

# Connections for Information and Resources on Community Living (CIRCL)

August, 1999

Volume 3, Number 1



## CIRCL News

CIRCL has been active around the state this year, spreading the word about supported living services (SLS) and helping people figure out how to solve some of the many problems that come up. Thanks to the folks at the Department of Developmental Services, we have been able to provide these services for free or a small fee.

We're always willing to try to help you find the answers you need to make supported living work better for you or someone you care about. Please feel free to call us and we will try to help you or hook you up with someone who can. Here are the highlights of our work:

### Resources

- Next fall, look for information on a training resource notebook that we are in the process of developing. We are pulling together materials from all over on topics that are important for training direct support staff. We are coordinating the materials with some other projects going on around the state, such as the SLS evaluation process that is being developed. If you have any materials you would like to share, contact Claudia Bolton at (530) 621-1933.
- You may see the brochure that we developed for SLS around these days. The brochure, being distributed by DDS, explains the basic concepts of SLS for people who use services and families. If you'd like copies of it, call Mike Kulisek (916) 654-1755.
- If you haven't gotten on our discussion group on the Internet, be sure and sign up. It's a place to have discussions about issues and topics of interest in supported living with others across the state, nation and world! To join, go to our website at <http://www.napanet.net/business/personal/ASA/CIRCL/Circl.html> and follow the directions to sign up. (See additional information in this newsletter issue.)

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### If you have questions . . .

#### **Becky Donofrio**

135 E. Live Oak, #104  
Arcadia, CA 91006  
(626) 447-5477 fax 447-5855  
sitea@aol.com

#### **Claudia Bolton**

P.O. Box 1084  
El Dorado, CA 95623-1084  
(530) 521-1933 fax 621-1988  
drmwvrbars@aol.com

#### **Vickie Vining**

5835 St. Clair Avenue  
Valley Village, CA 91607  
(818) 752-7484 fax 508-1265  
vvining@earthlink.net



## **CALIFORNIA SUPPORTIVE LIVING NETWORK**

Be part of a membership committee made up of professionals, individuals receiving services and family members, make your voice heard, share ideas and view points on topics that effect our industry in the legislature. CSLN welcomes members from all of the twenty-one Regional Centers in California to share ideas and planning strategies. Your membership will offer an opportunity to attend and participate in networking meetings, sit on the steering committee, receive a quarterly newsletter, updates on legislation and the use of the CSLN Web Site.

### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:**

Name (agency or individual): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address/City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Vendoring Regional Center: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks out to the:**  
California Supportive Living Network

**Mail membership information to:**  
P.O. Box 5204  
West Covina, Ca. 91792-5204  
Fax: (626) 912-6376  
E-mail: CSLN@aol.com

### **MINIMUM CONTRIBUTIONS for 1999 are as follows:**

Professionals: \$50.00

Consumers and Families: \$25.00

New Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Professional: \_\_\_\_\_

Renewal of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Consumer/Family: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information call Tom Heinz at (510) 832-7126 or Nancy Bunker at (626) 912-6373

## CIRCL News, continued

### Presentations

- Ten sessions on the basics of supported living, aimed at letting people who use services and their families know about supported living as a living option. We did these sessions in Sausalito, La Jolla, Bakersfield, San Luis Obispo, Morro Bay, Oxnard, San Bernardino, the Self-Advocacy Conference, and two presentations in Spanish at Vacaville and Fiesta Educativa. We'll also have a table at the Information Faire at the Supported Life Conference. Look for us there!
  
- Two parent and self vendor seminars (one August 7, 1999, in Southern California and one sometime around the Supported Life Conference in Sacramento.) The seminars will be one day meetings where people doing Supported Living Services (SLS) themselves will be able to talk to some consultants about labor issues, recruiting, tax issues, etc. It will also be a place where they can meet and help each other. Contact: Vickie Vining, (818) 752-7484.

## Uniform In-Home Supported Services (IHSS) Rules

*Summarized from the Protection and Advocacy, Inc. Spring 1999 newsletter and Department of Social Services' All-County Letters, dated June and October, 1998.*

Recently, Protection and Advocacy, Inc. represented more than a dozen clients in Shasta, Marin and Santa Clara Counties who were refused attendant care services by the Department of Social Services (DSS) because counties argued that their regional center funded supported living services replaced eligibility for IHSS Services.

As a result, DSS has issued notifications letters to all 58 California counties that define their duties listed below.

1. Under the Lanterman Act, Regional Centers are prevented from purchasing services for their clients when these services can be provided by an another public agency. This is the called the "generic services rule." The IHSS program provides such "generic services." **Therefore, IHSS must be used before Regional Center pays for support services.**
  
2. **Services provided by Regional Centers to their clients can no longer be considered an alternative resource. Regional Center services are not a reason for denying or reducing hours of IHSS hours.** IHSS must be given as though no services are being provided through a Regional Center.
  
3. County welfare departments may inform Regional Center of the IHSS services authorized for clients of both programs. Consent from the client or their legal representative is currently required before informing Regional Centers about the IHSS authorized services.
  
4. Clients who receive interim regional center services are entitled to IHSS benefits if they are found to be eligible. Payments will be made from the date of the IHSS application. Duplicate payments are not allowed to any provider, applicant or recipient when services have been provided at no cost to the client. Since IHSS is the first payer for in-home support services, it is the responsibility of regional centers not to duplicate IHSS services.



## Open Space Gathering on Supported Living

Over 50 people with a wide range of interests and experience came together in February and June to discuss issues pertaining to supported living services. The gathering is for service providers (old and new), individuals who receive services, parents and parent vendors only and provides a safe place to discuss service issues. CIRCL facilitators used an *Open Space* organizing process that gave everyone the opportunity to “get what they needed from the group and the location - a sunny Santa Cruz beach”. The participants created an agenda of topics and issues to discuss. Everyone then had a chance to choose from a variety of discussion groups.

Topics of discussion included: starting a new agency; current litigation and legislation to track; issues with sexuality; supporting people with behavioral challenges; getting to know people referred for services; developing and implementing person-centered service plans so services are congruent with what people need and want; supporting staff; issues around staff and supervising and training staff who are not doing a good job; cost effective support services; resources and materials available to support the work of supported living; and the struggles of providing supported living services within a large agency that may not really understand the principles of SLS.

The format of the *Open Space* meeting and the casual atmosphere of meeting in a room overlooking the beach created an environment that encouraged an open and supportive experience for everyone. On both occasions, participants stayed together for two days of discussion and were not enticed to go surfing or shopping. This is a testament to the commitment people make to learning as much as they can about supporting people to live in their own homes. We hope to continue the gatherings in the future!

CIRCL  
135 E. Live Oak, #104  
Arcadia, CA 91006

### Publisher's Note

*CIRCL* is currently funded by a grant from the Department of Developmental Services. Newsletter staff include Sherry Beamer and Bill Allen **We need your help in building this newsletter. Please send us any articles, stories, and experiences that you would like to share with others to the address above.**

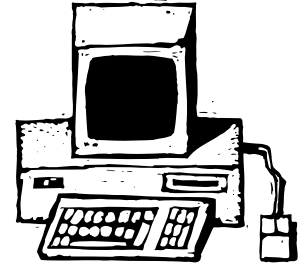
**Has your address changed? If so, please correct the address label above and send it to us.**



## Special Insert

# Great Internet Information Sources

The list below is a sampling of Internet websites, including information about discussion lists. It was provided by Bill Coffelt, a parent, and then we added a few more resources. It is by no means complete! Internet resources come and go each day. Feel free to share your favorite resources with us to publish on our website or in upcoming newsletter issues!



### National/International Resources

#### The Arc of the United States

<http://www.thearc.org>

Information about the Arc's research, advocacy and service efforts. Links to local chapters, reprints of articles and information on how to access disability related information on the web.

#### Community Associates International

<http://www.communityassociates.com/index.html/>

A resource for cutting edge disability related issues.

**Innovative Practices in Supported Living:** Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University

<http://web.syr.edu/~thecp/support.htm>

Information package on Supported Living that discusses innovative agencies, implementation considerations and links to where to go for more information.

#### Individualized Funding Information Resources

<http://members.home.net/bsalisbury/>

Ways people with disabilities can gain control over funds to pay for the supports. Information about July, 2000 International Self-Determination conference in Seattle.

#### Microboards

<http://www.microboard.org>

Interesting links to sites such as "Disability is Cool"

#### National Home of Your Own Alliance

<http://alliance.unh.edu>

A technical assistance center, including information about the Fannie Mae home ownership program.

#### National Program Office on Self-Determination

<http://www.self-determination.org>

Information and discussion groups on the self-determination movement.

#### Opportunity Nocs

<http://www.opportunitynocs.org/home.html>

National job listing service for nonprofit organizations.

#### Our-Kids-Adults: Raising Adult Children with Special Needs

<http://www.our-kids.org/OKAdults/>

This group is starting a nationwide supported living provider listing.

#### Ragged Edge Magazine

<http://www.ragged-edge-mag.com>

The on-line edition of the magazine providing news from the "Disability Rights Nation." Offers a bookstore.

#### "There's No Place Like Home": A Coalition of Groups in Favor of Home and Community Supports

<http://soeweb.syr.edu/thehcp/coaliton.html>

#### TASH

<http://www.tash.org/>

An international association of people with disabilities, their family members, other advocates and professional fighting for a society in which inclusion of all people in all aspects of society is the norm.

### California Resources

#### Allen Shea Associates

<http://www.allenshea.com/>

Maintains articles on a variety of topics including supported living and person centered planning. Links to a variety of interesting sites. Home of the CIRCL web page.

#### California Area Boards on Developmental Disabilities

<http://www.ns.net/OAB/>

Current activities of the Area Boards, agencies required by the Lanterman Act to assure equitable services for people with disabilities in California.

#### California Department of Developmental Disabilities

<http://www.dds.cahwnet.gov/sls001.htm>

Description and legal references of supported living services available through regional centers. "How To" reference materials and links to other resources as well.

## California Developmental Disabilities Netlink

<http://www.npi.ucla.edu/uap/cddn>

Information about California services and programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities, as well as national resources. Agencies and programs can be added to this resource site by completing a brief survey.

## California Protection and Advocacy, Inc. (PAI)

<http://www.pai-ca.org/>

Current activities and newsletters of the legal advocacy group to protect, advocate and advance the human, legal and service rights of people with disabilities.

## California's Tools and Strategies for Family Partnerships

[http://www2.sac-co.k12.ca.us:591/CalSTAT/Cal\\_Resources](http://www2.sac-co.k12.ca.us:591/CalSTAT/Cal_Resources)

Site for sharing information about successful tools and strategies that demonstrate and/or encourage partnerships between and among families, family organization, educators and policy makers.

## CIRCL: Connections for Information on Resources on Community Living

<http://www.allenshea.com/CIRCL/Circl.html>

Current information on the group's work to create opportunities for building and sharing individual, organizational and community strengths in supported living. Offers a supported living discussion list.

## Supported Life Institute

<http://www.supportedlife.org/>

The Institute offers educational and training opportunities to assist individuals and organizations in the work of improving the quality of life for people with disabilities.

## Advocacy Groups

### ADAPT: American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today

<http://www.adapt.org>

Fighting for people with disabilities to live in communities. Includes newsletters, local contacts and updates on the proposed miCASSA legislation.

### The Oaks Group

<http://www.jps.net/wcoffelt/oaks.html>

A stakeholder organization of parents, consumers, advocates, educators, service providers and other professionals who believe persons with developmental disabilities should be fully included in the mainstream of community life.

## Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)

<http://members.aol.com/netsabe/netsabe.html>

National self-advocacy organization for people with disabilities. Website lists their strategic plan that includes their plans to advocate for de-institutionalization and building community supports.

## Supported Living Service Providers

### Jay Nolan Community Services, Inc.

<http://www.jaynolan.org/>

Currently serving the North Los Angeles County, Orange County, East Los Angeles County and San Jose areas.

### NorthStar Services

<http://californiahorseman.com/northstar/index.htm>

A new agency serving El Dorado and Sacramento Counties.

## Personal Sites

### Mave's Mom

<http://www.geocities.com/~mavesmom/mavesmom.html>

Other than personal profiles, interesting ideas about "professional parenting."

## Discussion Groups or Listservs

Discussion groups allow members to send one message to the *listserve* address which *broadcasts* that message to all list members within a few minutes. Members can then respond to the messages by an e-mail discussion on the listserve, or can contact the member individually. Each discussion list has rules about how to participate. The advantages to discussion lists are to receive daily information about current issues and to get instant feedback from a large network on problems you pose. The disadvantage can be a long list of e-mail messages waiting for you each day!!

CIRCL has an e-mail discussion group or listserv and you can find it on the website at <<http://www.napanet.net/business/personal/ASA/CIRCL/Circl.html>>. Once you are on the website, you will find directions for joining the discussion group at the bottom of the page.