

A Turning-Point Conference

"All people have fundamental moral and constitutional rights."
The Community Imperative, 1979

Join Us

To reaffirm the fundamental values and beliefs that have inspired the disability rights movement; To develop and commit to long-term public policy goals in support of these values; To strengthen advocacy organizations, create alliances, and obtain the information and tools necessary to succeed.



January 25 & 26, 2002
Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway ❖ Oakland, California



CONFERENCE
SPONSORS
and Supporters,
National and Local
Organizations & Individuals



ADAPT, The Arc of the United States, American Association on Mental Retardation, TASH, The Research and Training Center on Community Living at the University of Minnesota, World Institute on Disability, National Coalition on Self-Determination, Capitol People First, Arc California, Coalition on Californians for Olmstead, Alpha Resource Center of Santa Barbara, California Department of Developmental Services, Allen & Shea Assocs., Jim Conroy, Quincy Abbot, Steven J. Taylor, The Arc Solano, Tierra del Sol, Work Training Programs, Inc., Easter Seals of Southern California, PRIDE Industries, Sojourn, Inc., Tri-Counties Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Central Valley Regional Center, North Bay Regional Center, San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, San Andreas Regional Center, Area Board V, Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council, Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County, Becoming Independent, Inc., UCP of the Golden Gate

Partial support for this conference has been provided by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research, U.S. Department of Education for the National Resource Center on Supported Living and Choice awarded to The Center on Human Policy, School of Education, Syracuse University.

The Community Imperative

1979

A Refutation of All Arguments
in Support of Institutionalizing
Anybody because of
Mental Retardation

In the domain of Human Rights:

- All people have fundamental moral and constitutional rights.
- These rights must not be abrogated *merely* because a person has a mental or physical disability.
- Among these fundamental rights is the right to community living.

In the domain of Educational Programming and Human Services:

- All people, as human beings, are inherently valuable.
- All people can grow and develop.
- All people are entitled to conditions which foster their development.
- Such conditions are optimally provided in community settings.

Therefore:

In fulfillment of fundamental human rights and in securing optimum developmental opportunities, *all* people, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, are entitled to community living.

Conference

Vision



The California Alliance for Inclusive Communities, Inc., the Center on Human Policy, and our other local and national sponsors invite you to join us for this historic event.

In spite of enormous progress toward realizing the principles set forth in *The Community Imperative* declaration, California and other states are experiencing significant challenges to realizing community living for ALL people with developmental disabilities.

The California Community Imperative Conference is based on the vision of "*The Community Imperative*," which asserts the value of all people and the right of all people to community living. As we see it, "community living" incorporates inclusive family life, schooling, housing, work and other meaningful daytime pursuits, recreation and leisure, relationships, and other aspects of life in our communities.

At the conference, we will join with some of the leading individuals in the field of developmental disabilities, both in California and North America. We will revisit our history, focus on current challenges, and launch a continuing effort to achieve inclusion throughout the life span for all Californians with developmental disabilities. You are invited to join us in this endeavor. Together we cannot be denied.

Conference Planning and Local Arrangements Committee Members

Ben Adams, Terry Boisot, Joseph Buchroeder, Robin Fernandes, Barbara Garcia, Ed Goldman, Richard Jacobs, Diana Jorgensen, Kim Olson, Mark Polit, Santi Rogers, Bonnie Shultz, Rocio Smith, Steve Taylor, Francisco Valenzuela, Pam Walker, David Wetherow, Michael Williams

Preliminary Program

Friday, January 25, 2002

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Registration, Pre-conference Activities, Networking and Information Fair

Early Lunch on Your Own (conference begins at 12:00 noon)

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. Main Conference Commences

All proceedings in the Oakland Convention Center

Graphic Recording of proceedings by David and Faye Wetherow and John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien.

Mark Polit, Terry Boisot **Welcome**

Steve Taylor ***"The Community Imperative"***
Human Rights and Human Values

Charlie Lakin, David Braddock **"Trends and Milestones in California and the Nation"**

Assemblywoman Dion Aroner, **"Reaction Panel to 'Trends and Milestones'"**
Bill Coffelt, Ann Halvorsen,
Cliff Allenby

Ellen Goldblatt, Jim Shorter **"It's About Rights"**

Cheryl Marie Wade **"Freedom!"**

Scott Klassen, David Miller, **"Close the Doors"**
Ruth Shelton *Self-Advocates' Perspectives*

7:00 p.m. Celebration and Reception, Jewett Ballroom

Saturday, January 26, 2002

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Main Conference Resumes

John O'Brien, Connie Lyle O'Brien **"Observations and Impressions from Friday"**

Terry Boisot, Pat Mejia, ***"The Community Imperative and Families"***
Patricia McGill Smith

Hank Bersani, Mary Falvey, **"Inclusion in School, at Work and in the Community"**
Hector Mendez, Pat Napoliello,
Tom Neary, Jeff Strully

Thomas Gilhool **"It's About Justice"**

ALL **"The Power of Our People – CALL TO ACTION"**

Featured speakers include some of the leading individuals in the field of developmental disabilities both in California and North America

Dion Aroner

Assemblywoman Dion Aroner is Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, author of the Developmental Disabilities System Unification legislation, AB896, and a Past President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 535 of California. Ms. Aroner also served as Chief of Staff to Assemblyman Tom Bates, preparing over 100 pieces of legislation, including bills on childcare, disability rights, children's mental health, educational finance and family policy.

Cliff Allenby

Clifford Allenby is Director of the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Prior to this appointment he served as interim Director of the Department of General Services, Secretary of the Health and Welfare Agency, Deputy Director of the State Department of Finance, Chief Legislative Representative for Los Angeles County, and Senior Staff Vice-President for Governmental Affairs for the California Building Industry Association.

Hank Bersani

Hank Bersani is Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Special Education at Western Oregon University and Research Assistant Professor at Oregon Health Sciences University. He has consulted to organizations and governments nationally and internationally. His current focus is on the role of assistive technology and self-determination in changing the nature of services to people with severe disabilities, and research on health risks to people with developmental disabilities of substance abuse and cancer.

David Braddock

David Braddock is Associate Vice President for Research and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities and Coleman-Turner Professor of Cognitive Disability and Psychiatry at the University of Colorado System. He is Past President of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) and Editor of AAMR's Monograph series. He is formerly Director of the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is well known for his annual *The State of the States in Developmental Disabilities* research reports that track state trends in services and spending.

Terry Boisot

Terry Boisot's advocacy to build a community that would welcome her son Ben led her to found the education focused parent/professional coalition "Collaborating for Integration," and "Brick by Brick" dedicated to remove attitudinal, architectural, social and communication barriers. Ms. Boisot serves on the Boards of The Arc of the United States, TheArcLink, Alpha Resource Center of Santa Barbara, and the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities (C.A.I.C.). She is the author of the widely acclaimed weekly column *Disability Matters*.

Mary Cerreto

Mary Cerreto has worked for 25 years in the field of developmental disabilities, early intervention, quality assurance and accreditation, and pediatric and primary care psychology. She was Assistant Commissioner, Office of Quality Enhancement for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Retardation, has presented at numerous national conferences, written extensively, and has been on the Editorial Board for

many professional journals. She is currently faculty in the Department of Family Medicine at Boston University and an independent consultant to several state governments.

Bill Coffelt

Bill Coffelt is Co-Chair (Parent Representative) of the National Coalition on Self-Determination. Mr. Coffelt is father of Bill Jr., a 23-year-old man with significant developmental disabilities who has lived in a state institution and currently his own home with 24-hour support. He is co-founder of the Oaks Group, which advocates for community options, and was lead plaintiff in the largest deinstitutionalization lawsuit of its kind, resulting in the reduction of the population of California's state institutions by over 2,000 individuals. Mr. Coffelt's recent activities include the National Coalition on Self-Determination and promotion of *The Community Imperative*.

June Downing

June Downing is a Professor at California State University, Northridge. For the past 17 years she has been a teacher-trainer in the areas of Moderate/Severe Disabilities, Severe/Multiple Impairments, and Visual Impairments at universities in Kansas, Arizona and California. Her research and writing is concentrated on students with severe and multiple disabilities in inclusive settings. Ms. Downing is a lifetime member of TASH and an executive board member.

Mary Falvey

Mary Falvey is a former member of the TASH Board of Directors and has been an active Cal-TASH member since its inception. She is a Professor at California State University, Los Angeles and is an advocate for children with disabilities in inclusive schools.

Thomas Gilhool

Thomas Gilhool is a Staff Attorney at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP). He previously served as Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He has been the lead attorney in precedent-setting lawsuits on behalf of people with disabilities, including the groundbreaking right-to-education PARC case. Mr. Gilhool currently serves as counsel for the plaintiffs in the *Sanchez v. Johnson* case in California.

Ellen Goldblatt

Ellen Goldblatt has been a senior attorney with California Protection & Advocacy, Inc. (PAI) since 1985 working as both a policy and legal advocate. She was lead counsel on the class-action lawsuit *Coffelt v. DDS*, which resulted in the movement of over 2,000 people from California's institutions and substantial improvements to the community service system. She was counsel for interveners in the federal case *Richard S. v. DDS v. Bell*.

Ann Halvorsen

Ann Halvorsen is a Professor of Special Education at California State University at Hayward. She is Director of Project CLEAR, Coaching Leadership Education and Restructuring for Inclusive Schools, and has directed a series of statewide and district focused projects over the past 12 years aimed at inclusive systems change at both state and local levels.

Scott Klassen

Scott Klassen is Co-President of the Association for Community Living in Winnipeg, Canada, a member of the News Team at Radio Q-94 FM, and a founder of the Winnipeg Self-Advocacy Association. He is a frequent presenter at disability conferences and performs regularly with a Celtic band. He lived in an institution for the first 21 years of his life.

K. Charlie Lakin

Charlie Lakin is Director of the Research and Training Center on Community Living and a Research Fellow at the Institute on Community Integration at the University of Minnesota. He is the author of over 100 books, articles, and chapters on community living and residential services and a frequent consultant to federal and state agencies. He has been a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and is a past recipient of AAMR's Dybwad Humanitarian Award.

Patricia McGill Smith

Patricia McGill Smith has been one of the nation's foremost leaders of the parent movement over the past three decades. She founded Pilot Parents in Nebraska in the early 1970s and was the founder of the National Parent Network on Disabilities. She previously served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services.

Patricia Mejia

Patricia Mejia is a parent of a daughter, Nina, who is 15 years old and has multiple disabilities. She has worked at the Family Resource Center in San Francisco, Support for Families of Children with Disabilities for the past seven years. She is also a member of the Board of Directors for Family Voices, a grassroots organization speaking on behalf of children with special health care needs. Ms. Mejia's areas of interest are education, deafness, and multi-cultural issues.

Hector Mendez

Hector Mendez is the Executive Director of La Familia Counseling Service in Hayward, California serving primarily the Hispanic/Latino community with special emphasis on families of persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities. Originally from Chile, Mr. Mendez has been a consistent

advocacy and organizing leader for the Latino population. Through his long-standing commitment to the national parent organization *Fiesta Educativa*, he lectures and provides training and consultation to family support groups, governmental agencies, and advocacy organizations.

David Miller

David Miller is President of Capitol People First and is a community college graduate. He organizes and facilitates a self-advocacy group at Easter Seals; and has worked hard to educate area high school students about advocacy, rights, and dreams. Mr. Miller resided in several nursing facilities until the staff of Resources for Independent Living asked if he had ever thought about living in a place of his own. It was the question that set him free.

Pat Napoliello

Pat Napoliello is the mother of four children, including Joseph who has severe developmental disabilities. Ms. Napoliello is President of Arc California, a board member of C.A.I.C., and immediate Past President of the Arc San Francisco. She has worked extensively with the San Francisco Unified School District, the Community Alliance for Special Education, Support for Families with Children with Disabilities, and The Arc of the United States.

Tom Neary

Tom Neary has been working in special education since 1972. This has included work on a variety of federal grants on school inclusion and behavioral support. He has been a special education teacher, educational specialist for SERN, Coordinator of special education for Colusa County SELPA, Program Specialist for Sacramento County SELPA, and has been a part-time faculty member at California State University Sacramento for about 17 years.

John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien

John O'Brien and Connie Lyle O'Brien are founders of Responsive Systems Associates. They have been pioneers in the development of person-centered planning and strategies for community building. They are frequent consultants and workshop facilitators for public and private agencies in North America, Europe, Australia, and other countries.

Mark Polit

Mark Polit has been a parent advocate for over 20 years for inclusive education and inclusive communities in California. He is President of the California Alliance for Inclusive Communities (C.A.I.C.), past President of the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council, and formerly Vice President of the Oaks Group.

Ruth Shelton

Ruth Shelton joined Capitol People First over 15 years ago and has worked hard to educate people about their rights and opportunities. When she was ten years old, she was sent to live at the Sonoma State Home and for several decades resided in institutions and other segregated living facilities. She now lives in her own home and is a talented artist.

Bonnie Shoultz

Bonnie Shoultz is Associate Director at the Center on Human Policy at Syracuse University. Since the 1970s, she has actively supported the development of self-advocacy groups and has served as an advisor to state and local groups as well as the national group, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered.

James Shorter

Jim Shorter is Executive Director of Tri-Counties Regional Center serving Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. He earned his J.D. degree at Northeastern University School of Law. He has held leadership positions in the field of developmental disabilities for over 25 years, including Executive Director of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Area Board VI, and North LA County Regional Center.

Jeff Strully

Jeff Strully is a parent and the Executive Director of Jay Nolan Community Services of Los Angeles. He has transformed it from a traditional human services agency to one that supports people with autism and other challenging behaviors to live in their own homes, work in paid integrated employment, and be fully included in all aspects of life. He and his wife have been pioneers and leaders of the inclusion movement in the United States since 1980, through writings, lectures and their example. He is an Associate of the G. Allan Roeher Institute and the Centre for Inclusion and Community Education, both in Canada.

Steve Taylor

Steve Taylor is Director of the Center on Human Policy, Professor of Education, and Coordinator of Disability Studies at Syracuse University. He was one of the original framers of *The Community Imperative* declaration and has worked closely with self-advocates, family members, and attorneys to expand community services and supports for people with disabilities in New York State and nationally. Dr. Taylor is the Editor of AAMR's journal *Mental Retardation* and is a past recipient of AAMR's Research Award.

Cheryl Marie Wade

Cheryl Marie Wade is a disability activist-artist and an award-winning writer-performer. She has performed her unique poetic brand of solo theater at such venues as the Southern Theater in Minneapolis and the Mark Taper Forum's New Works festival in Los Angeles. She was the first director of Wry Crips Disabled Women's Theater Group, a founder member of Axis Dance Company, and co-producer of *Disability Culture Rap*. On-line she produces *GnarlyBone News*.

David and Faye Wetherow

Dave and Faye Wetherow share their lives with an adopted daughter who has complex mobility and communication challenges. They developed some of the first "micro-boards," inclusive cooperative housing, family and consumer-based service cooperatives, and individualized funding initiatives in North America. They conduct training, creative facilitation, and design work in Canada and the U.S.



Conference Registration

January 25 & 26, 2002



Name: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I am a (indicate all that apply):

Consumer/Self-Advocate Parent/Family Member

Professional (direct support and others) Advocate

(Other) _____

Please refrain from
wearing scented products at
this conference

Special needs and accommodations: Conference will provide ASL interpretation and translation of major conference documents into Braille. The conference and hotel are wheelchair accessible. We will also try to accommodate other individual needs and will provide translation into selected languages. Please indicate all needs that apply:

Translation to a language other than English (specify) _____

Other physical or communication accommodations (specify) _____

Payment

Registration fee: \$ 35.00

Donate to help others attend: \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Check or money order enclosed payable to:
C.A.I.C, Inc.

Visa MasterCard

Card # _____

Expiration # _____

Name on Card _____

Signature

I request a waiver of the registration fee.

Send this form and payment to:

C.A.I.C, Inc.

4501 Cathedral Oaks Road

Santa Barbara, CA 93110

1-805-967-3647(Fax)

Childcare: Limited on-site care will be provided if enough families request it. Children must be registered by December 1, 2001 by calling 510-383-1200 (x1213). Parents are responsible for providing food, sharing the cost of childcare, and giving any necessary medications. We cannot provide nursing or other specialized care, and parents must sign a waiver of liability.

Hotel Reservations

Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607
1-800-228-9290

Identify yourself as a Community Imperative Conference Participant. The conference rate is \$127.00 per night if reserved prior to January 4, 2002. Notify hotel of any special accommodations you may need for your room.

For Additional Information Contact:

www.communityimperative.org

Kim Olson at Alpha Resource Center 1-877-414-6227

caic@silcom.org

Center on Human Policy, Syracuse University 1-800-894-0826

thechp@sued.syr.edu

