

# WHAT DOES THE AREA BOARD DO?



## AREA BOARD XI ACTIVITIES

**HOUSING:** Area Board XI (ABXI) provides information on residential options available to people with developmental disabilities and their families and advocates for all people with developmental disabilities to live inclusively and independently in the communities of their choice.

**EMPLOYMENT:** ABXI sits on the Orange County Employment Advocacy Network (OCEAN) and the Orange County Adult Transition Task Force (OCATTF), to address transition and employment issues. ABXI conducts outreach at County high schools; community colleges; and vocational & supported employment agencies.

**HEALTH:** ABXI and UCI's College of Medicine's collaborative project, Operation Housecall, was developed in 2001 to educate future physicians about the lives and medical needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities. ABXI's established Health Care Task Force consists of representatives from CalOptima, Regional Center of Orange County, Orange County Mental Health, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Dayle McIntosh Center for Independent Living.

**EDUCATION:** ABXI advocates for the educational rights of children with developmental disabilities by assisting families with Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings and mediations with local school districts. ABXI also provides trainings for parents, consumers, and professionals on the IEP process; successful inclusion strategies; assistive technology funding sources; early intervention to school services/transition; and special education protections under the law.

## AREA BOARDS WERE ESTABLISHED BY THE LANTERMAN ACT TO:

- pursue legal, administrative and other remedies to ensure the protection of consumer rights and eliminate discrimination;
- collaborate with county and regional consumer organizations, knowledgeable professionals and planning councils on developmental disabilities;
- encourage the development of needed services and supports by federal, state and local agencies;
- monitor policies and practices of state-funded agencies to ensure their compliance with federal, state, and local laws;
- identify barriers to services and advocate for systemic change;
- conduct informational programs for the public and for professionals to educate and enhance awareness and understanding about issues affecting consumers;
- encourage and assist in the establishment and strengthening of self-advocacy organizations; and
- appoint authorized representatives to advocate on behalf of consumers not represented by family or friends.

**COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:** ABXI facilitated the development of the Orange County chapter of People First and assists consumers with inclusive recreation, transportation, and assistive technology (AT) issues, as well as provides outreach and education to the community on personal emergency preparedness. ABXI is a member of the Assistive Technology Institute (ATI) and presents at the annual ATI Conferences. Along with the Dayle McIntosh Center for Independent Living, ABXI co-chairs the annual Disability Rights Workshops.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE:** ABXI advocates for regional center and other service rights of people with developmental disabilities by assisting adults and families to access the services and supports they need and by conducting educational trainings and workshops in-house and throughout the community. ABXI facilitated the establishment of a Quality Assurance Collaborative with Community Care Licensing, Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC), Adult Protective Services (APS) and the Council on Aging's Ombudsman. ABXI collaborates with RCOC, Adult Protective Services, the Council on Aging, and the Orange County District Attorney on the Criminal Justice Task Force. ABXI co-chairs the Orange County Collaborative to End Abuse of Individuals with Disabilities (CEAID).

**STATE PROJECTS:** ABXI administers two state projects based at Fairview, funded through the Department of Developmental Services. The Volunteer Advocacy Services Project provides representation for consumer residents at Fairview, and those transitioning into the community, who are unrepresented by family or conservators. The Clients' Rights Advocacy Project monitors the legal, civil, and services rights of Fairview consumers. ABXI sponsors and facilitates People First of Fairview and participates in the annual

## WHAT IS AREA BOARD XI?

Area Board XI is one of thirteen state-wide agencies mandated in 1976 by California law \* to protect and advocate for the civil, legal and service rights of people with developmental disabilities and their families. In 2003, the Area Boards (ABs) merged with the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, a federally-funded independent state agency.

As a rule, sixty percent of the members of an AB Board of Directors are consumers or consumers' family members, and forty percent are members of the general public. The Board of Directors assists the Area Board in determining the specific needs of Orange County consumers and their families and in developing local programs to serve those needs. For information about applying to join the Board of Directors, contact ABXI.

*\*See California Welfare & Institutions*

## IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:

- **INFORMATION AND REFERRAL** to find out what's available, who's eligible and who's responsible;
- **DISAGREEMENTS** with agency decisions;
- **POLICIES AND PRACTICES** of public agencies that seem inconsistent with laws;
- **LAWS AND REGULATIONS** that don't seem to work and need review;
- **LEGISLATION** affecting persons with developmental disabilities and how to get your opinions heard; or
- **PUBLIC INFORMATION** about developmental disabilities and any of the above issues...

**CONTACT AREA BOARD XI AT  
714.558.4404**



## AREA BOARD XI

**OFFICE OF THE  
CALIFORNIA STATE  
COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**



*To protect and advocate for  
the civil, legal and service  
rights of individuals with  
developmental disabilities  
and their families.*

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