

## **Better Lives not just Better Paper** © ELP, 2006

It is the mission of the Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC) Center to serve individuals with developmental disabilities and their families by promoting partnerships which empower them to achieve meaningful and fulfilling lifestyles in their communities.

In order to make this mission truly real for the individuals and families we serve, ELARC is committed to implementing the organizational change necessary to implement Person Centered Thinking. Over the next two years, our staff will be trained in Person Centered Thinking concepts. This training is also available to the individuals we serve, their families, and service providers. ELARC staff will be introducing and encouraging the use of Person Centered skills and tools while working with individuals, their families, and the people who support them in their daily lives.

Person Centered Thinking skills and tools include, but are not limited to:

- Approaching work with individuals from a strength based model, focusing on the person first then the disability
- Helping the individual, family, and the people who support them to figure out issues that are important to the person as well as those issues that are important for the person
- Taking time to think with the individual, family, and the people who support them about what is working and what is not working in their life
- Approaching meetings with service providers as an opportunity to learn as well as to teach the use of direct service tools such as the learning log, matching staff, and the communication chart

An ideal time for the Service Coordinator to have the opportunity to use the Person Centered skills and tools is at the time of the Individual Program Plan (IPP) meeting. Other meetings may also offer a good opportunity.

This will be a learning experience for all of us. ELARC Management is committed to a guiding and supportive role in this process. Meetings will be conducted in a positive and productive manner. Unit meetings and individual supervision will provide a time for feedback on skills development.

For even more information on Person Centered Thinking, please go to <http://learningcommunity.us/home.html>

Thank you for learning with us, your feedback is especially important. It is important for ELARC to know what worked and what did not work about your meeting when these skills and tools were used. Please feel free to contact Elizabeth Harrell at [eharrell@elarc.org](mailto:eharrell@elarc.org) to provide feedback or if you have further questions about this work and/or the training that is available. ELARC looks forward to working together towards further enhancing our Person Centered approach to service delivery.