



May 11th, 2017

To: Assembly Member Blanca E. Rubio

Cavan Argila is an intellectually disabled deaf man. After years of independent living and long-term employment, Cavan is now homeless and unemployed. The San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center (SGPRC) is paying a vendor \$10,000 monthly to provide care for Cavan living as a homeless person.

Previously Cavan received services from his family as Support Services for the Deaf (www.SSDeaf.com). The termination of family provided services on 2/1/2015 launched Cavan's life on a downward spiral resulting the loss of employment ultimately homelessness. More information about Cavan's situation is posted on my blog: www.SGPRC.net (see attached).

We request the assistance of Assembly Member Rubio to restore services provided by Support Services for the Deaf under the provisions of WIC 4648 (g).

Respectfully,

Carl A. Argila
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• **How to Become Homeless on \$10,000 a Month**

Is it possible that the State of California would pay a vendor \$10,000 a month to maintain a developmentally disabled deaf man in a state of homelessness? Read on...

My son Cavan is a developmentally disabled deaf man. In a prior blog post I wrote about Cavan's long journey from a life of independence and productive employment to a life of homelessness and dysfunction (see [Cavan Still Smiles](#)).

For fourteen years, Cavan received supported living services, provided by his family, which allowed him to live independently and hold long-term employment (www.SSDeaf.com). Cavan's life was the fulfillment of the [Lanterman Act](#). On February 1, 2015, the [San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center](#) terminated Cavan's family provided services and transferred his program to one of their own vendors. Within months, Cavan was fired from his nine-year employment as a truck unloader for WalMart. Soon afterwards began a series of evictions which resulted in Cavan becoming homeless.

Today Cavan is moved from motel to motel. He remains unemployed and, with the intellectual capacity of a twelve year old, continues to be the target for exploiters and drug users.

We have now received a [Statement of Services Provided](#) for the fiscal year 2015-2016. We learn that the Regional Center's vendor has charged more than twice the cost for services which were provided by our family. The State of California is now paying over \$10,000 each month for services which not only resulted in the destruction of Cavan's life, but are maintaining him in a state of homelessness.

Not only is this deplorable situation immoral, in my opinion, it is also illegal. The San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center is required to provide the "least costly provider" under Welfare and Institutions Code 4648 (a)(6)(D), and other regulations.

I have brought this matter to the attention of the SGPRC Board of Directors (see [2017-04-26 SGPRC Board Meeting](#)). As a governance board, they are required to assure that the SGPRC is operating in compliance with the regional center's contract with the

[Department of Developmental Services](#). I believe that they are required to investigate and rectify any violations of regulations by their management.

Let's see what happens. There's more to come.

- [April 28, 2017 \(11:01 am\)](#)

SGPRC

Carl Argila's
San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center Blog



- **Cavan Still Smiles**



One of my son Cavan's most endearing qualities is his smile. He can light up a room with his big, beautiful, broad grin. Now, in his sixth month of homelessness, his smile endures...

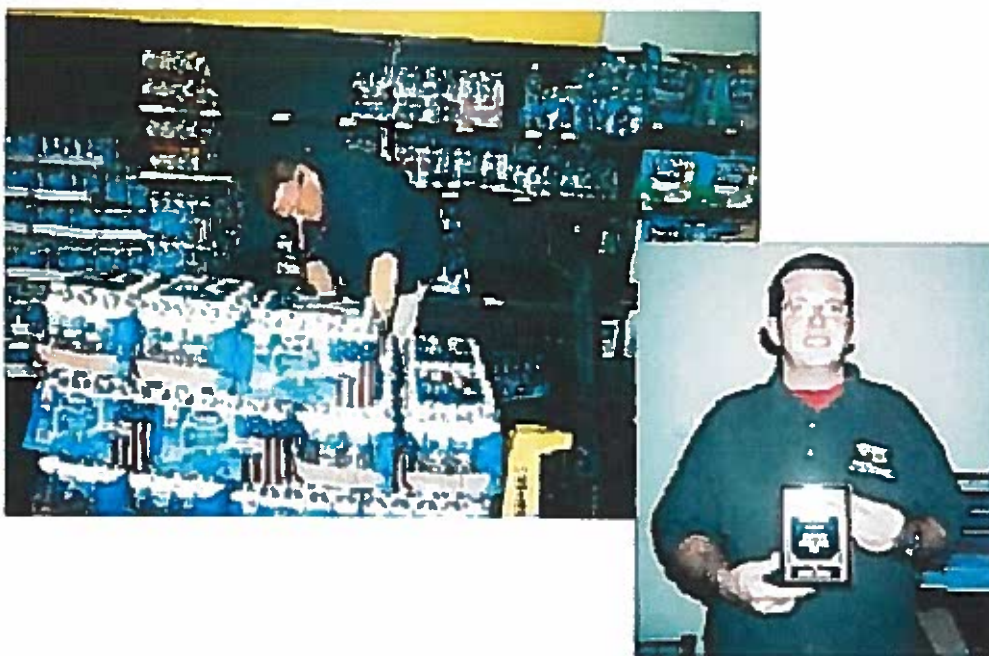
Two years ago my son Cavan, a Deaf and developmentally disabled man, lived independently and had worked for nine years as a truck unloader at WalMart. Cavan's life was the fulfillment of the [Lanterman Act](#). Today Cavan is homeless.

Cavan's long journey from a life of independence and self-reliance to a life of desperation and dysfunction didn't "just happen"; it wasn't the result of some cosmic "act of god." The destruction of Cavan's life came about methodically, step-by-step, a textbook example of failed Regional Center services.

As documented on my [blog](#), our family provided services for Cavan, as the region's only [Deaf vendor](#), for fourteen years (www.SSDeaf.com). We maintained the protective supervision services needed to keep Cavan safe at home, and we provided the job coaching services to maintain his long-term employment at WalMart. On February 1, 2015 the [San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center](#) (SGPRC) terminated our family vendorization and put in place one of their vendors to provide services for Cavan.

The first casualty of the new SGPRC provided services was Cavan's ties with the Deaf community. The new vendor had no experience with deafness, no Deaf employees and was not involved with the Deaf community. Cavan is an intensely social person. His need for social interaction is as necessary for him as food and water. Without his connections with the Deaf community, Cavan found social interactions in his neighborhood—the homeless, transients and drug users who are hidden in plain sight all around us.

With the intellectual capacity of a 12 year old, Cavan quickly became popular with his new "friends." Cavan would give them whatever money he had, even give them the key for his apartment so that they would have a place to stay. During all of this chaos, the new vendor was unable to provide the services which would keep Cavan safe and protect him from exploitation.



The second casualty of SGPRC provided services was Cavan's job. The new vendor failed to properly supervise the job coaches who assured that Cavan was on task and facilitated communication with other employees. On my spot checks to WalMart, I would frequently find the job coach away from the work location—sometimes even sitting in their car in the parking lot. The vendor had no backup plan to assure that Cavan would be at work when a job coach was absent. After numerous warnings about excessive absences, Cavan was terminated from his nine year employment with WalMart.

Cavan lived for WalMart—his job was the foundation upon which his life was based. WalMart was the reason he woke up every morning. Without his job, Cavan's life further deteriorated and gave more opportunities for exploiters to take advantage of him. Throughout all of this the new vendor was unable to maintain a stable living situation for Cavan.

The third casualty of SGPRC provided services was the loss of Cavan's residence. Without a job, Cavan's days were spent languishing without any kind of structured, constructive activities. The exploiters in Cavan's life now completely dominated his life. Cavan's apartment was now taken over by [transients and drug dealers](#). Ultimately, the apartment management evicted Cavan from his long-term residence. Cavan was relocated to a second apartment, and evicted a second time. Again, throughout all of this, the new vendor was unable to maintain a stable living situation for Cavan.

This devastation of Cavan's life didn't take place in a vacuum. The SGPRC service coordinators have been clueless about how to intervene in this case. They are hearing people who have no ability to communicate with Cavan and no understanding of the Deaf community or Deaf culture. For years I have been requesting that the SGPRC hire a Deaf service coordinator. They have refused. (See [Deaf Community Service Disparities](#).)

Requests for assistance from [Disability Rights California](#) have gone unanswered. As documented on this blog, I have made numerous appeals to Aimee Delgado, our clients' rights advocate at Disability Rights California. Ms. Delgado has taken no action to assist Cavan. At the [Autism Society of Los Angeles Conference](#) I personally met Disability Rights California executive director Catherine Blakemore. I asked for her help. She promised to "get back" to me. I never heard from her.

I am grateful to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for writing a letter on Cavan's behalf. (See [Thank You State Council!](#))

And so, Cavan, a Deaf man with the intellectual capacity of a 12 year old, now lives in the world of the homeless. The longer Cavan remains in this situation, the more difficult it will be to return him to a productive, stable life. The new vendor has offered nothing which might restore Cavan's life.

Since becoming homeless Cavan has now become involved with the criminal justice system. He has also developed a health problem related to his homelessness. I remain optimistic. Cavan is still protected by the [Lanterman Act](#), although unfulfilled, I have faith that eventually justice will prevail for Cavan. And, most importantly, Cavan still has people who love him.

- [March 23, 2017 \(1:41 pm\)](#)

San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center Statement of Services Provided

DO NOT PAY
THIS IS NOT A BILL

7317917 Cavan Argila

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Service Coordinator: 300 Casian, Maria

Service: 894-UCI Sls Vendor Administration Auth#: 16372174 Start: 12/01/15 Total Amount Paid: \$1,632
Provider: HJ0143 V.E.W. Unit Type: M Monthly End: 06/30/16 Total Units: 7.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount						233	233	233	233	233	233	233
Units						1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Service: 896 Supported Living Auth#: 16358928 Start: 07/01/15 Total Amount Paid: \$47,093
Provider: HJ0143 V.E.W. Unit Type: HD Hours Direct End: 11/30/15 Total Units: 1,667.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount	11,074	10,820	8,362	8,136	8,701							
Units	392.0	383.0	296.0	288.0	308.0							

Service: 896 Supported Living Auth#: 16369545 Start: 12/01/15 Total Amount Paid: \$72,842
Provider: HJ0143 V.E.W. Unit Type: HD Hours Direct End: 06/30/16 Total Units: 2,437.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount						10,701	10,521	9,087	8,130	11,717	10,970	11,717
Units						358.0	352.0	304.0	272.0	392.0	367.0	392.0

Service: 642 Interpreter Auth#: 16359976 Start: 07/17/15 Total Amount Paid: \$384
Provider: P56985 Lra Interpreters, Inc and Unit Type: HD Hours Direct End: 07/17/15 Total Units: 4.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount	384											
Units	4.0											

Service: 642 Interpreter Auth#: 16375050 Start: 04/22/16 Total Amount Paid: \$230
Provider: PJ4491 Language Network, Inc Unit Type: HD Hours Direct End: 04/22/16 Total Units: 2.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount										230		
Units										2.0		

Service: 642 Interpreter Auth#: 16367652 Start: 07/01/15 Total Amount Paid: \$2,550
Provider: PJ4516 V.E.W. Unit Type: HD Hours Direct End: 06/30/16 Total Units: 68.0

	Jul-15	Aug-15	Sep-15	Oct-15	Nov-15	Dec-15	Jan-16	Feb-16	Mar-16	Apr-16	May-16	Jun-16
Amount	188	188	188	188	600	600	600					
Units	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	16.0	16.0	16.0					

Total Amount Paid: \$124,731
Total Units: 4,185.0

This statement of services is being provided for your information. No action is required on your part. If you have questions about the statement or the services listed or if you did not receive the services listed, please contact your service coordinator. Units and costs shown above reflect services authorized and paid. (May not include payments for service billed under a contract such as transportation and group habilitation service).