

Regional Reports from September 26-27, 2009 Board Meeting

Region 1 – Gail Walters (Alternate):

We continue to collect can goods and socks at our monthly meetings for the Food Bank and Homeless Shelters.

In June a very few of our chapters were able to attend the state conference, but all who attended enjoyed the conference. In July we had a birthday BBQ and celebrated Penny Vinson's birthday at Todd Grove Park.

In September we had a karaoke and pizza party and we had about 60 people attend. It was great fun. September 21, 2009, we helped plan and participated in the California Memorial Project. We planted bulbs and ferns on the two sites. Also Nicky Fabyunkey's memorial bench was placed on the site. Our sites should be finished by next year; they would have been completed this year if it hadn't been for the budget crisis and State holding up the checks. Think Nicky would be proud of her bench on the site as she had worked very hard on the committee and got very involved with the project.

On October 10, 2009, our chapter will be celebrating our 20th year as a People First Chapter. We would like to invite all of the board members and helpers to come. We have sent an invitation to the PFCA, so mark your calendars. We'll have finger foods and lots of old time members, speeches and a DJ for dancing. It is from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m., Saturday, October 10th.

Our group would also like to know if there will be a conference this year. Also how the budget is affecting PFCA? Also has anyone heard anything about the trailer-bill?

Our web master would like to have our website linked to PFCA; we have requested it before but were told that our representative would have to bring it before the board. Our website is <http://www.peoplefirstofukiah.org>

Region 2 – Roger Pulliam:

We were told in Region 2 because of cut backs, we would not be able to have our regular conference in 2010, because there was no funding. As soon as we heard this we were not happy. We talked about it a lot while we were together at the People First of California Convention in June. At our Region 2 meeting in August we got together and decided we didn't care what the budget was like, we were going to have our conference. We would do it ourselves.

We talked about what we could do to save money. We made decisions. We decided we could just stay one night. We will do our own decorating. We will only have speakers from own way, because there will not be any money from our Regional Center. Also, each chapter will donate \$100.00 and donate the money we raise from fundraiser to bring the cost down.

In Region 2, every chapter in our area is a sub-committee with a job to do for the conference. We already volunteered for our duties and are working on them. WE WILL HAVE A 2010 CONFERENCE IN REGION 2.

Region 3 – Cindy Lee Richards:

The information is from the following People First Chapters:

Auburn, Capitol People First, Marysville, Nevada County, Placerville, Roseville, South Sacramento, Lake Tahoe, Yolo and Yuba Counties

Each chapter submitted a Chapter Report and the following are highlights from the reports.

- Most Chapters continue to have fundraisers such as car washes, dances, picnics, dinner and bake sales.
- A few Chapters have had speakers such as: Daniel Meadows from Disability Rights of California, who spoke on the IPP & Goals and the Appeal process. Another guest speaker visited the Placerville Chapter and spoke on Abuse Prevention and Safe Relationships.

- Some Chapters are working with “Hands-on of Sacramento” and doing charity work/volunteering. Some Chapters will be adopting a needy family for the holidays and provide food/gifts.
- Members from the Yolo Chapter attended the Information Fair. Professor, Dr. Liz Applegate of UC Davis, spoke on “nutrition”.
- Members from a couple of Chapters have made presentations to: Easter Seals and a day program regarding the IPP reform that is being worked on by the CAC sub-committee at Alta California Regional Center. I spoke at the Southside Art Center. Selected members from a few Chapters presented at the People First Conference and will be presenting at the Supported Life Conference on the IPP.

The Chapters want PFCA to know:

- All Chapters are concerned about the budget cuts and that they continually try to increase their membership.
- That Ed Plon, from Supported Life Institute has worked with members of the Project Advisory Board to insure each Chapter is conducting their meetings in a uniform manner and that the advisors cover key points during the meetings.

Additional comment of this Chapter:

Lake Tahoe received a donation of \$500.00 by the Kiwanis Club of Lake Tahoe.

Region 4 – Cathy Daggett:

People First of Vallejo has been postponing our meeting for a few months, as our program continues to make changes in our setting. In honor of starting our meeting again, we will have a celebration on October 2nd.

Meeting will be held the first Friday of every month.

In August, we had a surprise visit from Deanna DuPont. She did a presentation on “2009 California Budget: Changes in the Lanterman Act”.

She passed out brochure on "Practice Democracy", which is a communication guide for Elected Representatives. She talked about the effects the budget would have on supported living, provider services and transportation. She stated the changes must agree with our IPP.

NBRC must tell you in writing if your service will change, which is called "Notice of Action", 30 days before changes occur. You have a right to appeal any changes within 10 days after receiving notice of action. This is called "Fair Hearing Request". She encouraged the group to continue speaking up for ourselves. The group had many questions and she had very helpful answer. We thanked her for coming and updating us on the budget changes.

Region 5 – Carmen Quinones:

The Regional Center went to the A's game. A's won.

Area Board 5 went to Familia Progresso

South County had a picnic at Lake Elizabeth

Region 6 – Krisi Franzone:

Our May Area Meeting was in Stockton, where we presented "My Life, My Way, and At the End." There were 100 self-advocates that attended this meeting.

We did a presentation with Service Providers in Region 6 about Self-Advocacy.

We had our August area meeting, in Modesto. There were around 200 self-advocates that attended. Disability Rights California came to talk about service cuts and their effect on our services.

We had a table at Stockton's Disability Awareness Fair. There was a good turnout. There were self-advocates ranging from three years old to senior citizens that attended.

We had the CMP service at the Stockton Rural Cemetery and the Manteca Cemetery. Both were well attended.

For our November Area Meeting, we are focusing on Legislative Advocacy. What we can do now to let our legislators know what we need, and how the budget cuts have personally affected us.

Region 7 – Robert Jaques:

I met all of the members of the Santa Cruz Chapter. The Board President was told that my chapter had elected me as a Board member for Region 7. The CEO of People First went over the puzzle of People First.

The Santa Cruz Chapter told me to keep them informed about what goes on at the Board Meetings. There are only two Chapters in Region 7.

I had a fun time meeting all the members. They do a good job at putting meetings on.

Region 8 – Roy Rocha:

Kern Regional Community gave a contribution to a convalescent hospital.

- Visit people
- Take supplies to them
- Schedule more visits

Adopt a street

- Clean up area

Adopt a Family

- Thanksgiving basket
- Christmas gifts

October Events

- Buddy Walk

- Empathy – How does it feel to be blind.

Fundraising

- Raised approximately \$2,500.00
- Plan more events

Donated money for Hispanic Conference

New building to be completed in one year.

T-Shirt, each member found a sponsor to pay for their new T-shirt.

Region 9 – Jody Barker:

People First Of San Luis Obispo Report

Since April we have acquired approximately 10 new members

Some of the new members are from a local organization called AHI which is a local work program.

There was a community dance in June featuring Al Millan and the Robots. The band had previously decided that all proceeds should go to People First of San Luis Obispo. People First of SLO donated money to the new local dog park in Morro Bay. People First Of SLO is considering having there own hats. Judy Jacobson from Area Board Nine came to speak to us about starting other People First chapters in the community.

Representatives from Santa Maria came to observe our People First group.

Area Board 9 also presented to PFSLO recently on the impact of the newly-passed state budget on IHSS and Supported Living services.

We are also working on filling the new Life Quality Assessment forms at the request of Area Board Nine.

Finally, we are planning a Retirement Bash for Stephen Day, TCRC's outgoing Peer Support Supervisor. It will take place on October 24th at a local restaurant. Food, drink and merriment will be had in Stephen's honor. He has done a great deal over the years to support People First of SLO.

Region 10 – Kecia Weller:

The Self-Advocacy Board of Los Angeles County is planning a one-day workshop called "Pathways to Successful Employment." It will be held Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Center for Healthy Communities in Los Angeles, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Topics are expected to include: Finding the Right Job Match; How Work Affects Benefits; What we Want From our Job Coaches; Resume, Applications and Interviews; Ticket to Work; a Rap Group about Job Searching, and much more. The event includes breakfast and lunch and the cost is \$25. For more information, call 818-543-4631.

The self-advocacy group and the Just-4-Us group at North Los Angeles County Regional Center just put on their 3rd Relationships Conference on September 5th. Topics covered were: Friendships, Preventing Abuse, Sexuality, and Marriage, among others. A fund dance and raffle ended a very successful and informative day.

Area Board 10 has developed materials and is conducting much training for self-advocacy groups and parent groups about the recent budget cuts and strategies for appeals.

Region 11- Hallie Long:

People First of Anaheim took a charter bus in June to attend the PFCA Conference in Sacramento.

July we had a workshop on Feeling Safe, Being Safe given by Disability Rights California and RCOC.

August we had a picnic

September no meeting

October not enough members

In April 2009, People First of Fairview heard an interesting presentation by Daw Dawkins, of CAC about starting and operating your own business. Dan described the basic steps needed to start a business and spoke about

his home based confidential shredding business. Members were excited, asked questions, and quite interested with his presentation.

In May, an advisory meeting was held with several ideas for topics for future meetings. The Advisory Board members and facilitators were asked to assist in coordinating speakers for the general meetings during the next several months.

In June, we held our Bi-Annual People First of Fairview BBQ with over 100 members was invited to. The event was a huge success with everybody enjoying an afternoon outdoors, while hamburgers and hot dogs were being prepared over an open flame. PF of FDC received donations of assorted drinks and desserts donated from various sources around the campus. Our members are already planning for our next BBQ event.

People First of Fairview at their September meeting Dwayne Lafore, Clinical Director of Fairview answered questions about Fairview downsizing in the near future and Fairview is having a 50th anniversary with a parade and People First will be marching in it. It will be October 7th, 12 noon. Fairview does want to be a certified chapter. On October 7th, they are going to have a car show also.

People First of Anaheim will be considered a non-profit group in November.

Region 12 – Ralph Skoner:

No report given or submitted

Region 13 – Trena Wade:

At the last regional meeting, we received training on IHSS. We also had training on Be Cool "How to Deal with Teasing," and training on electing officers.

Conference planning meetings starts next month.

Start planning for the Teddy Bear Dance

Planning Rachel's Gift Baskets

Nominated new officers, and will have our election in November. This year we are adding a Treasurer.

In October, Disabilities Awareness Month we are planning to host W/C Basketball @ Cyamaca College.

Also Down syndrome Buddy Walk in October

We are working to update our website.

There were no visits to Imperial County

We had 2 visits to North County

There will be an upcoming Leadership Symposium Planning on Partnering and CEL. Topic: Relationships

Our chapter also hosted Marge Marquis to go to North County for training on Rights Responsibilities.