



Councilmember Kecia Weller
Health and Human Services Secretary Diana Dooley
Developmental Services Task Force Report

On July 18, 2017, I represented the State Council on Developmental Disabilities at Secretary Diana Dooley's Developmental Services Task Force. The meeting covered updates on many topics and the Secretary released a draft final report.

We received an update on the final state budget. The total is \$6.9 billion for the Department of Developmental Services. This represents a 4.8% increase over last year's budget. The rate study was awarded to Burns and Associates. This contract for \$2.6 million will be finished in June 2019.

We also received an update on the developmental center closures. In July 2017, there was a closure population of 531 people. 225 at Sonoma. 161 at Fairview. And 115 at Porterville. I advocated for the care of medically fragile people and was told there is enough capacity to meet the complex medical needs.

They opened the first Enhanced Behavioral Supports Home in Visalia. Another 24 are under development. They are also under development for 44 bed capacity for Community Crisis Homes. I advocated that we need to make sure this is for psychiatric crisis and I was told they are. I also advocated that Mobile Crisis Support Teams are important and asked how many will be available across the state. DDS said they would get that number to me.

We talked about how because of the President Muslim and Latino families who may be eligible for services are not seeking them because they are afraid of immigration. This is not fair.

The Governor and other leaders announced their commitment to push for more housing. I advocated for the need to have navigators to help get good information about the system and options.

We received an update on the Home and Community Based Services waiver. The deadline was extended to 2022. I advocated for the need for person centered planning. Person centered planning is important and different than individualized planning. Individualized planning can be based on what is available not based on what the person wants. For example, someone could be sent to a day program but they want to work. Person centered planning would find a way for the person to work.

The Secretary also provided a draft report from the task force. The task force made recommendations. The report included recommendations in:

- Rates
- Regional Center Operations
- Community Services and Safety Net
- Housing and Employment
- Employment

The next steps is to use the report as a list of changes we need to make in the system.