

Toward Maximum Independence

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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Located in San Diego, TMI was formed in 1981 to provide independent living services as a vendor with San Diego Regional Center. In 1986, the agency became a California non-profit corporation. Over the next several years services were expanded to include employment, supported living, family support and forensic advocacy. We have twice been recognized by Protection & Advocacy and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for developing the best new program in California during Program Development Fund Cycles XII and XIII in 1990 and 1991 respectively.

Vision:

Achieving valued roles, making critical life-defining decisions, gaining the respect of others, and contributing to the life of the community are opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of TMI to support the value, right and responsibilities of all people with the support of their advocates to make informed choices regarding how they live, work and express their membership in the community. We accomplish this by providing personalized supports to people in their own homes, workplaces, schools, families and neighborhoods.

TMI's Core Values Include:

- **Respect:** having a valued place and role among a network of family, friends, colleagues and neighbors.
- **Choice:** having autonomy in decision making both in small everyday matters and large, life defining issues.
- **Competence:** having the opportunity to perform functional and meaningful activities or work with whatever level of assistance necessary.
- **Full Inclusion:** sharing ordinary places with a growing network of personal relationships and making a contribution to the life of the community.

Principle Beliefs That Drive Our Work:

Community Living: Anyone can live in a home of his or her own if given the support and assistance needed to be successful.

Employment Solutions: All people are capable of performing real work for real pay.

Family Support: All children belong in families.

Forensic Advocacy: Assure fair and equal treatment for people with disabilities by leveling the playing field.

Human Rights:

TMI works to assure that the human rights and dignity of persons served are preserved within the scope of all agencies programs.

- To assure that every recipient of TMI services is treated as a valued customer who has control of the services he/she receives, each individual will participate to the greatest extent possible in developing his/her personal support plan (PSP) and sign these plans to validate them.
- To ensure confidentiality, every recipient of TMI services signs release forms, which comply with state and federal regulations, before staff will communicate with other persons or agencies on the individual's behalf.

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- To assure that TMI services meet the highest standards, Quality of Services Reviews occur internally and licensing, regional center review Area Board Life Quality Assessments and objective third party accreditations are conducted regularly.
- To assure satisfaction of services received, input is solicited from recipients of TMI-services and other stakeholders as a part of the annual program evaluation.

To further assure the dignity and personal safety of every recipient of TMI services, it is the policy of TMI that physical and psychological abuse is prohibited. This includes corporal punishment, humiliation, exploitation and other adverse procedures.

Adults with developmental disabilities previously living in state hospitals or group homes are today able to live in their own apartments or homes and have meaningful jobs in the community.

Children once placed in institutions or group homes are today reunited with their families with in-home support or an alternative family where they can receive the benefits of family life as opposed to congregate care.

TMI is a California non-profit (501-C-3) organization comprised of a governing Board of Directors as well as a staff of over 200. Currently, TMI holds several vendorizations through the San Diego Regional Center including Independent Living Services, Supported Living Services, Integrated Work (ADC) and Family Focused Services. TMI also provides ARM Level 4 support to children through its Alternative Family program, which is licensed as a Foster Family Agency. In addition, TMI has an agreement with the Department of Rehabilitation to provide Supported Employment services.

Agency Experience/Qualifications:

Since 1981 TMI has grown from a small sole-proprietorship based out of an in-home office, to a non-profit agency providing support for over 500 persons.

TMI has been the recipient of several Program Development Fund grants over the years. Many of our current vendored programs began as PDF grants, two of which (Cycles XII & XIII) were recognized as the outstanding PDF for their respective cycles by Protection and Advocacy Inc. and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

Most recently, TMI was awarded the Employment for People with Hearing Impairment and Deafness (EPWHID) grant by the California Department of Rehabilitation.

All supports provided by TMI are designed to enable people, regardless of age or level of disability, to live in real homes in the community and to be fully included in family, school, work and community life. In order to achieve our goals we have always placed a high priority on providing the highest quality training to agency staff. We have developed and continually maintain, through regular update and revision, a comprehensive staff inservice curriculum. This includes a series of internal inservices, incentives to encourage outside conferences and workshop/attendance and, historically, special staff retreats and trainings conducted by some of the most prestigious leaders in our field including Jeff Strully, Jay Klein, John O'Brien, Herb Lovett and Gail Jacob to name a few.