



State Council on Developmental Disabilities



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

• website • [www.scdd.ca.gov/sequoia.htm](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/sequoia.htm)  
770 E Shaw Ave, Suite 123 Fresno, CA 93705

• email • [sequoia@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:sequoia@scdd.ca.gov)  
phone (559) 222-2496 fax (559) 248-2886

Date: June 8th, 2016

Time: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Place: Central Valley Regional Center

Conference Room

4615 N. Marty Ave.

Fresno, CA 93722

Ph. (559) 276-4300

## AGENDA

- I. Call to order
- II. Welcome & Introductions
- III. Roll Call/Establish Quorum
- IV. Approval of Agenda/Prior Meeting Minutes
- V. Open Public Forum
- VI. Old Business
  - a. Regional Advisory Committee Seat Recommendations Update
  - b. Selection of Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair for the Regional Advisory Committee
- VII. New Business
  - A. SCDD updates – Staff
    - a. Yolanda Cruz, Regional Manager, will update on Sequoia Regional Office activities and trainings.
    - b. Introduction of Aaron Caruthers, Executive Director, State Council on Developmental Disabilities.
      - i. Aaron Caruthers, Update on State Council on Developmental Disabilities
  - B. Regional Center Update –
    - a. Year End Fiscal Update
    - b. Self-Determination List status and upcoming trainings
- VIII. Adjournment

*Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible and alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting, should contact the SCDD Sequoia office at 559-222-2496 or email*

*[Yolanda.cruz@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:Yolanda.cruz@scdd.ca.gov) Requests must be received by 5:00 p.m., five days before the meeting date.*

*"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."*



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**Sequoia Regional Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Regional Advisory Committee Minutes**

**April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Tulare County Library, Visalia, CA**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Darlene Kilmartin, Maria Jones, Loretta Milne

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

N/A

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Yolanda Cruz, Regional Office Manager  
Dawn Joest, CPS II  
Heather Kroencke, Office Technician Fresno

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Loretta Milne chaired the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. She then welcomed everyone to the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Regional Advisory Meeting.

Self-introductions of RAC Members, staff and guests then followed.

The official roll call was conducted and there was a quorum.

Loretta Milne asked if there were any additions/changes to the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 agenda as mailed.

**M/S/C to approve the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Agenda as mailed.**

Loretta Milne asked if there were any additions/changes to the February 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes as posted.

**M/S/C to approve the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Minutes as posted.**

*"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Rick Sowers was encouraged to introduce himself and his agency. He works for Vocation Plus Day Program. He has worked for Vocation Plus, which has 21 offices in the Central Valley, reaching from Bakersfield to Oakhurst for over 10 years. He is currently assigned to their corporate office located on Fulton Street in Fresno. He is the Client Outreach Director. He stated his intentions to apply for and join the Regional Advisory Committee. The Committee thanked him for his update and encouraged him to apply.

Mijha Leasure of Community Catalyst, an SLS program also introduced herself and her co-worker Esmeralda Lopez.

Former Area Board Member and public guest Kashy Rowland-Smith wanted to address her concerns with the Committee about the need in the community to train younger individuals and families to stay involved in legislation and the continuing fight for services and entitlement issues. Input was given by staff that this is a very large need in our community and that opportunities to connect experienced families and individuals with the more inexperienced were welcome. Marria Jones added that the Visalia Down Syndrome Society Parents Group is always looking for guest speakers or presenters to talk to families with young children on different topics.

### **COMMUNITY REPORTS:**

The No Stigma Speakers Bureau of Tulare County attended and gave a presentation. There were 3 presenters, Michael Esquibel, Suzanne Leary and Kathy Sims, each of whom spoke of their life and experiences. They present all over Tulare County on topics including mental and physical issues, alcohol or drug abuse and how their life experiences have affected them. The program was designed to help individuals share their stories of Hope, Wellness & Recovery. Their Mission is to transform pain into empowerment through sharing with others our stories of lived experience.

### **STATE COUNCIL REPORT:**

Rebecca Donabed gave a brief update on the March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 State Council on Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting. She reported that Aaron Bishop, the Commissioner from AIDD, was in attendance and expressed his appreciation for all the hard work State Council and the Regional Offices have put into the improvement of our agency. We are now 85% cleared and the next report is due to them on October 1st.

### **REGIONAL OFFICE MANAGER REPORT:**

Yolanda Cruz, Regional Office Manager, updated the RAC on the Structural Budget Deficit for The State Council and Regional Offices. Handouts were distributed and discussed the findings of the Deficit Committee including the closure of the Regional

Central Coast Office. Also reviewed were the approved 6 State Plan Goals for the 2017-2021 plan as well as information on the planned closures of the Porterville and Fairview Developmental Centers.

The next Board meeting will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Central Valley Regional Center. Elections for Committee Chairs will be held at the August meeting, with candidates selected in June.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:37 a.m.

**ACTION LOG**

**M/S/C to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Agenda as mailed.**

**M/S/C to approve the February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Minutes as posted.**

**GUESTS**

Guests included Ronald Kilmartin, Rebecca Donabed, Glen Stewart, Michael Esquibel, Margaret Afonso, Cathy Sims, Suasan Leary, Linda Ernest, Mijha Leasure, Esmeralda Lopez, Kashy Rowland-Smith, Karina Rowland-Smith, Rick Sowers and Ronnie Allan.

# Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates For Sequoia Regional Office Regional Advisory Committee

April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 –

Tulare County Library  
200 W. Oak Avenue  
Visalia, CA 93291

June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016- Aaron Carruthers

Central Valley Regional Center  
4615 N. Marty Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93722

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016-

@CURC

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016-

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Suggestions?

(Survey monkey)

December – Luncheon/Gathering



MAILING LIST SIGN UP

Name	Email	Self Advocate or Other?
Ronald Allan		
Ronald Beltrami		
Debra Hilman		
Alawn Great		
Michael Emiball	mesgubeldata@gmail.com	
Michael Barragan		
Jan Sarano	csaolp@aatt.net	
Vicky Dunson	vbenson@epuchildren.org	
Aaron Carruthers	aaron.carruthers@scdd.ca.gov	other
Sherry Huggins	teletype4u@yahoo.com	
Aaron Olson	colson@curc.org	curc
Rick Sowers	rsowers@svstic.org	SYS
Glenn Stewart		curc
Bebe Perez		