



TRESA OLIVERI ELECTED TO CHAIR REGIONAL CENTER OF ORANGE COUNTY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SANTA ANA, Calif., January – Regional Center of Orange County ([RCOC](#)) announced that Tresa Oliveri has been elected Chairperson of its Board of Directors. Her term in this volunteer position runs until June 1, 2012.

A resident of Irvine who works as a public outreach manager for the Orange County Transportation Authority, Oliveri is well-known in the developmental disabilities community in Orange County and statewide. The mother of a young adult son who has autism, she re-joined the RCOC board this past June, having previously served for seven years as an RCOC board member, including three years as Vice Chair. A past-President of the Association of Regional Center Agencies ([ARCA](#)), the organization that represents the regional center system at the state level, Oliveri is a passionate and effective advocate on behalf of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. She was honored in 2008 with the E. Kurt Yeager Servant Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding volunteer service to RCOC and the developmental disabilities community statewide.

“Because of her diverse experience, as a parent and volunteer community leader, Tresa understands the demands of raising a child with developmental disabilities, as well as the challenges facing the regional center,” said RCOC Executive Director Larry Landauer. “My team and I are enthusiastic about working with her.”

Oliveri noted that the pressures from California’s enormous budget deficit, combined with the lagging economy, will continue to pose serious challenges for RCOC and the 20 other regional centers contracted by the State of California to provide essential services and supports to children and adults with developmental disabilities. She said the regional centers and the organizations they use to provide direct services to people with disabilities have had their already-lean budgets reduced significantly in recent years. Acknowledging that it is possible that further cuts could be enacted, she stressed the importance of demonstrating the value that taxpayers receive from their investment in California’s regional center system.

“The community-based services and supports available through regional centers enable people with developmental disabilities to live safely and with dignity in the community,” she said. “I am convinced that Californians still believe that including people with disabilities in community life is the right thing to do, however, with tax dollars becoming more and more scarce, we need to redouble our efforts to be accountable and to show how we are making every tax dollar entrusted to us go as far as possible. The people RCOC serves and the people who pay the bills need to have confidence that regional centers are exercising good stewardship in meeting people’s critical needs.”

[Regional Center of Orange County](#) is the private, nonprofit organization contracted by the State of California to coordinate services and supports for the close to 17,000 Orange County residents with developmental disabilities and their families. Developmental disabilities include mental retardation, autism, epilepsy and cerebral palsy. RCOC’s board of directors is composed entirely of volunteers.

#