



## **Executive Director Report September 15, 2020**

I am proud to lead this excellent team in reporting our progress in the following areas:

### State Plan

Our work on the state plan reached through technical assistance, trainings, meetings, and e-blasts:

June 2020: 537,511 people

July 2020: 207,703 people

For a total of 745,214 people for those two months.

Additionally, the State Plan Committee completed a draft 2022-2026 State Plan for the Council's consideration at today's meeting.

### PPE

We continue our leadership on obtaining PPE and distributing it through a network of approximately 100 community partners.

On Friday we placed our regular order, bringing the total number of PPE ordered and delivered to 46 million pieces, totally an estimated \$35.9 million. Then on Friday, after hours I got a call with an opportunity to place an order for 60-day supply of supplies, the catch is that we had to order it by Sunday, and we would have to find places to store it. Over the weekend regional offices worked with community partners to determine storage

capacity and community need. On Sunday, we placed an order for an additional 56 million items.

This brings our total to 102 million pieces of PPE, valued at an estimated \$60.3 million.

Also, we soon will have disinfectant wipes and paper gowns available.

We are deeply grateful for the partnership with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, which is making this possible.

### New Partnership

Our work with PPE got the attention of the American Red Cross and on Friday they announced a new partnership with us. They will donate 1,500 Go-Kits to go along with our disaster preparedness trainings statewide. The kits contain the basic supplies for one person for 3 days, including emergency food, water, and a crank-powered flashlight/radio/cell-phone charger. We thank the Red Cross California Wildfire Recovery Program for their generosity and hope this leads to a strong partnership.

### Public Policy

Two of the Council's bill ideas made it to the Governor's Desk. Both were put into the Senate Human Services Omnibus bill SB 1264 (Hurtado). Those provisions are:

- Safety: Cleans up the law around Authorized Representatives to make this a viable decision-making option along with conservatorship and supported decision making.

- Employment: Extends the State's paid internship program for people with IDD who are interested in working in a State job.

The Council also sent a letter to the Governor opposing AB 1544 (Gibson), which would allow paramedics to take a person directly to a mental health facility, rather than a medical facility.

Vaccines: The Council sent a letter to D.C. about an equitable allocation of the future COVID-19 vaccine by reviewing a draft framework through a disability lens.

Testing: Met with the Governor's Testing Task Force on ways to increase the ability of people who are home-bound to be tested and receive the future vaccine.

The Council submitted comments to the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) regarding two sets draft regulations:

- Alternative Services Delivery
- Children's Community Crisis Homes

Additionally, we worked with the LPPC to revise the Council's Policy Platform and Priorities for 2021, which the Council will vote on at today's meeting.

### Voting

SCDD is leading a coalition of disability advocates to turn out the disability vote [disabilityvoteca.org](http://disabilityvoteca.org) including weekly strategy meetings on harnessing the vote of 4 million Californians with disabilities.

## Employment

The Council-funded Cycle 42 grant “Let’s Work!” documentary about young adults with IDD and employment will be released next month as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It has also been accepted as an entry in the San Diego International Film Festival.

I am Chairing the Governor’s Diversity Task Force Disability Subgroup on improving the recruitment, hiring and retention of employees with disabilities into the State workforce. I have reconvened this group after pausing during COVID and will have recommendations to the Governor’s Office within a month.

## Self-Determination Barriers Report

The Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) completed their work on a report about the barriers in the Self Determination Program (SDP), along with recommendations. The barriers are:

- Delay in Implementation of the SDP (5 recommendations)
- Lack of Guidance by DDS to Regional Centers and Consumers (11 recommendations)
- Lack of Trainings for Regional Center Staff, Participants, and Families (4 recommendations)
- Lack of Trainings for and Development of Person-Centered Planners, Fiscal Management Services (FMS), Independent Facilitators, and Service Providers (3 recommendations)

I sent the report to the Legislature, DDS, ARCA, local SDACs and joined meetings with the SSDAC Co-Chairs with DDS and ARCA.

## Public Safety

I met with the Los Angeles Sheriff Department to review their de-escalation policing framework through a disability lens.

## Membership

The Membership Committee met and identified 3 potential candidates to fill Council vacancies.

## National Leadership

I was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

I continue to participate in small workgroup of DD Council Executive Directors on ways to improve communications between DD Councils and the Administration on Community Living.

## Administration

We began a 3-part Lunchtime Chat series so Councilmembers and SCDD staff can come together with a professional facilitator to discuss how what is happening in the world is impacting them personally. The goal is to check in about what is going on with us as a team, so that Council and committee meetings can be about what is going on out in the world.

SCDD's budget remains strong. We recently received a one-time additional grant of \$369,774 that was the result of a reallocation from other DD Councils. These funds will carry forward in the Council's unallocated amounts.

Tania Morawiec will join SCDD this month as the Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations. Tania has worked as a national

subject matter expert on Employment First and was the Statewide Employment First Manager for the State of Illinois.