

**SCDD Structural Deficit Workgroup Recommendations
Responses to Questions from the Administrative Committee
February 9, 2016**

1) How long has the Central Coast Office been vacant?

The Central Coast Office has been vacant since June 18th, 2015. Since that time, calls have been forwarded to the Silicon Valley-Monterey Bay Office and the Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations has been acting as the interim Regional Manager. For example, the Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations recently met with the Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee.

2) What are the needs of the population in the Central Coast region?

Based on a review of Activity Reports between November, 2015 and May, 2015, the work of the Central Coast Office focused primarily on self-advocacy, technical support within special education and regional centers, collaboration with Tri-Counties Regional Center, outreach (e.g. tables at local fairs), SSAN support, information dissemination, and committee participation (including event planning). The office offered materials and trainings in Spanish and had expertise in Medi-Cal eligibility. Work was completed in the office, in the community, over the phone, and email was used to distribute information to a mailing list of 1200 people. Larger organizations listed as collaborative partners included Tri-Counties Regional Center, three SELPAs, United Cerebral Palsy, and Arc Ventura County.

The emerging issue discussed most frequently was the lack of knowledge and awareness about the special education and developmental services system that was encountered by families and individuals. The volume of need for individual advocacy was beyond the capacity of SCDD Central Coast and The Office of Clients Rights. The high cost of housing led to limited housing opportunities for the developmental services community. Self-advocate training was described as very labor intensive - self-advocates needed to develop skills in the mechanics of a meeting and how to go from talk to action. Also mentioned was the regional center's lack of effort in reaching out to its population through email or community forums.

3) How often do people access the Central Coast Office in-person vs. by phone or email?

Unscheduled in-person visits are very infrequent. However, the staff in that office previously organized meetings in the office on a regular basis (e.g. Regional Advisory Committee meetings, self-advocacy meetings, etc.). Currently, and for the past 6 months, the office has received approximately 4 calls per week.

4) Which Area Boards were the Central Coast Office and Silicon Valley-Monterey Bay Office before they became SCDD regional offices?

The Central Coast Office was Area Board 9 and the Silicon Valley-Monterey Bay Office was Area Board 7.

5) How were the original Area Board regions determined?

The original 13 Area Board regions were determined based on regional center catchment areas and population size per region. Both catchment areas and population size have changed over the years and our regions no longer follow this balance.

6) If we decide to have a small satellite office in the Central Coast region, what would be the impact on the structural deficit recommendations?

An additional \$132,696 in savings would need to be identified to retain the Central Coast office and one CPS II in that office.

Currently, there no estimates on how much a one-desk office would cost yearly. Ideally, SCDD would be able to rent space within an existing office with a partner agency. If SCDD was able to do this, we may consider allowing other larger regions additional resources to do the same.