAT members had made to attend an Angels baseball game along with members from Integrity Clubhouse.

RCOC Spotlight Awards

I want to wish good luck to all the Spotlight Awards nominees. I've attended the Spotlight Awards banquet every year. It is a really fun night, and I plan to go to this year's event on Friday, September 16. I hope to see you there!

CAT Meetings

I want to personally invite all consumers to attend the Consumer Advisory Team (CAT) meeting. We talk about things that are important to RCOC consumers. The meetings take place on the third Wednesday of each month. The meeting dates for the rest of 2005 are

- ◆ September 21,
- ◆ October 19,
- ◆ November 16, and
- ◆ December 21.

The meeting takes place from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the RCOC East/Central office at 801 Civic Center Drive, Santa Ana. Support staff are also welcome. Transportation is not provided by RCOC. Please call Betty Bath at (714) 796-5263 ahead of time to let her know you will be there.



Members and visitors of the Consumer Advisory Team that attended the meeting in February: **front row**, seated (from left) – John Potter, Sam Durbin, Virginia Rangel, Sharon O'Keefe, Joe Martinez, and Jimmy Banda. **Second row** (from left) – Kathy McCrystal, Angela Lenis, Charles Quinones, Brett Hanson, Molly Van Norman, Mary Ayres, Jody Hedlund, and Joseph Sellito. **Third row** (from left) – Michelle Sieloff, Melissa Galindo, Holly Blaes, Kolleen Potter, Celeste Whipple, Melissa Ann Grafton, Bobby Olea, Sue Gaxiola, Michael Bailey, Hallie Long, Julie Bakulich, Andrew Hopkins, Harlen Trisdale, and Mark Rosati.



Summer Safety Tips

Hey everybody, it's finally summer! Here are some quick tips to stay safe and still have fun.

Going to the beach or pool



- Always use a personal flotation device when you are in the water. Examples of personal flotation devices are life jackets, buoyant vests, and buoyant cushions or rings. This is most important if you just learned how to swim or if you are in a boat.

- Never swim without another adult or lifeguard present.

- Use a sunscreen that is at least SPF 15-30 for best protection from sunburn.

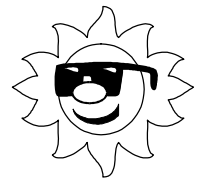
- Wait 20 minutes after you apply sunscreen before going outside. That gives the sunscreen time to dry on your skin and work better.

- Once you are in the sun or water, put on more sunscreen every two hours. It is important even if you use the waterproof and sweat-proof types.

- The sun is strongest between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Try to stay out of the direct sun at those times.

- Use sunglasses that give protection from both types of ultraviolet light – UVA and UVB rays. That will protect your eyes from sun damage.

- When you are in the sun, drink plenty of fluids, especially water.



Other outdoor activities

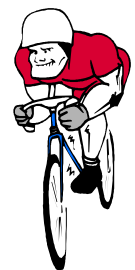
- Always wear a bike helmet when you ride.

- Wear full gear when in-line skating and skateboarding. Full gear includes wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads, and a helmet.

- Wear reflective clothing when it's hard to see you during late afternoon and at dusk.

- Do some warm-ups before working out and playing sports. Warm-ups include stretching and walking for about 5 minutes.

- Again, drink plenty of fluids – especially water.



Have a great summer and BE SAFE!
Safety Stu





Recreation Ideas Abounded at Resource Fair

By Jacqui Kerze, FRC Supervisor

Remember the summer surfin' songs of the Beach Boys? Well, last April 9, it wasn't yet summer, but we had fun, fun, fun, when nearly 300 of you joined us in the RCOC Board Room for the first annual Recreation Resource Fair and Open House hosted by Comfort Connection Family Resource Center. Fifteen recreation and family support programs (see sidebar for list) displayed their offerings as parents browsed and children enjoyed clowns, games and snacks.

Here are some comments from those who attended the event:

"Great event. You did a wonderful job!"

"Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to finding answers to my many questions! You all are what make customer service #1. You've been so helpful with getting info for me."

If you missed out on the Resource Fair, don't lose heart – the fun can continue when you stop by Comfort Connection to inquire about summer or fall activities for your little one. Our knowledgeable staff members will help you come up with ideas for entertaining and constructive pursuits for your child. We are open between

9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and are located off the RCOC lobby in Santa Ana at 801 Civic Center Drive West. Keep in mind that we also have a library stocked with books, flyers, brochures, and videos on a wide variety of disability topics and community programs. If you're not able to stop by to check out the resources available, feel free to call (714) 558-5400 to consult with one of our friendly staff members. All of us have children with special needs, too, and we can relate to the challenge of finding suitable recreational outlets for them.

We look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon! In the meantime, have a fun, fun, fun summer! Oh, and make a mental note to join us for our second Recreation Resource Fair next April.



Recreation/Family Support Programs that Participated in the Recreation Resource Fair

Contact the Comfort Connection Family Resource Center for information about these and other resources for your child.

- ◆ American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)
- ◆ Boys & Girls Clubs of Tustin
- ◆ Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC)
- ◆ City of Anaheim – Therapeutic Recreation Center
- ◆ Coast Children's Center
- ◆ Easter Seals
- ◆ Families With Special Children Association
- ◆ Family Support Network
- ◆ Fiesta Educativa Orange County
- ◆ New Directions Travel
- ◆ Real Challenges, Inc.
- ◆ Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK)
- ◆ United Cerebral Palsy/Orange County
- ◆ YMCA New Horizons

Left: Representatives from New Directions Travel and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Tustin provided information to Resource Fair visitors.



Right: Steve and Debbie Demora checked out the offerings from various vendors.

Child Care Survey Shows Inadequate Resources in Orange County for Children with Special Needs

Some time ago a survey was sent to Regional Center parents to find out the need for and use of child care among Orange County families with young children who have special needs. All English- and Spanish-speaking Regional Center families of children from birth to age eight who are at risk or have a developmental disability received the survey. The response rate was very high for a mail survey. Of the 4,000 families surveyed, 789, or nearly 20 percent, responded.

Topics Covered

The questionnaire examined the following topics:

- Parents' current use of non-parental care,
- Difficulties that parents encountered in finding appropriate care,
- Disparities between parents' current care arrangements and their preferred care settings, and
- Associations between children's characteristics (e.g., age, special need) and difficulties in arranging care.

Results Revealed Needs

The results of the survey showed that 317 of the parents responding did not have child care but wanted it. Fifty-two percent of parents indicated that they had difficulty in finding care for their child with special needs. The two greatest concerns about finding child care were:

- ✓ cost – 33%
- ✓ lack of staff trained to care for children with special needs – 28%

The other reasons given for the difficulty included availability, access due to their child's special needs, location, and transportation.

Twenty-seven percent of parents reported that they paid additional fees for child care as a result of their child's special needs, and 50% reported that they did not know their legal rights regarding access to child care as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Help Is Available

Comfort Connection Family Resource Center receives many inquiries regarding access to child care and can provide assistance and resources to parents. Please see the sidebar for a list of some organizations that can assist you in locating appropriate child care. If obtaining child care is an issue for your family, please contact your RCOC service coordinator or the FRC.

If you would like a copy of the full survey report, please request it from the FRC at (714) 558-5400.

The Orange County Child Care Survey for Children with Special Needs was a collaborative project of the Orange County Department of Education's (OCDE) Special Education Services Division, the Regional Center of Orange County, and the Child Care Coordinator of the County of Orange. Representatives from the following organizations were recruited to develop the survey: OCDE School and Community Services, the CRIBS (Coordination of Resources to Infants for Better Services) Interagency Council, the FRC, United Cerebral Palsy Association, and the Orange County Child Care and Developmental Planning Council.

Assistance Locating Child Care Resources

RCOC Family Resource Center

(714) 558-5400
801 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana
Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Children's Home Society of California

(888) CHS-4KIDS
www.chs-ca.org

TrustLine

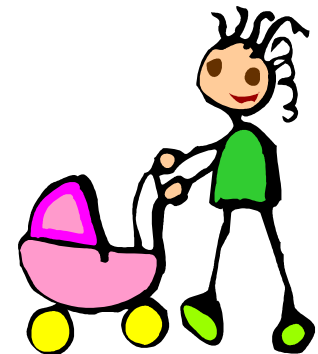
California's Background Check for In-Home Child Care
(800) 822-8490
www.trustline.org

Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council

(949) 548-3194
www.occhildcarecouncil.org

Child Care Law Center (CCLC)

For general information and technical assistance in understanding ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements of child care providers – has publications available for a small fee
(415) 394-7144
Child Care Law Center
221 Pine Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104



Open Enrollment Opportunity!

By Chanté White, CalOptima Liaison

What is Open Enrollment?

◆ Each year, CalOptima has an Open Enrollment Period from **June 15 to September 15.**

During the Open Enrollment Period, members can change their CalOptima health network for any reason.

◆ When the Open Enrollment Period is over, in most cases members will not be able to change their health network until the next Open Enrollment Period in 2006.



How can members change their health network?

◆ Each year in April, CalOptima members receive an Open Enrollment letter and packet explaining the process.

◆ During the Open Enrollment Period, members can call CalOptima's Customer Service Department at **(714) 246-8500** or toll-free at **(888) 587-8088** to ask for assistance with the Health Network Selection Form.

◆ Members need to complete the form and return it to CalOptima before September 15, 2005.

◆ If members have a reason why they want to change their health network after the Open Enrollment Period, they need to contact the CalOptima Customer Service Department for assistance.

When will members be enrolled in their new health network?

If members request a different

health network during the Open Enrollment Period, they will be enrolled in their new health network as of **October 1, 2005.**

What happens if members don't want to change their health network during the Open Enrollment Period?

If members want to keep their current health network, they don't need to do anything. CalOptima will keep members with their current health network until the next Open Enrollment Period.

Please note: Kaiser and UCI are closed to the Open Enrollment selection process.

If you have any questions regarding this information or need assistance with CalOptima services, please call me at (714) 796-5213. You can also call CalOptima's Customer Service Department at **(714) 246-8500** or toll-free at **(888) 587-8088** Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Brian Story Represents Consumers on CalOptima Committee

Brian Story is RCOC's consumer advocate. Brian's job is to help other consumers.

Brian is a Regional Center consumer, too. He uses a wheelchair. You can call Brian if you have a problem with any of your services. If you want to talk to another consumer about the Regional Center, you can call him. His telephone number is (714) 796-5365. If Brian doesn't answer, please leave a message. Be sure to include your phone number. He will call you back.

Brian was recently appointed to the CalOptima Member Advisory Committee. The committee meets quarterly. The committee reviews

CalOptima's programs. The committee also talks about issues that members have. The committee makes recommendations about CalOptima services to the CalOptima board of directors. As a committee member, Brian will be able to share his knowledge of the needs that RCOC consumers have.

If you have any concerns or comments about CalOptima services, feel free to call Brian and talk about it. His phone number is (714) 796-5365.



Protect Your Kids When Near the Water

Drowning is a leading cause of death in California for children under the age of 5, and near-drowning accidents can result in a lifetime disability. During the months of May through October, the California State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and the Drowning Prevention Foundation will raise awareness on this issue, and remind parents and caregivers that “kids aren’t drown-proof!”

Childhood Drowning Prevention - Safety Tips

Steps to avoid drowning accidents include close and constant supervision of children at all times near water and provision of multiple layers of protection, including pool fencing, gates, automatic sliding door closers, pool alarms and automatic safety covers.

Other safety guidelines published by the Drowning Prevention Foundation include the following:

√ Never leave a child alone near water while you answer the telephone or doorbell, to attend to another child or for household chores, even for a few seconds. At large gatherings designate an adult to watch children at play.

√ Fence your pool on all four sides with a barrier that is at least five feet high. Move lawn chairs, tables and other potential climbing aids away from the fence to help keep out children.

√ Any gate or door leading to the pool area should be self-closing and self-latching, opening outward, with the latch placed on the poolside and out of reach.

√ Install automatic sliding door closers, panic alarms on all house doors and windows leading to the pool area, and an automatic safety cover over the pool. Completely remove the cover before allowing children in the pool.

√ Drain off water that accumulates on top of a pool cover. A child can drown in as little as two inches of water.

√ Keep reaching and throwing aids, such as poles and life preservers, on both sides of the pool.

√ All non-swimmers should wear approved personal flotation devices (life vests) when they are near water and especially near rivers and streams.



Friendship (from page 1)

“LeRoy was the first consumer with whom I conducted a Person-Centered Plan, and he was so thrilled to have a say about what was in his plan. He said, ‘No one ever asked me about my thoughts before.’ His first goal was to go to Christmas Village in the mountains of Big Bear, and that winter his residential service provider took him there. He enjoyed himself and saw snow for the first time, at 73 years of age.”

Judy continued, “LeRoy was an active participant in my master’s thesis interviews. My thesis topic was ‘Retirement Preferences and Life Review Process of Elderly Developmentally Disabled Individuals.’ LeRoy’s response about retirement (at age 75) was, ‘Retirement is when you get older, you don’t work anymore. I’m not ready to retire yet.’”

Judy concluded, “LeRoy was an example for his housemates and often reminded them to be cooperative and nice, etc. When asked what his plans were for the future, he responded, ‘Feel good, stay healthy, and keep my job.’ When asked ‘What are the good things in your life?’ LeRoy said simply, ‘I’m happy.’ I never saw LeRoy upset or unhappy, even when his health was bad. He had a calm and pleasant manner about him. He will be missed by all who knew him as he was a great inspiration for all.”

Marites, the group home administrator, said that her favorite memory of the guys was when they took a trip to the Hollywood Wax Museum in Buena Park. She said, “They thought the wax figure of George Burns was real. Bill talked to the figure because

he thought it was [alive]. LeRoy was also amazed – he said ‘It looks so real!’ Bill even put his hands in front of its eyes to try to make it blink. I could never forget that – we all laughed [so hard].”

Although in their later years LeRoy and Bill grew frail and could no longer enjoy their respective hobbies of putting together puzzles and playing the harmonica, they had each other’s companionship.

As far as anyone at the Regional Center knows, nobody from LeRoy’s family was ever involved with him, and if that is the case, somehow he rose above that abandonment. He exuded a positive attitude and quiet grace. Bill was more fortunate in that he had a sister who watched out for him as his conservator, until she passed away in 1993.

On a visit to the Hollywood Wax Museum, Bill Porter stood next to a lifelike wax figure of comedian George Burns. Bill couldn’t believe that the statue wasn’t really the celebrity in the flesh.



These two were blessed by the gift of close friendship. They were clearly very loving and were loved in return by those who knew them best.

Although neither man had a funeral or memorial service, Amy Williams wrote a fitting eulogy for both. “RCOC staff were deeply moved by the love shared between these two men. With no close or active family involvement, they formed a life-long bond that could rival any familial tie. We will deeply miss the ‘Bill and LeRoy’ stories, and wish them well as they join each other beyond this earthly life.”



LeRoy W. Bastion
Oct. 27, 1918 – April 23, 2005



William F. Porter
July 7, 1919 – April 9, 2005

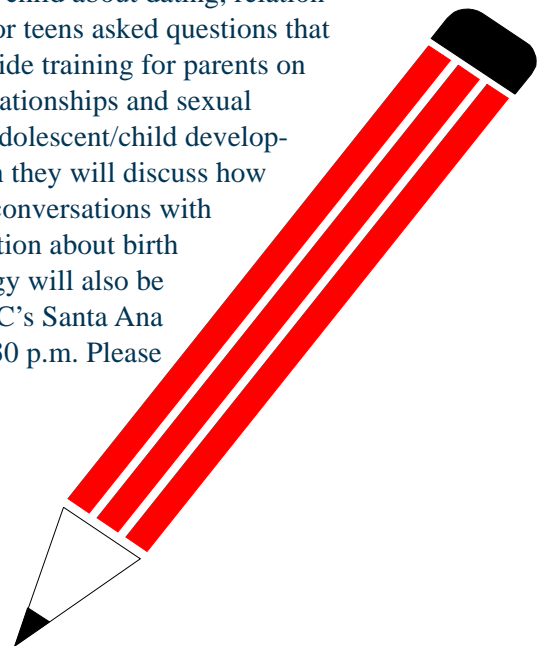
Events and Information to Note

Foster parents still needed... Thank you to those of you who read the Winter issue of *Dialogue* and responded to the request to become foster parents for children with special needs. The people at Orange County Social Services appreciated all the calls they received from prospective foster families. Despite that positive response, about 200 children each month await foster placement because there still aren't enough foster homes. If you have thought about becoming a foster parent to a child with special needs but haven't yet made that call, please contact Yazmin Leal at the Social Services Agency, (714) 704-8704 or by e-mail at yazmin.leal@ssa.ocgov.com. The greatest areas of need are for families willing to accept siblings so they don't have to be separated, for children with special needs under age 9, and for children of all ethnicities.

Lives Worth Saving toll-free Hotline 1(800) 637-2316... provides people with disabilities and their families with authoritative information on **organ transplantation** and how to maximize the chance of being listed and receiving an organ transplant. People with disabilities deserve equal consideration for transplant operations, and this national program has been established for that purpose. Become empowered with the knowledge you need if you or a loved one with a disability needs a life-saving solid organ transplant such as heart, lung, kidney, liver and/or pancreas.

California launches disability resource Web site ... The California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has launched a new Web site, www.disabilityaccessinfo.ca.gov/, to serve as a one-stop resource for locating information on disability law and access issues. The Web site combines information on state and federal laws, regulations and enforcement, guidance in providing access accommodations, and resources for meeting disability access laws. In addition to the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), California has several laws that go beyond ADA and impact employment, fair housing, and other important aspects of California living. The Web site provides a user-friendly format for businesses and individuals unclear on which law or government agency to contact for guidance on disability issues. The site also contains links to vital resources such as sign language interpreters or Braille document producers.

Beyond the Birds and the Bees ... Do you want to talk to your child about dating, relationships, and sexuality but don't know where to start? Have your children or teens asked questions that are uncomfortable to answer? Planned Parenthood's educators will provide training for parents on how to identify and communicate a family's values regarding dating, relationships and sexual behavior with their children. They will also provide information about adolescent/child development, including what is appropriate to talk about at each age. In addition they will discuss how to incorporate discussions about sex and reproductive health into daily conversations with children so that parents don't have to sweat over the "big talk." Information about birth control methods, sexually transmitted infections, anatomy and physiology will also be discussed. The presentation will be held in English and Spanish at RCOC's Santa Ana office, 801 Civic Center Drive on Wednesday, September 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please RSVP to Naomi Hall at (714) 558-5400.



Ninth Annual Spotlight Awards Coming September 16

Now is the time to make your reservation for the RCOC event of the year! Invitations were mailed in July for the Spotlight Awards banquet that will take place on Friday, September 16, from 6:00 p.m. to midnight, at the Irvine Marriott Hotel. Reservations are \$45 per person if purchased before August 26, and \$50 after that date.

This year we are delighted to welcome Derrick Dufresne as master of ceremonies. Derrick is president of Community Resource Associates, a training and management consulting firm dedicated to promoting full community inclusion for people with disabilities. In his warm and humorous style, Derrick will announce the Spotlight Award recipients in multiple categories.

If you have questions about the event or you did not receive an invitation and wish to purchase a ticket, please call your RCOC service coordinator or Betty Bath at (714) 796-5263. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today!

For sponsorship opportunities, please contact Karen Taylor at (714) 796-5208 or Jacqui Kerze at (714) 796-5299.

Regional Center of Orange County has four locations to serve you:

Santa Ana Office
801 Civic Center Dr. West
24-hour phone: (714) 796-5100

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26311 Junipero Serra Road, Ste. 180
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