

**Lopez, Rosalinda**

**From:** Lopez, Rosalinda on behalf of TXDDC  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 1999 2:10 PM  
**To:** Webb, Roger  
**Subject:** FW: Regional Memorandum 99-01

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [CDDCEmail@aol.com](mailto:CDDCEmail@aol.com) [<mailto:CDDCEmail@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 28, 1999 9:24 AM  
**Cc:** [EVreeswyk@acf.dhhs.gov](mailto:EVreeswyk@acf.dhhs.gov)  
**Subject:** Regional Memorandum 99-01

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**To:** CDDC Council Members and Staff  
**From:** Phyllis Guinivan  
**Date:** June 28, 1999  
**Re:** Regional Memorandum 99-01

Ed Vreeswyk, Program Manager, Developmental Disabilities, and Office of Community Services Regional Liaison, has asked me to forward the following memorandum to our membership.

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**To:** Developmental Disabilities Council Chairpersons  
Developmental Disabilities Executive Directors  
Developmental Disabilities Protection & Advocacy Programs  
Developmental Disabilities University Affiliated Programs  
State Community Action Associations  
Community Action Agencies  
State Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) Administrators

**From:** Edward L. Vreeswyk  
Program Manager, Developmental Disabilities, and  
Office of Community Services Regional Liaison

**Subject:** Regional Memorandum 99-01  
Fostering Collaboration Between Community Action  
Programs and  
Developmental Disabilities Programs.

#### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to encourage and promote a working relationship between Office of Community Services programs and Developmental Disabilities programs in the states and localities of Region III. The purpose of these partnerships will be to develop and implement innovative strategies in States and local communities to increase the capability of

low-income individuals with disabilities. Too many low-income individuals with disabilities are without jobs or resources needed to support their children. Collaborative activities are encouraged that will result in the development, implementation, and evaluation of innovative approaches utilized to increase the self-sufficiency of low-income individuals with disabilities and place them in an improved position to reach maximum potential.

## II. BACKGROUND

### COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

The Office of Community Services (OCS), established in the Department by the Community Services Block Grant Act (CSBG Act) of 1981, awards grants to States "to ameliorate the causes of poverty within the State." These block grant funds are awarded only upon State assurance that at least 90% of the funds will go to "eligible entities" as defined in the Act; to be used for a variety of purposes related to the amelioration of the causes and effects of poverty.

"Eligible entities" are the approximately 120 Community Action Agencies in the six state area of Region III that were established under the Office of Economic Opportunity, and its successor the Community Services Administration.

The CSBG block grant funds are used by Community Action Agencies:

\*\*\* To provide a range of services and activities having a measurable and potentially major impact on causes of poverty in the community;

\*\*\* To provide activities designed to assist low-income participants including homeless individuals and families, migrants, and the elderly poor to secure meaningful employment, to attain an adequate education, to obtain and maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment, and to remove obstacles and solve problems which block the achievement to self-sufficiency; and,

\*\*\* To coordinate and establish linkages between governmental and other social services programs to assure the effective delivery of such services to low-income individuals.

The CSBG Act also provided discretionary authority for a number of programs: Urban and Rural Economic Development; Rural Housing; Rural Facilities; Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs; Community Food and Nutrition Services; and a Summer Youth Sports Program. Three demonstration programs have been added: The Demonstration Partnership Program, to create Partnerships for Self-Sufficiency and Community Capacity Building; Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals (JOLI); and the Gateway Demonstration and Family Support Center Program for Homelessness Prevention.

OCS also administers the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), including the REACH Demonstration Program to encourage energy self-sufficiency; the Social Services Block Grant, which in FY 1995 included funding for the Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities; and the Family Violence Prevention Program which includes the Family Violence Hot Line.

## THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES PROGRAM

There are nearly four million Americans with developmental disabilities. Developmental disabilities are severe, chronic disabilities attributable to mental and/or physical impairment which manifest before age 22 and are likely to continue indefinitely. They result in substantial limitations in three or more areas: self-care, receptive and expressive language, learning, mobility, self-direction, capacity for independent living, and economic self-sufficiency, as well as the continuous need for individually planned and coordinated services.

The major goal of the programs is a partnership with state governments, local communities, and the private sector to assist people with developmental disabilities to reach maximum potential through increased independence, productivity, and community integration. They address all elements of the life cycle: prevention; diagnosis; early intervention; therapy; education; training; employment; and community living and leisure opportunities.

### State Developmental Disabilities Councils

Formula grants support Councils in the States to promote capacity building and advocacy activities, the development of a consumer and family-centered comprehensive system, and a coordinated array of culturally competent services, supports, and other assistance designed to help people with developmental disabilities achieve independence, productivity, and integration and inclusion into the community. The Councils address employment issues, and may also address community living activities, child developmental activities, system coordination and community education activities, and other activities. Fifty-five states and territories receive Council grants and each State Council in Region III is headquartered in the state's capitol city.

### Protection and Advocacy (P&A) Programs

The Protection and Advocacy Program provides for the protection and advocacy of legal and human rights through formula grants to states. The P&A systems advocate on behalf of, and provide advocacy services to, persons with developmental disabilities in areas related to their disabilities, including: education, abuse and neglect, institutional and habilitation services, guardianship and housing issues. These systems have provided individual advocacy to about 40,000 clients per year, pursued class-action advocacy on behalf of hundreds of thousands per year, and also provided training and information and referral to additional thousands. Fifty-six states and territories receive P&A grants and each State P&A in Region III is located in the state's capitol city.

### University Affiliated Programs (UAP)

UAP is a discretionary grant program for public and private, non-profit agencies affiliated with a university. Annual grants provide for interdisciplinary training, exemplary services, technical assistance, and information/dissemination activities. The program is designed to garner additional assistance for a national network of UAPs. UAPs support activities which address individual needs from birth to old age, a variety of

service issues from prevention to early intervention to supported employment, and a broad range of disabilities. The UAP now consists of 61 programs nationwide which have provided clinical and community-based service and technical assistance to community services personnel. In addition, the 61 UAPs receive supplemental training grants for early intervention, community-based programs, and other activities. Each state in Region III has one statewide UAP located at a university setting.

### III OBJECTIVES

There are several areas of commonality between the two programs that can serve as the basis for a partnership. Both programs strive to foster economic self-sufficiency; secure meaningful employment; maintain adequate housing and a suitable living environment, and establish linkages with local communities. Therefore I invite the State and local Community Action network and Developmental Disabilities agencies to collaborate with each other and promote the self-sufficiency of low-income individuals with disabilities. Among steps each state could take to develop this collaboration are:

\*\*\* get-acquainted meetings of State directors and key staffs of both programs to explore the issues and plan activities including a process for ongoing program information exchanges and for promoting collaboration between local Developmental Disabilities and Community Services staffs throughout the State;

\*\*\* State communiques to the networks of local community services and developmental disabilities agencies announcing the collaboration initiative and asking them to meet together in their localities to explore local issues and plan implementing activities appropriate to their local situations;

\*\*\* Cross training of the State and local staffs in each program on the objectives, procedures, and issues facing the programs, so that the staffs are knowledgeable and sensitive in their interactions with each other;

\*\*\* Development of Partnership Agreements and Memorandums Of Understanding (MOU) at the State and local levels to support coordination, cooperation, communication, and successful outcomes for this initiative;

\*\*\* Joint planning and participation through conferences held by each of the programs with emphasis on joint presentations and display of informational materials;

\*\*\* Regular meetings between the staffs of each program on program developments, relevant legislation, regulations and policy, and,

\*\*\* Joint planning and support for research projects to review and evaluate current efforts or pilot innovations, and demonstrations of programs that relate directly to providing services to economically disadvantaged families with disabilities.

I encourage and urge you to promote collaboration between the Developmental Disabilities and Community Services programs at State and local levels, and I assure you of my ongoing commitment to assist your efforts. I can be reached at 215-861-4040 and at [evreeswyk@acf.dhhs.gov](mailto:evreeswyk@acf.dhhs.gov) on the internet. I am enclosing lists of State and local contacts for each program. I invite you

to contact your program counterpart and discuss a partnership, and I am interested in any success stories you may wish to share with me.

I thank you on behalf of the many individuals with developmental disabilities whose lives may be enhanced substantially by your collaborations.

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