



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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Policy Questions About the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC)

Key:

Bold= Policy Question

Plain text=Policy Adopted by the Council

Who is eligible to be a RAC member?

RACs should reflect the geographic, ethnic, and language diversity of the state, as described in statutes.

What about prior Area Board members?

Any Area Board member on December 31, 2014 may continue to serve on the RAC for that RO area until his/her term expires.

Who cannot be a member of a RAC?

Sitting SCDD Council members cannot be also be members of the RAC. Councilmembers from a region are required to participate in his or her local RAC.

Any member of a Regional Center Governing Board, or a committee of a Regional Center Governing Board (excluding Self-Determination Advisory Committees and Self-Advocate Advisory Committees), shall not be eligible to serve on a SCDD Regional Advisory Committee.

How many members will the RAC have?

The goal is for each RAC to have 9-15 members, based on need, geographic area covered, or population. The Council's Membership Committee may determine the total number between 9 and 15 based on need and recommendations from the Regional Office and RAC. The RACs that inherited more than 15 members may reach the maximum number through attrition as the initial members terms expire.

Should every county be represented?

The RAC should have at least one member from each county in the RAC's region.

Are there other limitations on membership?

Providers are allowed to be members of a RAC. Providers are not to be more than 25% of total RAC membership.

What's the self-advocate percentage representation on each RAC?

At least 35% of RAC members shall be self-advocates. At least 35% of RAC members shall be family-advocates. The remaining 30% shall be self-advocates, family advocates, or other.

Will there be term limits?

Each RAC member serves at the pleasure of the Council. Each individual is eligible for two 3-year terms. The term limits begin anew as of January 1, 2015

What is the attendance policy for RAC members?

If a member of a RAC has unexcused absences for more than 25% of the RAC meetings within a calendar year, the member shall be considered as having ceased to discharge the duties of RAC membership.

What about conflicts of interest?

While it is not anticipated that RAC members will be making governmental decisions, if that happens and an individual has a conflict, that individual is expected to not be a part of the conversation or decision for that item.

RAC Membership Appointments

- Each RAC and RO can forward names to the SCDD Membership Committee for consideration.
- Each RAC may have its own Membership Committee for purposes of identifying and recruiting potential members and referring them to SCDD Membership Committee for consideration of referral to the SCDD.
- The SCDD Membership Committee will create a standardized application form/process.
- The SCDD Membership Committee makes appointments to the RACs.

What are the officers of the RAC?

RAC members shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from among its membership. The role of the Chair and Vice Chair is to run the RAC meetings.

What subcommittees may a RAC have?

A RAC may convene a Membership Committee for the purpose of screening and making recommendations to the Council's Membership Committee on candidates for the RAC.

What is the role of the RAC?

Per statute, the role of the RAC is to:

- Advise SCDD and its RO on local issues and identify and provide input regarding local systemic needs within its communities;
- Provide input and be a source for data for the SCDD to consider in the formulation of the state plan;

"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."

- Provide public information programs for consumers, families, professional groups, and the general public to increase professional and public awareness of areas identified within the state plan;
- Engage in other activities as requested by SCDD.

The RAC may make recommendations to the Council. The RAC may not take positions independent of the Council.