

Policy Statement of the Olmstead Advisory Committee

It is the purpose of the Olmstead Advisory Committee to provide input to the California Health and Human Services Agency as the lead agency responsible for evaluating, revising, and monitoring the state's implementation of the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, consistent with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. It is further the responsibility of the Committee to recommend actions to improve California's long-term care system, and to advise on opportunities to fund activities to support persons with disabilities in the community.

The Olmstead Advisory Committee commits to the following principles in its efforts to advise the state in its implementation of the Olmstead decision.

1. The opportunities to direct one's own affairs, live independently, work towards and attain economic self-sufficiency are essential components to developing self-worth and personal responsibility.
2. The state has a responsibility to protect against the unnecessary institutionalization of all persons with disabilities of all ages, including persons with mental, physical, cognitive or developmental disabilities.
3. Unnecessary institutional placement of persons with disabilities of all ages constitutes a form of discrimination based on disability and adversely affects everyday life activities, family relations, social contacts, work options, economic independence, and cultural enrichment of institutionalized persons. Such institutionalization also deprives communities of the contributions of these people with disabilities.
4. Community-based care and services can be more cost effective than institutional care, result in a higher quality of life, and promote the values of community participation, inclusiveness, and respect for diversity.
5. The active involvement of persons with disabilities of all ages and the representatives they choose in developing and implementing of activities or services designed to move people

into, or allow them to remain in, community-based settings is critical to achieving these objectives.

To achieve these objectives, the Olmstead Advisory Committee agrees to follow these values in its efforts to advise the state in its implementation of the Olmstead decision:

- **Self-determination** by persons with disabilities of all ages or their chosen representatives about their own lives, including place of residence, employment and independent living
- **Consumer choice** and access to information on community activities, programs, and services, in a culturally competent and understandable form, to assist in decision-making
- **Integration** of persons with disabilities into all aspects of community life. Persons with disabilities must be given the opportunity to fully participate in the community's services, supports and activities through their own choices. The most integrated settings are independent living settings with or without supports or with the family of their choice, whenever possible.
- **Culturally competent and accessible community-based services**, that to the maximum extent possible, enable persons with disabilities of all ages and with all types of disabilities, to direct their own lives and live in the community in non-institutional settings