



# San Bernardino Regional Office

## Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

04/10/2021

**Location:** *Virtual Meeting via ZOOM*

Posted on <http://www.scdd.ca.gov/sanbernardino.htm>

### **Members Present**

Douglas Perkins, **Chair**  
Ronald Allan  
Reginald Davis  
Christina Christenson-Rockwell, **Vice Chair**  
Kim Risser  
Eric Aguilar  
Ernie Saldana  
Cindy Cox  
Maia Pawooskar, **Secretary**  
Cathy Rosas  
Carmela Garnica

### **Members Absent**

Lanette Hollowell  
Violet Arellano, **Member-At-Large**

### **SCDD Staff**

Tamica Foots-Rachal, Regional Manager

### **Public**

Dustlyne Beavers  
Alejandra Rivera

## Interpreter - Spanish

Freda Blum

## Meeting called to order at 10:03 am

Quorum established

Welcome/Introductions

## Approval of Minutes



Voting on the minutes – 03/13/2021, Ronald Allan Motion to Approve the minutes, Ernie Saldana 2<sup>nd</sup>s Motion. Minutes approved.

## Presentation – COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- **March 15, 2021 opened eligibility for individuals with Disabilities and individuals with High Risk Health Conditions such as:**
  - Cancer
  - Chronic Kidney Disease
  - Chronic Pulmonary Disease
  - Down Syndrome
  - Solid organ Transplant
  - Pregnancy
  - Sickle Cell Disease
  - Heart Conditions
  - Severe Obesity
  - Type 2 Diabetes
- As a result of a developmental or a significant, high-risk disability, one or more of the following criteria applies:
  - A COVID-19 infection is likely to result in severe life-threatening illness or death
  - Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
  - Providing adequate and timely COVID-19 care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.
- People with a range of physical and behavioral disabilities including all enrolled consumers of regional centers, independent living centers, in-home supportive services, and community-based adult services/adult day health centers are eligible for a COVID vaccine on March 15.
- Verification documentation of the diagnosis or type of disability is not required, but anyone meeting the eligibility requirements will be asked to sign a self-attestation that they meet the criteria for high-risk medical conditions or disabilities.
- April 2021, eligibility is opened to all, does all mean all? Yes
  - 16-64

- Make the best decision for yourself and those you care for based on what's known about the vaccine, what you know about your own medical situation, and weigh it against what's unknown about the vaccine
- If you have questions or are worried about how the COVID vaccine may impact you, talk to the person who knows your health the best and who knows about the vaccine.
- Will there be IDD Vaccine Sites? Yes
  - Regional Vaccine Table
  - On-site IDD Supports
  - Community Input
  - Upcoming dates in the next two weeks for clinics in San Bernardino and Riverside County
  - Thank you to our Inyo/Mono partners as they were example to other regions.
- How to Prepare
  - SCDD's website has excellent information on what you can do before and during your vaccine appointment.
  - **Vaccine**
    - [Vaccination Day – Tips for Family Advocates](#)
    - [Vaccination Day – Tips for Medical Staff](#)
    - [Success! People with Disabilities are a Vaccine Priority](#)
    - [COVID Vaccine Information](#)
    - [Avoiding COVID Scams](#)
- What vaccine should I get?
  - Whatever is available to you at the time
- How Do I get a vaccine?
  - Your health care provider
  - Pharmacies
  - Your local health department
  - Pop-Up Clinics
  - Myturn.ca.gov / 1-833-422-4255
- The inclusion of people with disabilities in this vaccination plan is the result of passionate and smart advocacy.

### **Project SAFEE Update**

- Project SAFEE **S**elf-**A**dvocates **F**or **E**mergency **E**ducation
  - Project SAFEE (Self Advocates For Emergency Education) which is organized by volunteers and self-advocates to contribute ideas and advocate for themselves. In this group each of us will be committed and responsible to come to Zoom and work as a team to come up with ideas for future presentations. Helping to create a positive change in the world

of emergency education while empowering more silent voices to be heard among the noise. Our purpose is to create social awareness for individuals who have developmental disabilities, have our voices be heard, be respectful to everyone, educate people about important topics and make a difference in our community.

- Established a group of advocates statewide who love emergency preparedness
- Created a list of emergency topics for self-advocates so that they can be prepared
- Created a plain language presentation on COVID-19 and Vaccines
- Presented to People First, San Diego in March 2021
- We are working on safety presentations for the next 6 months on the following:
  - Fire Safety Series
  - Healthy Foods – Meal Prep and food safety education
  - Community Safety Series
  - Earthquake Safety
  - Travel Safety
- All the advocates will:
  - Run the meetings with SCDD staff
  - Co-present the trainings and information with each other
  - Train others on how to present the topics
  - Tell their story

## Legislative Report

- **DDS Projected spending**
  - 10.5 million and 6.5 million of general funds estimates 386,753 people will request and receive services through Department of Developmental services (DDS) by 2022.
  - There's an increase in spending due to Covid-19 totaling \$265.1. \$183.2 is in the general funds.
  - There's an extension of provider supplemental rates & uniform holiday schedule suspension through 12/31/2022. Totaling \$510.5 million.
  - Ongoing resources for Regional Centers coordination with state & local entities supporting fostered youth totaling 7.4 million.
  - Ongoing resources to support community emergency preparation & coordination by Regional Center's totaling 2 million dollars.
- **SB 596** – Would inform recipients of their eligibility for medical baseline program through IHSS and the utility companies.

- **AB 1643** – Requires Regional Center (RC) to provide adequate notice by first-class mail, certified mail, or electronic mail, as prescribed, to individuals with developmental disabilities if RC makes specific decisions relating to services.
- **AB 229** – Notice of Action would be in the recipient's native language.
- **AB 426** – Would prohibit a health care professional from charging a fee for the completion of the certification form.

### Transportation Update

- SunLine Transportation
  - Bus services / trips are Free of charge until May 15, 2021
  - No changes or increases to bus fare fees

### Self-Determination Update

- The Self-Determination Program (SDP) on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 will be open for all individuals interested in SD program.
- During the pilot 256 SDP spaces were allocated for Inland Regional Center (IRC)
  - 319 – Self-Advocates were selected
  - 55 – Self-Advocates (2018 to date) have withdrawn
  - 264 – Self-Advocates continue to participant
  - 190 – (72%) of Self-Advocates have completed an Orientation
  - 20 – (8%) of Self-Advocates have a Certified Individual Budget
  - 20 – (8%) of Self-Advocates have a Spending Plan Completed
  - 20 – (8%) of Self-Advocates have Obtained an FMS
  - 17 – Self-Advocates Receive Services through SDP
- With the assistance of the Statewide Self-Determination (SSDAC), the local Self-Determination Advisory Committee's (SDAC) and public comments a 15 Important Points was drafted to help assist the Regional Center in preparation of the June 7, 2021 opening Statewide.
- Self-Determination Workgroup is meeting April 13-14, 2021 with DDS to determine strategies to assist Regional Centers and self-advocates and families to overcome bottleneck/obstacles in obtaining Self-Determination services.
  - Certified Individual Budget
  - Not enough Independent Facilitators or Resources.
- Given these issues Self-advocates and families members are still interested in the Self-Determination Program.
  - Individuals will still have to attend a Self-Determination Orientation training, but due to the pandemic this training can be taking online.

- Typically, individuals will hire an Independent Facilitator (IF) or Person Center Planning (PCP).
  - Unsure if this will remain covered expense, this currently payment for IF or PCP does not come out of the Individual Budget.

### **Developmental Center Update**

- CRA/VAS team ended telework protocols and returned to facility-based offices on March 1st, 2021
- SCDD is looking to resume trainings at the facilities even if via virtual compacity.

### **Systematic Issues Roundtable**

- **Inyo County**
  - 3 – 4% of Inyo County is developable land for private ownership.
  - Housing – Availability, cost, and not ADA accessible.
    - Lack of Section 8 housing
  - Self-Determination – can be a means to help supplement rent
  - Limited Medical Access
    - Long waiting period to see medical specialists due to having to travel 3-4 hours, travel expense cost, or specialist comes into town once a month.
  - Independent living building has decreased its number of residents. Building can accommodate 70-80 residents, but currently housing only 16-17 residents.
  - IHSS provides no back up supports in the event providers become ill due to COVID-19. Regional Center offers limited resources to cover supports needed. Even when reaching out to local community support providers and paying a fee, the mere mention of COVID-19 services are stopped even if the families are not sick.
  - Consumers are aging and family members are non-existent or unable to care and support consumers. Consumers really depend on the supports and services provide through the agencies that are in the community. Problem is when you only have one kind of agency to provide these supports, they can pick and choose who they are going to support and serve. With staff to consumer ratio agencies can be selective.
  - Success with client's microbusiness, interested some trainings for clients on building microbusiness employment.
- **Mono County**
  - Cost of Living

- Lack of Available Housing
  - When housing is located often it is unaffordable.
  - Section 8 (waitlist opened after years of being closed)
  - Housing Assistance
- Transportation
  - Limited Public Transportation
- Healthcare
  - 3-4 hours away from a Health Care Professional
- Lack of Resources
  - That support individuals with Disabilities
- **San Bernardino County**
  - Nothing to report currently.
- **Riverside County**
  - With the incident that occurred in Corona, involving an individual with a disability community and law enforcement. There needs to be a better line of communication, accountability, education, and relationships with law enforcement officials when it comes to the protection of our vulnerable community.

### **Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda**

- No comments

### **Meeting adjourns**

- Ronald Allan motion to adjourn meeting, Ernie Saldana 2<sup>nd</sup>'s. Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm

### **Next Meeting**

- Saturday, August 14, 2021