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 Oct. 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 disabling 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.

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

State Contact Information

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