



## **OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL CENTER**

### **▶ Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act**

- ▶ The State Assemblyman Frank Lanterman introduced Assembly Bill 255 in 1969 and it was passed by the State Legislature by the mid 1970's**
- ▶ The Lanterman Development Disabilities Services Act Mandates the State of California to provide services to persons with developmental disabilities, and entitle those individuals to receive certain services.**
- ▶ “Developmental disability” means a disability which originates before an individual attains age 18, continues, or can be expected to continue, indefinitely, and constitutes a substantial disability for that individual. Developmental disabilities include mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, and autism, and include conditions found to be closely related to mental retardation or requiring treatment similar to that required by mentally retarded individuals. Excluded are conditions which are solely physical in nature.**

### **▶ The State Department of Developmental Services (DDS)**

- ▶ DDS was established in 1978 to provide services to Californians with developmental disabilities.**
- ▶ DDS administers five developmental centers (formerly called state hospitals) and contracts with 21 regional centers throughout state to provide such services in local communities.**
- ▶ The mission of the Department of Developmental Services is to administer statewide programs for persons with developmental disabilities in accordance with the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act.**

## ▶ **Regional Center**

- ▶ **The Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) is a private, non-profit organization under contract to, and received funds from, the State of California Department of Developmental Services.**
- ▶ **ELARC provides services for persons with developmental disabilities, suspected of having a developmental disability, or at risk for developmental disability.**
- ▶ **ELARC is governed by a board composed of parents, consumers and community representatives.**
- ▶ **Persons residing within the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center catchment area may receive diagnostic services to determine the presence of, suspected of, or at risk for a developmental disability and eligibility for regional Center services.**
- ▶ **There are no fees for evaluation, diagnostic services, advocacy and referral. Parents of minors receiving 24 hours residential care are assessed a fee which goes to the Program Developmental Fund. The Regional Center may assist consumers and parents in paying the cost of services purchased from other agencies or professionals. These services are purchased by the Regional Center only if funding is not available through any other source.**
- ▶ **“Service providers” contract with centers to provide the many services and supports needed through an individual’s life. This enables them to lead full, integrated lives in communities of their choosing. Each person’s needs, goals, and services are described in an individual program plan (IPP) or individualized family service plan (IFSP). Regional centers’ most visible role is to identify, coordinate, and monitor those services.**
- ▶ **Regional Centers also provide; lifelong individualized planning and case management, assistance in finding and accessing community and other resources, advocacy for the protection of legal, civil, and service rights, vocational services, planning, placement, and monitoring for 24-hour out-of-home care, training and educational opportunities for individuals and families.**