



REPORT FROM
Vicki L. Smith
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS
TIME PERIOD: October 01, 2017 to November 30, 2017

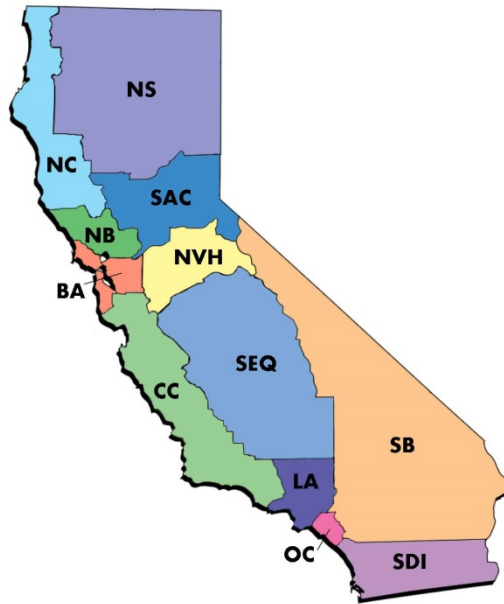
The Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations (DDROO) provides leadership and supervision to the SCDD regional offices and the planning team at Headquarters (which monitors, prepares and reports on the SCDD State Plan).

Regional Operations:

- Supervise twelve regional offices for operations. Facilitate monthly managers meetings (at minimum, meetings rotate between face-to-face one month and teleconference the next month). Managers continue to draft the State Plan Work Plan for the next 3 years and will be finalizing that at the November managers meeting.

Planning Team:

- Supervise the development, monitoring, assessment and analysis of the SCDD State Plan. The Planning Team is working on the Program Performance Report (PPR) for the 1st year accomplishments of the State Plan. The Administration for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities has delayed the reporting for October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017. As such, we will be presenting a more completed draft of the PPR to the State Plan Committee in December 2017 and to the Council in January 2018. .



Highlights of State Plan Activities (full version posted at www.scdd.ca.gov)
REGIONAL OFFICE AND HEADQUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR:

<u>REGIONAL OFFICE (RO)</u>	<u>MANAGER</u>
North Coast (NCRO)	*Vacant
North State (NSRO)	Sarah May
Sacramento (SACRO)	Sonya Bingaman
North Bay (NBRO)	Lisa Hooks
Bay Area (BARO)	Sheraden Nicholau
North Valley Hills (NVHRO)	Dena Hernandez
Central Coast (CCRO)	David Grady
Sequoia (SEQRO)	Yolanda Cruz
Los Angeles (LARO)	*Vacant
Orange County (OCRO)	Scarlett VonThenen
San Bernardino (SBRO)	Tamica Fooks-Rachal
San Diego/Imperial (SDIRO)	MaryEllen Stives

GOAL #1.1: The Council will increase knowledge about self-determination and person-centered planning by monitoring, supporting and actively engaging in the implementation of the Self-Determination Program.

- Staff provided two hour training about self-determination (entitled "Autodeterminación: ¿Qué Es? Como Es Diferente de Los Servicios Tradicionales? Será Adecuado Para Mí?") in Spanish on 10/13/17 to parents of children with developmental disabilities. There were 15 attendees and the presentation included, but was not limited to, information about self-determination; the role of the facilitator, financial management service, local self-determination advisory committees, the statewide self-determination advisory committee, and others involved in self-determination; the current status of self-determination; the development of the budget and how to get more bang for your buck; what services may be purchased through self-determination and a discussion of the CMS New Rules; how self-determination differs from traditional services; actions that can be taken now to prepare for self-determination; and how to determine if self-determination may be appropriate for someone. Pre- and post-test results indicated there was significant improvement in the understanding of the subject material by attendees. Lastly, SCDD staff distributed flyers pertaining to an upcoming training series 3 SA/12 FA/1 ORG)

GOAL #1.2: The Council will promote self-advocates in leadership roles in statewide networks a) through the strengthening of a statewide self-advocacy organization and by supporting self-advocates; b) within cross-disability leadership coalitions; and c) in training other self-advocates to become leaders.

- Staff hosted and participated at the Self Advocacy Council 6 San Joaquin Leadership Meeting on October 16, 2017 at 5:30pm-7:30pm. The Self Advocates that are on the Self Advocacy Council 6 and are from San Joaquin County get together 4 times a year to work on Leadership skills. SCDD NVH was asked to assist with presentations, materials, provide office space and copy materials as needed for these meetings. At this meeting there were two self-advocates, their facilitators, their SAC6 Coordinator and SCDD staff. The three other members were unable to attend due to various reasons- health, transportation and work. Their agenda was to review their by-laws and review each job description for the officer positions. They will be holding elections at their December 2018 meeting. By working in smaller

groups like this- it enables members to build their confidence and ask questions in a smaller setting. The Self Advocacy Council 6 also has a Stanislaus Leadership and Mountain Counties Leadership that meet in their perspective counties 4 times a year as well. Again- this has been a good move and was based on the SSAN's Work Group model. The smaller group work is helping these self-advocates develop their leadership skills. (2 SA/1 FA/2 OTH)

GOAL #2.1: The Council will increase and promote culturally competent strategies and resources that facilitate competitive, integrated employment (CIE) of people with I/DD.

- Staff participated in a Cisco Project Life Changer community partner call to hear an update on the project, where there is progress made and where our community partners and applicants are not hearing appropriate feedback in the resume review/interview process. There is progress being made in other countries where Life Changer is phased in, but the progress is slower in the states and in CA. The last 6 months, Cisco has focused in embedding the lessons learned and the process changes into systems throughout the company. They see that identifying the roles first, then reaching out to community partners to look for candidates that would be interested in those roles, are what works best and best helps those candidates get seen. These positions are in early-career and also through the university recruitment set of job requirements. For the positions targeted, they are looking to get 1/4 of the candidates considered be PwD. The target set for the year ahead: 75-150 hires across six countries will be PwD. Most of these roles in CA will be in IT and HR units. In the meantime, Cisco is also working on the Cisco Network Academy training model and how to better include PwD or create a branch of this that targets candidates with disabilities. (PM 1.3.2 – 4 OTH)

GOAL #2.2: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase CIE for people with I/DD.

- Staff participated in the Secondary Transition Interagency Collaborative (STIC) at the West End Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) joint meeting located in the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools office in Rancho Cucamonga to provide information and technical

assistance. The meeting was to review the Competitive Integrated Employment blueprint and strategic plan with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), the California Department of Education (CDE) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The blueprint encourages the formation of a local partnership agreement (LPA) with local offices of DOR, local educational agencies (LEA) and local regional centers such as Inland Regional Center (IRC) who are considered to be the Core Partners. The Core Partners then draft a regional plan with community partners, stakeholders and vendors. The STIC meeting was held by the Core Partners to bring together regional partners and create comprehensive information sharing referral process. SBRO12 staff as a community stakeholder and in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase CIE for people with I/DD. (34 OTH/10 ORG)

GOAL #3.1: The Council will work with housing entities to increase the development and/or provision of community housing for people with I/DD.

- Staff participated in the Community Healthy Improvement Plan (CHIP) Housing Action team for Mendocino County. Staff provided an update on the proposed housing projects and the recent CA Partnership Health Plan Housing grant of 1.3 million for Mendocino County through the Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency to develop affordable accessible housing. Staff was asked to review the proposal by the County HHSA Director as NCRO is the Behavioral Health Housing Committee Chair. Of the 50 million available, 1.3 million was allocated to Mendocino County. Staff reviewed the proposal and provided an analysis of the proposed housing grant. Staff provided new strategies on how to maximize the funding and provided strategies to benefit increased use of funds toward the development of housing versus using a large portion of the housing funds (\$400,000) for two housing navigators. These funds would not be allocated towards affordable or accessible housing. The HHSA Director took the recommendations made by North Coast Staff and revised the grant proposal to put the \$400,000 into the development of housing instead of staffing. There was low attendance due to fires and evacuations and no agenda created. (2 SA/4 FA/6 OTH/9 ORG)

GOAL #3.2: The Council will identify and decrease barriers to housing for people with I/DD.

- Staff attended a tour and meeting with the Chief Operating Officer and Programs Specialist of the Fair Housing Council of Orange County. They provided information about the Council and its outreach efforts, which include the Renter's Rights trainings hosted in the recent past by the SCDD Orange County Office. The Fair Housing Council of Orange County works to eliminate housing discrimination and guarantee rights of all renters. Their services include comprehensive community education, individual counseling, mediation, and low-cost advocacy. The SCDD and FHCO both assert mutual goals to decrease housing barriers for those with disabilities. The SCDD Orange County plans to collaborate with FHCOC for future community trainings related to Renter's Rights and Landlord/Tenant issues. (2 OTH/1 ORG)

GOAL #3.3: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase housing for people with I/DD.

- Staff participated in the Lanterman Coalition meeting to discuss the funding stream of the Sonoma and DCs and identify alternate uses for diverted funds, once those facilities have been closed. (2 SA/10 OTH/10 ORG)

GOAL #4.1: The Council and its federal partners will increase knowledge and awareness for people with I/DD and their families about the availability of and access to health and public safety-related services and supports.

- Staff participated in the organizing of the "Wild About Health" Fair held Oct. 1st, 2017. This is a free health fair to families and assists in finding children who need assessments and or medical care before they enter preschool or school. There were several children at the fair who needed dental and eye care and 55 flu shots were given to parents at the fair. There were other children referred to the CCS Clinic as a result of the exams they received at the health fair. Staff provided donations of toys valued at \$100 for giveaways at the booths as well as the agencies and community donated well over \$4,000 in prizes, food, and rental space for a total of \$ 4, 100 in donations.

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The 18 Collaborators include the Boys and Girls Club of Ukiah, FIRST 5, Healthy Kids Mendocino, Mendocino College Nursing, Mendocino Community Health Clinic, Inc., Redwood Community Services, Savings Bank of Mendocino County, Shriner's Hospital, Soroptimist International of Ukiah, Ukiah Unified School District, Ukiah Valley Medical Center, Ukiah Valley Rural Health Center, Alex Rorabaugh Recreation Center, Rotary Club, ARC Family Resource Center, Eye, Doctor, Clinic, Elks. About 95% of the families that came were Spanish speaking, 160 families with 203 children attended and about 35 volunteer members of the community provided booths and raffle prizes. (6 SA/7 FA/385 OTH/18 ORG)

GOAL #4.2: The Council, its federal partners, and self-advocates will increase information and training to law enforcement, court personnel, health care providers, and/or other care professionals about disability-related health and safety issues.

- Staff facilitated a collaborative meeting with California Office of Emergency Services (CAL OES), San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, Tribal Council representative, Redlands Police Department, local professionals and community stakeholders. The purpose of this group is to increase information and training to law enforcement, court personnel and other stakeholders in the access and functional needs (AFN) of the I/DD population in order to improve emergency disaster preparedness systems under AB 2311. In addition, the group will address future strategies to assist persons with disabilities during an emergency event. The participants in the collaborate agreed on incorporating AFN into current curriculum to law enforcement trainings in the catchment area, providing community trainings on AFN collaboratively to the community, and improving on an already existing AFM AB 2311 compliance handbook. The group also agreed to meet quarterly to discuss improvements needed, work on special projects for at least (3) possible health and safety fairs in both Riverside and San Bernardino County and to assist collaborative partners in their training efforts. Attendees from California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), San Bernardino County Sheriff Department, City of Redlands Emergency Management Department, Spotlight 29 Safety Manager, Riverside County Emergency Management District, Autism Society of the Inland Empire, California Governor's Office on Emergency Management, Omni Trans, San

Bernardino Community College District Office of Emergency Services,
Community Access Center. (1 FA/15 OTH/8 ORG)

GOAL #4.3: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase accessibility to health care and public safety services for people with I/DD and their families.

- Staff participated in the Orange County Health Care Agency Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Steering Committee & Public Forum on October 2nd, 2017 in Santa Ana, CA at the Delhi Center. SCDD Orange County staff shared in public comment about the need to bridge mental health programs/services with the I/DD population as many persons with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability have a co-occurring mental health condition. Due to eligibility criteria for regional center and for county mental health services, oftentimes those with I/DD do not qualify for services from either “side,” which leaves them without adequate or appropriate services. Additionally, the MHSA Steering Committee received an update on the Mental Health Services Act board meetings as well as from the Community Action Advisory Committee. Goodwill of Orange County celebrated its 10-year Anniversary providing Supported Employment to those with mental health needs through the Mental Health Services Act grant monies. The Steering Committee highlighted their web address www.ochealthinfo.com/mhsa. The next meeting will be on November 6th, 2017 at Delhi Community Center in Santa Ana, CA. (PM 1.3.4)

GOAL #5.1: The Council and its federal partners will increase knowledge and awareness of developmental milestones and intervention services for families of young children and professionals.

- Staff volunteered at the 23rd Early Start Symposium on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education in Stockton. Family Resource Network is the lead agencies for this event and in discussion with the Executive Director if sounded like SCDD NVH could join the planning team. Staff arrived early to stuff the folders and bags as well as disseminate SCDD materials and an Early Milestone info sheet for the 275 participants. The participants were educational professionals, VMRC service coordinators, parents and services agencies. The Keynote was Mona

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Delahooke, Ph.D. and she discussed "Social Emotional Milestones for Children from birth to 3 years" and "Understanding and supporting challenging behaviors", Karyn Lewis Searcy, MA., CCC-SLP spoke about "Early Intervention in Speech-Language: Empowering Parents" , David Love, Ph.D. talked about "10 Things a Caregiver can do to build a positive relationship with their child" and Children dealing with Trauma", Debbie Link, OTR talked about Rules of Engagement and there was a final session called "Don't throw that away! Engaging DIY Toys for Toddlers" . The Symposium Evaluating will be reviewed and discussed at the de-brief meeting to be held in November. (75 FA/200 OTH)

GOAL #5.2: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners and other stakeholders, will increase awareness and knowledge for families and self-advocates about the availability of and access to services which support inclusive education.

- Staff facilitated a town hall at Escuela de la Raza Unida in Blythe California. This meeting was held to discuss systemic issues received by the Regional Office received by the community regarding lack of air conditioning in (3) Special Education classrooms at Palo Verde Unified School District (PVUSD). The issues discussed were the following: accessible parking/transportation, bullying/harassment and staffing concerns within the school district. During the meeting, parents and stakeholders within the community expressed the ongoing issues within the district and their willingness to work with the PVUSD to reach a plausible resolution to these concerns. Staff documented these concerns to the district and informed the group at the meeting that the Regional Manager will provide a copy of the document not only to the district, but also during public comment during the Board meeting for the PVUSD the following business day. There were 3 parents interested in participating and also providing public testimony, so staff informed the group on tips, guidelines and the importance of public testimony. In addition, staff stated that they will provide training and support to willing participants to establish a much-needed Parent Support Group in Blythe to foster a collaborative relationship to the district and educate families on their educational rights so that they can become informed to the processes used within the school systems, and to increase awareness and knowledge for families and self-advocates about the availability of and access to services which support inclusive education. The first meeting of

the parent support group was scheduled during the town hall for November 6, 2017. There were 14 parents who were participants in the meeting and a report of issues was created by staff for the Board meeting held on October 3, 2017 at the Administrative Offices of the PVUSD. (14 FA/1 ORG)

GOAL #5.3: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners and in collaboration with educators and stakeholders, will increase information and technical assistance to prepare and empower students, families and professionals in developing individualized transition plans that lead to employment, post-secondary education &/or independent living options & opportunities.

- Staff participated in a continued discussion with CHLA and CSULA to launch a pre-employment pilot program for patients with I/DD ages 16-21. There will be five training modules for ten participants with I/DD, ages between 16 and 21, in the pilot transitional program. The modules will be delivered in 15 weeks and completed with an achievement celebration during the 16th week of the program. Each module will comprise of didactic sessions and group/one-on-one workshops. These modules are: Self-exploration, self-care, social aspects of life, employment/vocational preparedness, and individual person-centered plan. CHLA has identified the priority of the much needed transition support. To secure the needed funding to launch the pilot, CSULA includes CHLA as one of the subcontractors for California Career Innovations (CCI-a Transition Work-Based Learning Initiative). CHLA also continued to pursue the grant application from CHLA Foundation. A follow-up meeting to focus on the career coach duties and the development of the project since the last meeting back in June and July will be scheduled next month in San Diego. (1 SA/5 OTH/4 ORG)

GOAL #5.4: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase access to quality education services throughout the lifespan for people with I/DD.

- Staff met with Madera County Behavioral Health Services to discuss the upcoming training in which Sequoia Office will teach the Mental Health Clinicians about IEP's and IEP meetings that they attend with the families

and students they serve. Sequoia Office has been asked to provide an IEP Training with the families of these students at a later date. (4 OTH/2 ORG)

GOAL #6.1: The Council, in collaboration with our federal DD partners, will reduce service access barriers and decrease the disparity in available information, which describes services and supports that may be purchased throughout California's Regional Center system, by translating and providing that information in Spanish and tracking statewide POS disparity data for Spanish-speaking self-advocates and families.

- Staff hosted a table at the Fiesta Educativa "Construyendo Puentes, No Muros" conference and resource fair. Staff provided the following handouts: Disability Rights Publications in Spanish (pub # 5573.02, 5063.02, F077.02, 5038.02 and 5130.02), the IEP Strategy Guide in Spanish and the Consumer's Guide to the Lanterman Act in Spanish. Most families had questions about the school services but some were unclear about the role of the regional center. (10/21/17)(22 FA/12 ORG)

GOAL #6.2: The Council will increase the knowledge and skills of people with I/DD to move from institutional to community settings and to increase their ability to self-advocate.

- Staff provided information and training to self-advocates at the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). Topic of discussion included disaster planning for events such as floods, hurricanes, and fires. Examples were provided in the form of national news headlines. Self-advocates also discussed personal safety such as spills and falls, fire drills and fire safety, what to do if you are injured and need help, and common safety/caution signs (i.e. fire extinguisher, yellow slipper/floor wet/caution sign, fire alarm). The Feeling Safe, Being Safe curriculum was reviewed and each participant was provided with their own person safety important information about me sheet. Participants were encouraged to discuss and review their personal safety plan with their current staff, and once again, upon transitioning into community living. (23 SA/9 FA/5 OTH/1 ORG)

GOAL #6.3: The Council will increase outreach, training, and technical assistance to improve the quality of and access to services, including (but not limited to) Regional Centers, education, transportation, public benefits, child care, and recreation for people with I/DD and their families.

- Staff facilitated the implementation of the 4th Annual Imperial Valley Parent Conference. During the registration and resource fair event there were 18 exhibitors that participated in the event. The conference began with a presentation by Diana Pastora Carson who shared the story of her family's journey as they struggled with the systemic barriers to bringing her brother back to living in the community after residing in a developmental center for many years. Following the keynote eight workshop sessions were offered: Conscious Discipline, Assessments and How to Make Sense of Them, Fabulous Freebies- Assistive Technology, Creating Inclusive Opportunities in the Home and Community, ADHD and the Highly Distractible Child, Navigating IEP's, Exploring Assistive Technology and Three keys to Getting the Services You Need. In attendance at the event there were 55 parents, 14 SDSU students, 30 exhibitors, 10 volunteers and 12 speakers. Collaborators for the event were: EFRC, San Diego Regional Center, TASK, SDSU, Department of Public Health, Molina Healthcare, SELPA, Arc of Imperial Valley. (55 FA/78 OTH/31 ORG)

GOAL #6.4: The Council, in consultation with its federal partners, will increase identification, advocacy and/or sponsorship of legislative, regulatory, policy, procedure and/or practice changes to increase access to quality community-based services for people with I/DD and their families.

- Staff presented and participated at the Service Providers Advisory Committee meeting in Red Bluff California. Staff presented on SCDD's legislative efforts and distributed information on How to find out who your legislators are in California, the SCDD Legislative and Public Policy Platform Informational Handout and a handout on the Tehama County Representatives for Assembly, Senate and Congress. 27 people were present - all professionals. Agencies represented were SCDD, Far Northern Regional Center, Lighthouse Living Services, COMPASS, Work Training Center, Puckett Residential Homes, J. Russell York - PHD LMFT Counseling Services, Arc of Butte County, California Vocations Inc., Siskiyou Opportunity Center, and Visions. (27 OTH/10 ORG)