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June 9, 2014

Ms. Dawn Morley
Executive Director
Area Board 1
505 S. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Request for Information

Dear Ms. Morley:

As you may know, abuse of people with disabilities occurs at a rate that is 3 to 4 times higher than the population at large. People with developmental disabilities are at even higher risk for abuse. The effects of abuse can be devastating to the victim and can sometimes last a lifetime.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and its Area Boards, can play an important role in promoting awareness about the various types of abuse, how to reduce the risk of abuse, how to report it, and how to make sure that victims receive equal justice and appropriate therapy. That is why it is so important for organizations such as ours and yours to exchange information with each other on this topic.

Two years ago, the Disability and Abuse Project conducted the largest national survey on abuse and disability. More than 7,000 people, including more than 1,000 in California, responded. We decided to focus the first report on the responses of victims and their families. We are sending that report – *Abuse of People with Disabilities: Victims and Their Families Speak Out* – so that you can share it with your board members and others. We can all learn from what the victims had to say and, as a result, design better educational materials, better risk reduction and reporting methods, and better response protocols.

We are also asking you to share information with us. We would like to know what actions your Area Board has taken over the past 8 years with respect to the issue of abuse and disability. Have you adopted any policies? Published any educational materials? Conducted or sponsored any educational or training programs? Or taken any other actions on abuse and disability?

We are soliciting this information from all Area Boards and are asking that it be sent to us by July 15. Once we receive the responses, we plan to prepare a report on *Area Board Policies and Activities on Abuse and Disability*. The report will be distributed to the Chairs and Executive Directors of all Area Boards and to the members and staff of the State Council. It will also be sent to the Administration on Developmental Disabilities. We know that you will want your responses to be included in this report when it is distributed.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to receiving this information from your agency.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.", written in a cursive style.

Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D.
Executive Director
(310) 473-6768