



2450 Washington Ave., Suite 240
San Leandro, CA 94577
510.618.1580

ITEM 7A

Carole Norris
Board Chair
Berkeley Housing Authority
1936 University Ave. Suite 150
Berkeley, CA 94704

March 4, 2016

Dear Carole,

East Bay Innovations (EBI) is a non-profit organization that provides support services to people with disabilities so that they can live and work in their own communities. I am writing to you to express our deepest respect and appreciation for your Director Tia Ingram.

A client of EBI's day program, a delightful young man with significant physical and developmental disabilities decided to leave his family's home. My agency had over the last 4 years documented numerous incidences of neglect by this young man's family regarding his care. His family served as his IHSS workers, his payee for his SSI and held a voucher from BHA, so legally they were responsible for meeting his needs for care, food and shelter. The incidences of care were so severe Adult Protective Services and Disability Rights California became involved. Three weeks ago, the young man declared to our staff that he no longer wished to live with his family.

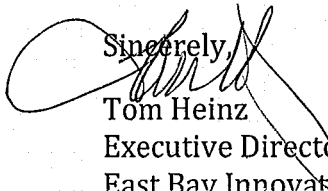
We immediately found him temporary housing and put in place attendant support. At the same time, we alerted Tia to his situation. Tia worked quickly and diligently with us to collect the documentation necessary to make the case to HUD regional that she be allowed to issue the young man his own voucher.

Simultaneous to Tia's efforts, we conducted a housing search and found a wheelchair accessible 2 bedroom apartment in Berkeley that would accept a voucher. Although understanding to our clients plight, the property owner needed to have verification that the young would be issued his own voucher otherwise they would lease the unit to another tenant.

Remarkably Tia secured and issued a voucher to our client just in time to secure the unit.

My agency has worked with every housing authority in Alameda and Contra Costa County over the last 20 years. In that time I have never seen a HA Director work so hard and so quickly to meet the needs of some one in such crisis.

Sincerely,


Tom Heinz
Executive Director
East Bay Innovations

EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

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