CALIFORNIA RESPITE ASSOCIATION

Start-Up Process

- The Respite Services Association of California [DBA California Respite Association (CRA)] was created by a group of interested respite agency individuals from the Sacramento California area.

- The organization was incorporated on October 5, 1981.

Structure

- CRA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit based corporation.

- As a membership-based organization, CRA’s mission is to support the expansion and enhancement of respite services to individuals, families and caregivers to the elderly, persons with developmental and/or physical disabilities, brain impairment and other disabiling conditions.

Staff

- The bulk of CRA’s entire history has been supported via the volunteer efforts of its Board of Directors and Members.

- On occasion, consultants have been hired to assist with specific projects.

- The organization is currently looking toward hiring some paid staff to assist in its endeavors in the future.

Funding

- As a membership based non-profit association, dues have been the primary source of income. Dues had been set at a fixed annual rate for all respite agencies. To help the association with its future needs for either consultants or paid staff, the dues structure is now a tiered system based on the number of respite families each member agency serves and the number of respite workers it employs.
**Membership**

- Voting Members represent a respite agency that provides services in the State of California. Members in good standing have one vote per member agency.

- Non-Voting Members may consist of individuals who are not associated with a respite agency, but are interested in respite services in California or may include recipients of services in California.

- Agency membership will assist in recruiting family caregiver representation.

**Meetings and Communication**

- There are two statewide meetings during each calendar year, one in Northern California and one in Southern California.

- In addition, regional meetings in either Northern or Southern California may occur as deemed necessary by the association leadership.

- Communications include minutes from the above meetings, and forwarded e-mails to membership from regional, state and national respite related entities. CRA’s website is [www.calrespite.org](http://www.calrespite.org) and includes information about members, news, links to other agencies important to the provision of respite, etc.

**Major Activities**

- Work closely with policy makers or funding sources to assure the continuation of quality respite services.

- Letter writing campaigns related to the provision of respite services.

- Surveys important to agency understanding of what affects respite services.

- Advocacy related to respite agency interests.

- Sharing of respite agency best practices.

- Sharing of respite agency contact information for families or workers searching for Californian respite services.
• The above may be local, regional, statewide or national in scope as long as the impact is on the provision of respite services in the State of California.

• The CRA hosted the 2009 ARCH National Respite Conference in Burbank, CA on Sept 24-25, 2009, and the California Lifespan Respite Summit on Sept. 23, 2009.

Documents/Resources Available (Bylaws, Strategic Plans, Surveys, Brochures, Registries, Webpage, Need Assessments, Forms, Policies)

• Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws
• Website: www.calrespite.org
• Minutes from CRA Meetings

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