CRA Regional Caucuses Meet for Initial Planning Session

The majority of newly formed CRA Regional Caucuses met this month to begin ongoing dialogue regarding both statewide and local issues.

Members took the first steps in creating a more solid structure to facilitate continual input and planning for action within their regions. The regional meetings were well attended and gave members the opportunity to reconnect with their colleagues.

The caucuses focused on accomplishing two issues over the next few months, including:

- creating a local plan to determine some of the issues CRA should consider in the upcoming year and review during its’ annual Leadership Retreat;
- focusing on using grassroots outreach as a means to educate consumers, family members, board members and staff on their basic rights under the Lanterman Act and how to teach them to advocate for these rights through their local provider.

CRA is setting up Regional ListServes for each caucus that will allow open communication among caucus members. In addition, each caucus has set a date for their next meeting to discuss the above issues. CRA strongly urges members to attend these meetings as an opportunity to participate in the discussion of critical issues that your statewide association looks forward to working on next year.

If you do not receive information via email in the next few weeks on the upcoming meeting in your area please contact Michele Perrault, Grassroots Coordinator, at mperrault@calrehab.org.

A BIG THANKS TO ALL THE MEMBERS THAT WERE ABLE TO MAKE IT TO THIS FIRST MEETING!
Annual D/V Meeting Lengthened to Allow More Member Input

CRA has found the traditional D/V Division conference format has at times restricted the ability of members to fully participate in the development of the Division’s policy priorities, so we are making a dramatic change for October. In addition to the new Regional Caucus structure to encourage early and broad discussion of the Division’s direction, our conference will be extended by half a day.

WEDNESDAY: We are shortening the Leadership Series to allow an early kick-off for the Annual Meeting. The DRAFT 2005 Action plan, developed through our new Regional Caucus system and in the Leadership Retreat, will be presented in issue-specific break-out sessions for an intense review by Members.

THURSDAY, the Regional Caucuses discuss the revised Action Plan, and two of our three committees will meet to hear recommendations for refinement and change.

On FRIDAY, a final committee meeting will be followed by the full CRA D/V Membership who will formally approve the 2005 Action Plan.

Adding an additional half day of substantive meetings may require some of you to fly in a day earlier. But the time is vital if all DV Members are to have a full opportunity to review, understand, and critique our proposed work product for the coming year. The work we do together will make a difference in helping us all fulfill our mission.

Join us in Riverside, October 27-29 for our Annual Meeting and the beginning of an exciting journey!

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Important Dates to Note

**Wednesday, June 30, 2004** – End of 2003-04 State Fiscal Year.

**Tuesday, August 31, 2004** – Last day for each house to pass bills.

**Thursday, September 30, 2004** – Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills.

**Wednesday, October 27 – Friday, October 29, 2004** – CRA Annual Meeting, Riverside, CA