



December 4, 2015

**Executive Director Aaron Carruthers
Statement on the Inland Regional Center Tragedy**

Thinking over the past couple of days, I'm reminded of Mr. Rogers' comment, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This week proved that again. As two people shattered lives and shook the safety of our community, thousands responded. In every way they could, from throughout the Inland Empire, throughout the state, and throughout the country, the helpers came. There will always be more helpers than guns. There will always be more flowers than bullets. This is our fundamental decency and humanity.

I know you to be a helper. In our roles, we are not the first responders. We, by our nature, are the second, and third, and fourth-level responders. After the crisis is over, we are still there to help. We help long after one would think help is needed. We help without end. That is who we are as individuals. That is who we are as a team.

As the hours and days and weeks pass after December 2, please keep doing what you do. We have a unique mission, a privileged role to play. We aren't the first responders or the direct service providers; we are the system's advocates that get to make a better world.

Let's keep making that better world together, helper.

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state and federal law is an independent state agency to ensure that people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the

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