



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

On December 14, 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, including the rate study.

First, Secretary Dooley announced that this would be her last Task Force meeting. The whole Task Force thanked her for leadership. Thank you Secretary Dooley!

We heard about the fires in Napa and the evacuation at Sonoma Developmental Center. I asked whether fires burned homes in the community. Director Nancy Bargmann said they have not heard of any regional center clients' homes in the community burned.

We received an update about the DDS Disparities Funding grants. DDS received 139 proposals. 61 are from community based organizations, 33 are new regional center requests, and 45 applicants are asking to continue funding from getting the grant before.

DDS updated us on building STAR homes. I asked how restrictive is a STAR home? They have 24 hour one-on-one staffing but are unlocked.

Burns and Associates presented an overview of the DDS Vendor Rate Study. I asked if they are looking at the rates in present tense or in the future of how services will be with new rules. They said the information is retrospective but the

analysis is about going forward. I asked about the timeline for each of the project tasks. They said they are a little behind but they will have a report to DDS by December 2018. The public will have 30 days to review and comment on the report. I asked what will happen to rates if the feds stop funding Medicaid. They said hopefully that does not happen. If it happens they will have those conversations then.

DDS presented an update on self-determination. Since July, they have had 5 calls with CMS to work through questions. They started with 150 questions and are down to a handful. They have a final call on January 3. They are committed to filing by the end of January.

The statewide HCBS transition plan was submitted to CMS. DDS also released the guidelines for the next \$15 million for compliance grants. January 5 is the deadline to apply for those grants.

The Task Force workgroup will meet again on January 31, 2018.