



October 19, 2011

Re: In Home Respite – Family Member (Voucher)

Dear Parent/Family Member:

Recently, the federal government informed the State of California, Department of Developmental Services that the way in which in-home respite, daycare, nursing and transportation services are paid under the family member -"voucher" structure will no longer be acceptable for federal Medicaid reimbursement. In order to prevent the loss of millions of dollars in federal funding of these services, the Department of Developmental Services issued emergency regulations that require that these "voucher" services be converted to an Employer of Record (EOR) or Financial Management Service (FMS) effective October 1, 2011.

Due to these changes in state and federal requirements, it is no longer possible for Regional Center of the East Bay to pay family members to employ respite workers under the Family Member as vendor - voucher respite structure. As a result, Regional Center of the East Bay must transition away from the voucher respite structure to what is known as an Employer of Record (EOR) structure.

Employer of Record means that the respite worker of your choice will be referred to a vendored respite/EOR agency for employment. The agency will record the purchase of service authorization and worker timesheets and take care of federal and state taxes. Families will be able to refer their own respite workers to the EOR and schedule their own respite workers. Your worker must meet all the same legal requirements for employment as all other workers. An additional requirement is that the respite worker must meet requirements for CPR/First Aid certification and submit livescan/fingerprint clearance.

Please see the enclosed "Fact Sheet" for more details regarding this change to your respite service.

In order to avoid any interruption in your family member's services please contact your case manager as soon as possible to make your selection of an Employer of Record agency or to discuss this issue further. If you do not inform us of your selection by November 18, 2011 we will assign a qualified Employer of Record for your respite services by December 1, 2011 so that services are not interrupted.

Regional Center of the East Bay has also scheduled four community meetings to answer any questions you have about this change. Dates and times are noted in the attached Fact Sheet.

Sincerely,

Pam Thomas
Director, Consumer Services