

1. Cross-Cutting

The term “cross-cutting” means Council activities that cut cross all areas of emphasis but specific to the following areas: Public community information and awareness, public relations and educating policymakers.

a. Community Participation

Goal: Area Board VIII will inform and educate the public about the abilities and strengths of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Benchmark: the community will understand the worth and value of individuals with disabilities both in the community and the workplace. OR Individuals and their families have the opportunity to fully access community options.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will gather and disseminate information about success stories of individuals with developmental disabilities who may serve as role models for the community.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will participate in Job Fairs and job awareness for the Developmentally Disabled.

b. Education/Information

Goal: Individuals and families in Area VIII will have the education, training and the supports they need.

Benchmark: People with Developmental Disabilities and their families have access to information and education on issues of importance to them.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will collaborate in at least 5 conferences that address Transition issues for individuals who will be leaving the school system with an average of one per year.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will provide support/technical assistance to at least one major conference that targets Spanish speaking families and consumers.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will coordinate at least one event that educates the community on legislative issues.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will make at least 12 presentations on topics such as Lanterman Act, special education, disaster preparedness, transition to adulthood, legislative advocacy, etc during the 5 year term of the plan.

c. Legislative/Systems Advocacy

Goal: Area Board VIII, in partnership with individual consumers, will advocate for access to an array of quality services through legislative and advocacy activities.

Benchmark: Legislative representatives and the Administration respond fully to the needs of people with developmental disabilities and their families. The public is aware of the strengths and needs of people with developmental disabilities.

Strategies:

- ✓ **Area Board VIII will train consumers to provide information and education to legislative representatives and their staff on the needs and issues affecting people with developmental Disabilities and their families.**
- ✓ **Area Board VIII will educate the local community on proposed laws or regulations that impact people with developmental disabilities and their families.**
- ✓ **Area Board VIII will work with other Area Boards and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to impact systemic, regulatory, legislative and/or statewide issues.**

2. Quality Assurance

The term "quality assurance activities" means advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities that result in improved consumer and family-centered quality assurance and that result in systems of quality assurance and consumer protection that-

(A) include monitoring of services, supports, and assistance provided to an individual with developmental disabilities that ensures that the individual-

- (i) will not experience abuse, neglect, sexual or financial exploitation, or violation of legal or human rights; and
- (ii) will not be subject to the inappropriate use of restraints or seclusion;

(B) include training in leadership, self-advocacy, and self-determination for individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, and their guardians to ensure that those individuals-

- (i) will not experience abuse, neglect, sexual or financial exploitation, or violation of legal or human rights; and
- (ii) will not be subject to the inappropriate use of restraints or seclusion; or

(C) include activities related to interagency coordination and systems integration that result in improved and enhanced services, supports, and other assistance that contribute to and protect the self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life, of individuals with developmental disabilities.

a. Advocacy

Goal: Area Board VIII will empower individuals with developmental disabilities, their families and other agencies through education and advocacy in navigating all systems.

Benchmark: Individuals and families receive the supports and services they are entitled to under the law.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will provide advocacy to 40 individuals and or families per year. This advocacy may include systems navigation, technical assistance, information, attendance at meetings (IPP, IFSP, IET) and assistance with due process as appropriate.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will work with parent organizations to develop parents who are mentors, and leaders to assist other parents. Area Board VIII will provide at least 3 trainings to parent leaders/mentors on rights under the Lanterman Act, Early Start and/or IDEA during the current plan period.

b. Collaboration/Facilitation

Goal: Area Board VIII will enhance its role as a liaison with governmental and non-governmental agencies through collaboration.

Benchmark: Stakeholders representing the diversity of our community work together to protect the rights of people with developmental disabilities and to ensure their inclusion in the community.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII collaborates with regional centers and local education agencies as appropriate.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will facilitate resolution of at least 10 complex individual cases at the request of the individual, family, regional center or service provider during the current plan period.
- ✓ Area Board VIII participates in a variety of collaborative groups such as: HEARTS Connection, Disaster Preparedness Central Valley, Law Enforcement Agencies and Valley Children's Hospital.

c. Cultural Diversity

Goal: Individuals and their families shall have inclusive lives and have the opportunity to fully access community options, regardless of language, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

Benchmark: Members of diverse communities will have access to information, education and resources in ways that reflect their cultural/ethnic/language preferences.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will collaborate with other Area Boards, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, public health agencies and regional centers to collect materials and translate materials to be available in Spanish.
- ✓ Contribute and participate in educational and informational opportunities that target culturally diverse populations. Staff of Area Board VIII will make at least 10 presentations to culturally diverse groups during the current plan period, with an average of 2 per year.

d. Governance

Goal: Area Board VIII will have an inclusive board that represents the communities that we serve, embracing the principles and practices of inclusion and self-determination.

Benchmark: The Area Board have a full board that represents and understand diversity of our community and who are active and effective in their duties as established by law.

Strategies:

- ✓ There will be outreach to the community in each county to bring their needs/issues/accomplishments to the Board meeting. A portion of the Board meeting will be dedicated to listening to the community.
- ✓ The Board will present local issues to the State Council on a regular basis. The Board will advocate for equitable funding to the area boards.
- ✓ The Board will be informed on local, state and federal issues on a regular basis.

e. Self Advocacy/Self Direction

Goal: Individuals with disabilities and their families will have control, choice and flexibility in the services they choose to receive.

Benchmark: People with developmental disabilities know their rights and responsibilities and know how to advocate for themselves.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will collaborate with self advocates and professionals on the Self Advocacy conference. At least 400 self-advocates will attend per year.
- ✓ Encourage and train Board Members to self advocate, give tools and techniques to help teach others to self-advocate.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will dedicate at least one meeting to teaching techniques to effectively inform local legislature of issues of importance to the developmentally disabled and their families.

f. Quality Assurance

Goal: The Area Board VIII in collaboration with community partners will develop a quality assurance process to ensure that people receive the services they are entitled to.

Benchmark: People with developmental disabilities and their families are satisfied with the services and supports they receive.

Strategies:

- ✓ Area Board VIII will participate in the development and implementation of the new NCI system of quality assurance.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will conduct National Core Indicator surveys as determined by contract.
- ✓ Area Board VIII will collaborate with both Central Valley and Kern Regional Centers in quality assurance activities as appropriate.