

Report from Deputy Director, Policy and Public Affairs and Staff, Policy and Public Affairs

The Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs is the lead person responsible for fulfilling the department's federal and state mission for advocacy. The Deputy Director directs the department's policy, advocacy, communication and committee activities.

February 1, 2021 – March 15, 2021

Onboarding

- As a new hire, participated in various mandatory onboarding activities including coordinating with administrative and human resources requirements and training.
- Conducted ongoing outreach to Councilmembers and Regional Office Managers for personal introductions and conversations about State Plan goals and 2021 policy priorities.
- Began attending weekly Regional Office Managers meetings in an effort to promote collaboration and provide updates and information as it relates to the State Plan, 2021 policy priorities and ramping up communications activities.

Policy

- Reviewed, in coordination with Policy Analyst, bills introduced for the 2021 legislative session to identify and monitor bills relevant to the State Plan and 2021 policy priorities. Established process for ongoing review of legislation as Legislator's priorities evolve over the legislative session.
- Presented to the Legislation and Public Policy Committee updates on 2021 COVID relief related legislation and presented support recommendations to the committee. (See included bill chart for the Council's position and bill status.)
- In coordination with Policy Analyst, staffed various ongoing tasks and strategies for SCDD sponsored bill SB 639 including conducting outreach for support, writing our sponsor letter and fact sheet, developing

background materials and scheduling and participating in meetings with committees and elected officials with Executive Director Aaron Carruthers.

- Collaborated with Disability Rights California (DRC) as co-sponsors on SB 639, including weekly meetings, research and background material development, and information gathering. Participated in ongoing meetings with stakeholders regarding support and concerns about SB 639.
- Proposed LEAP (Limited Examination and Appointment Program) legislation to state legislators, including extending current sunset and incentivizing greater participation.
- Joined the CA Disability Inclusive Housing Working Group to further SCDD engagement in housing policy priorities and state and federal budget priorities.
- Promoted affordable housing priorities for individuals with disabilities by providing technical guidance on drafting budget request letters.
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events: engaging on multiple fronts to ensure adequate notification and services when power is shut off for PSPS events. Activities include weekly meetings with CPUC and the utilities, providing policy guidance on public comment at the CPUC for Phase 3 rollout, ongoing discussions with legislative staff relating to introducing possible legislation in 2021 or 2022.
- Promoted Governor budget proposal, and subsequent Legislative Analyst Office proposed alternative, of \$400M for Supportive Integrated Programming (SIP) in the state budget.

Communications

- Provided guidance and direction to Communications Manager on SCDD communications relating to COVID vaccines, eligibility and distribution.

- Provided guidance and direction to Communications Manager on SCDD communications relating to Black History Month (February) and Disability Awareness Month (March)
- Began a focused effort to streamline timely translation services for communications.