

How Regional Center Boards
Represent Local Communities –
Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

It's a locals thing....



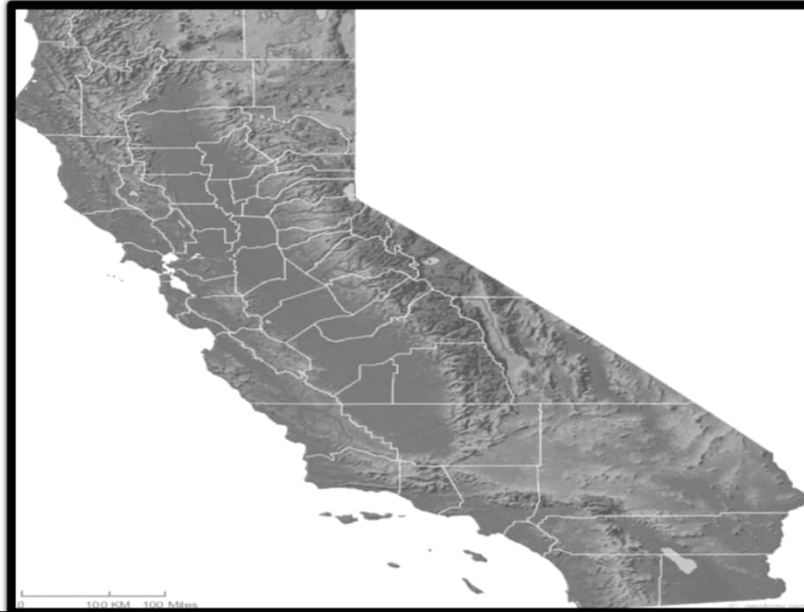
The foundation of local control



Why weren't Regional Centers established as government agencies?

- When implementation of The Lanterman Act was being negotiated, there were many county and state entities eager to run the new system.
- Based upon input from families and advocacy groups, Mr. Lanterman *absolutely insisted* that regional centers be nonprofit agencies governed by local community members.

Geographic Contrasts



California - unlike anywhere else!

- 58 Counties (including the *largest county* in the USA!)
- 163,000 square miles of cities, small towns, deserts, farmland, mountains, beaches
- 840 miles of coastline
- Home to 2nd largest urban area in USA
- Largest agricultural economy - nearly 70% of U.S. fruit and vegetable production.
- Most geographically diverse state in USA

How does geography impact the way we can best serve our communities?

- Transportation
- Social and Recreational Opportunities
- Housing
- Employment
- Resources in remote locations
- Weather!

Demographic diversity in our service system





How do you embrace the unique demographic characteristics of the communities served by your regional center?

- Data matters!
- Board dashboards are great tools
- Board and staff sponsored meetings away from RC main office?
- Encourage comment and discussion at committee and board meetings!
- Share resources – host events with community partners

Resources for those we serve



Existing Resources
What's accessible in your region?
Where are your community's greatest needs?

- Housing
- Employment
- Social and Recreational Opportunities
- Health and Wellness Care
- Infant and Child Development Services
- Respite Care / Day Care
- Clinical and Behavioral Services
- ?

