



**San Diego-Imperial Counties Developmental Services Inc. and
San Diego Regional Center Zero Tolerance Policy**

The San Diego-Imperial Counties Developmental Services, Inc. (SDICDSI), both members of the Board of Directors and employees, have zero tolerance for the abuse or neglect, in any form, of persons with developmental disabilities. This Zero Tolerance Policy regarding client abuse and neglect shall be posted on the San Diego Regional Center's (SDRC) website. The SDRC shall annually notify all its employees, service providers and long-term health care facilities serving SDRC clients of its Zero Tolerance Policy. The Zero Tolerance Policy notification shall specify:

- 1) That all SDRC, service provider and long-term health care facility employees, serving SDRC clients are required to report, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 15630, to the appropriate entities any incident or allegation of suspected abuse or neglect.
- 2) The entities for reporting suspected abuse or neglect.
- 3) That upon becoming aware of a reportable incident or allegation of abuse or neglect of a client, pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 15630, SDRC employees and the associated service provider or long-term health care facility employees, shall take immediate action to protect the health and safety of the involved client and all other clients receiving services from SDRC, the associated service provider or long-term health care facility.
- 4) That the SDRC, its service providers and long-term health care facilities serving clients shall ensure its respective employees are fully informed upon hire and annually thereafter regarding the SDICDSI/SDRC Zero Tolerance Policy and mandatory abuse and neglect reporting laws. Each employee must be knowledgeable of their responsibility to protect clients from abuse and neglect, the signs of abuse and neglect, the process for reporting suspected abuse or neglect, and the consequences of failing to follow the law and enforce the Zero Tolerance Policy.

This Zero Tolerance Policy shall be incorporated into any new or revised contract, vendorization or other agreement for client services. Existing service providers and long-term health care facilities serving SDRC clients shall be informed of this Zero Tolerance Policy and the expectation of compliance with this policy. Existing service providers and long-term health care facilities serving SDRC clients shall also be informed that the SDICDSI and SDRC will utilize all remedies available to it in statute and regulations to protect the health and safety of its clients.

Approved by the SDICDSI Board of Directors on September 10, 2013.