

Testimony for Assembly Committee on Aging & Long-Term Care
From Marcelo (Nunie) Matta
Tuesday, August 16, 2011

Good morning, Chairwoman Yamada and members of the Committee. Thank you for allowing me to speak today.

My name is Marcelo Matta, but people call me Nunie. I live in Woodland, California. Before I was injured in December 1995, I was a construction worker. When I was injured I was rushed to the hospital where I received a shot to prevent infection. I went into a coma and woke up 7 weeks later. I was totally paralyzed. I could not see. I could not talk. I could not even sit up in the wheel chair. When they sent me to my parent's home from the hospital my parents did not know what to do for me.

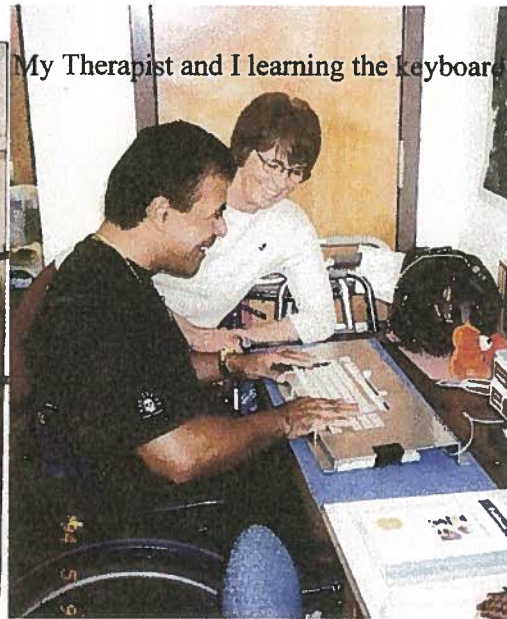
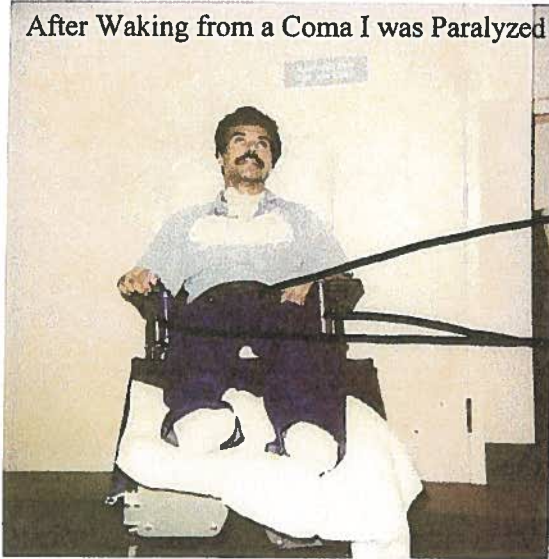
My mother found out about the Yolo Adult Day Health Center. I received therapy there to help me sit, stand, and finally to walk a little. I got help getting over being depressed and I gained confidence. They put me in touch with other resources like the Out of Sight Group, the Society for the Blind and wheelchair racing.

I know that people who never have needed these programs will never know how important and life changing these programs are to the person who does need them....and to their families. I now receive In-Home Supportive Services to support me in my own apartment but without the Adult Day Health Center I would not be where I am now. When I came out of the coma, if anyone had told me I would be able to use a computer and do public speaking some day I would have told them they were NUTS.

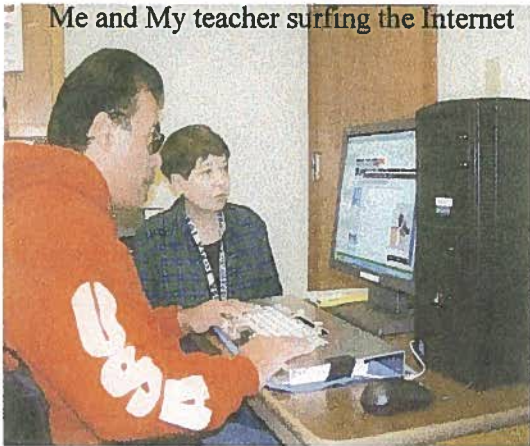
I am attaching some pictures of me so you can see how I was in 1996 and how I am today.

For the sake of others like me, please keep the Adult Day Health Centers open.

After Waking from a Coma I was Paralyzed My Therapist and I learning the keyboard



Me and My teacher surfing the Internet



My Phy. Therapist helping me walk



My Trainer and I Doing a 5k race



I'm shaking hands with a student

