

**Options for Life
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Honorable Jim Beall, Chair
Assembly Human Services Committee
1020 N Street, Room 124
Sacramento, CA 95814

November 1, 2010

This letter is meant to provide testimony on behalf of Westside Regional Center. I represent the thousands of Westside Regional Center's Service Providers as the Chairperson of the WRC Service Provider Advisory Committee. I have been an active member of this committee for twenty years and I have served as the Chairperson (on and off) for 6 years.

I have had the pleasure of working with Westside Regional Center for the past twenty two years. I have worked with you in many different types of services. I was an Administrator for Adult Residential Facilities and Residential Care Facility for Elderly and a Program Director for an Independent Living & Supported Living agency. I was a Foster Parent working through a Westside Foster Family Agency and a Behavioral Consultant. I had my own consulting company which helped agencies who wanted to be vendored with the Regional Center. I have co-taught many Crisis Prevention Intervention classes and Client's Rights classes with the staff of Westside Regional Center. I currently run a community-based day support service.

Westside Regional Center has always maintained a collaborative relationship with all the service providers. WRC Executive Director - Mike Danneker has done an excellent job keeping providers informed and allowing us a voice in the implementation of our services, as they relate to changes within the system.

The Service Provider Advisory Committee members have been able to voice their concerns, problems and issues with this regional center and its policies and procedures. The issues and problems are solved mutually for the best interest of the people we serve. WRC staff ensures fairness by working on these issues with us.

By working collaboratively together, we are able to provide the best level of care for the people who receive services through us. While other regional centers write memos or letters on the changes that will be happening, Mr. Danneker and his staff choose to attend the service provider advisor committee meetings and talk with us, face to face. For these reasons and so many more, I believe that Westside Regional Center is outstanding.

I know there are many challenges facing us in the future, but we service providers stand ready and willing to face together whatever comes our way. Westside Regional Center has our respect and our support.

Sincerely,

Karol Ann Scotta - Options for Life & WRC Service Provider Advisory Committee Chairperson