



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES—NORTH BAY OFFICE
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Research on Guardianship and Supported Decision-making

TASH releases a new study based on a parent survey that shows concerning results about guardianship.

The results show full guardianship as the most common recommendation made to parents of children with disabilities and alternatives, such as supported decision-making, as the least common recommendation made.

The **Abstract** from the article is copied below:

“Guardianship is a complicated legal concept, which is further complicated by differences from state to state in the framing and implementation of distinctly different forms. Few professionals explain the long-term consequences of obtaining guardianship or provide the range of alternatives available to support an adult with disabilities. This study reports descriptive data from a national survey on guardianship and people with disabilities. The results indicate that regardless of who provides information about guardianship, and regardless of disability classification, full guardianship is consistently discussed most frequently while other options are rarely discussed. We describe implications for practice and provide recommendations. Specifically, supported decision making is described as one potential alternative to legal guardianship that, according to these data, is the least frequently discussed with parents, but which has the potential to avoid many of the legal and social pitfalls that guardianship presents. Limitations and current research needs are described.”

The full article is available on the TASH website [here](#)

For additional reading on the topic, see “**Principles for Addressing Conservatorship of Persons with Developmental Disabilities**” on the Disability Rights California website [Here](#).

Medi-Cal Autism Therapy

California Healthline June 11, 2015 article addresses the slow roll out of Medi-Cal autism therapy.

David Gorn writes, "A specific autism therapy -- applied behavior analysis, known as ABA therapy -- became a Medi-Cal benefit in September 2014. But according to figures released last month by the Department of Health Care Services, as of May 5, fewer than 1,123 children have received behavioral health treatment services, which include ABA therapy...."

According to state statistics:

24 of California's 58 counties have provided no behavioral health treatment under Medi-Cal managed care plans;

18 counties have fewer than 11 cases per county (an exact number can't be released due to privacy issues); and

The remaining 16 counties provide BHT services to 943 Medi-Cal managed care children, an average of roughly 59 children per county."

Read the article [here](#)

New Rules for Home and Community-Based Services

The Riot! Article "Now We Can"

The Riot is produced at Human Services Research Institute (HSRI).

An article titled, **Now We Can**, outlines the **new rules for Home and Community Based Services** from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (also called CMS).

Excerpts from the article are copied below:

"The new rules make sure that:

- Where people live or get supports, like group homes and day or job centers, really are in the community.*
- People get quality supports based on their needs and choices, and that their rights are protected.*

States must follow the new CMS rules by 2019. Each state has created a Transition Plan that spells out what they plan to do to meet the rules.

You are probably thinking that rules are SO boring. Well, not in this case. These rules are based on many of the things that self-advocates have been saying for years. Policy makers finally listened and self-advocates are saying NOW WE CAN...

∂ Have some privacy!

∂ Be in charge of our lives!

∂ Be included in our community! Now are you hooked?"

Read The Riot article [here](#)

Successful Transition for Young Adults

PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment is launching a new "Voices of Experience" video series. The videos feature successful young adults with disabilities and their family members who draw on their own transition experiences to share words of advice and lessons learned.

Read more [here](#)

Self Determination Webinar

Webinar: Self-Determination: A Way to Give Regional Center Clients More Choice Over The Services They Receive

The **USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities** recently presented an excellent webinar on **Self Determination** by Bruce Harrell, Community Program Specialist with the Los Angeles Office of the State Council.

View the webinar [here](#)

State Plan Survey

SCDD wants to help and we need information from you.
Please take a moment to complete our online survey.

- [State Plan Survey](#)
- [Plan Estatal de Desarrollo de 5 años: Reunión Abierta y Preguntas de la Encuesta](#)

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