



**SCDD San Bernardino Office
Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)**

**DRAFT of Minutes for Meeting Held:
February 13, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Virtual meeting via Zoom**

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

Members Present

Douglas Perkins, Chair
Christina Christenson-Rockwell, Vice Chair
Maia Pawooskar, Secretary
Ronald Allen
Violet Arellano, Member-At-Large
Reginald Davis
Carmela Garnica
Kimberly Risser
Cathy Rosas
Ernie Saldana

Members Absent

Eric Aguilar
Cindy Cox
Lanette Hollowell

SCDD Staff Present

Tamica Fouts-Rachal, San Bernardino Regional Manager
Rihana Ahmad, Manager of State Plan and Self-Advocacy, Headquarters
Janet Fernandez, Senior Planning Analyst, Headquarters

Public

Nicole Kjellander, Regional Director for Gateway Learning Group

Maria Arias

Brie Kabia

Jessica Martinez

Martina Rangel-Ortega

Rita Loof

Marianne Grosner

Maria (no last name provided)

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Quorum established

Members and staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ronald Allen moved to approve the December 12, 2020 minutes. Kim Risser seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed.

Presentation and Input Session on SCDD State Plan

Rihana Ahmad, State Plan and Self-Advocacy Manager, provided a brief overview of how the State Plan—which covers a five-year period—is developed. A new State Plan commences in October, so the State Council is asking RAC members for input.

The three goals of the 2022-2026 State Plan are: strengthening self-advocacy, capacity building, and systems change. Mainly, the Council is gathering input on specific or emerging regional issues within four areas: education; employment; health and safety; and housing. The Council is also asking for specific project ideas and self-advocacy needs.

RAC members and members of the public voiced their concerns and ideas during the information gathering session. Topics they brought up included:

- Affordable, accessible, safe housing and adequate housing allowances as well as proper inspection of housing (Ernie, Ronald, Kim, Carmela, Christina).
- Recognition of the regression that has occurred as a result of pandemic-related disruption of services and the consequent urgent need for additional services (Maia).
- Self-determination as it relates to the State Plan (Douglas).

- Need for accountability and transparency of the special education system including: an audit of the SELPA, sending a letter to OAH requesting verification that litigation against students with disabilities has been approved by local school board in compliance with Brown Act, an investigation into how money is spent, restricting use of special education dollars to education rather than litigation, and an examination of discrimination between how decisions are made with regard to special education students (particularly students of color) versus the general student population and the short and long-term consequences of that discrimination (Rita Loof, Jessica Martinez, Maria Arias, Marianne Grosner, Brie Kabia, Martina Rangel-Ortega).
- Need for addressing mental health concerns exacerbated by the pandemic (Maia, Christina). Tamica added that the Cycle 44 Grants recently released by the State Council recognize and address this systemic issue. Christina said that those under self-determination will be able to access psychiatric services from a private provider and that will be funded by the Regional Center.
- Need for vaccinations for clients, families, providers as soon as possible because the virus has greatly limited independence and negatively affected mental health—particularly in the I/DD community (Christina).
- Request that the State Council work with CBE on opening schools again, perhaps starting with special education one-on-one interactions (Maia).
- Request that SCDD partner with the organization Special Education Advocate Leaders (SEALS) to ensure that students with disabilities get an appropriate education (Brie, Martina). Tamica asked Brie to invite her in the next SEALS meeting since these are ongoing systemic issues that SCDD San Bernardino in partnership with Assemblymember Reyes' office has been tackling for a while.

Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda

Maia mentioned the upcoming Statewide Self-Determination meeting occurring on February 16 via Zoom.

Maria, a member of the public, requested help with getting conservatorship of her son. She has contacted the Regional Center, but they have not been able to help. Tamica requested Maria's contact information so that she could be directed to the appropriate party for assistance.

Ronald Allen reminded members about a Self-Determination video for which he was interviewed. He encouraged all members and self-advocates to see it because it does a good job of explaining how self-determination can work well for many.

Tamica updated the RAC on COVID-19 vaccinations. Beginning March 15, people with disabilities and other vulnerable conditions will be considered a vaccine priority. However, there is a national shortage of vaccines.

Tamica has been in contact with various stakeholders as well as the County of Riverside's vaccine task force to ensure that needs particular to the I/DD community are met. She asked the RAC for suggestions on what would make loved ones feel comfortable when they are given the vaccine since traditional methods may not be adequate. She will create a report with all suggestions that will be passed on to and discussed with the task force and others.

More information on the vaccine release can be found in English on <https://conta.cc/3rOconZ> and in Spanish on <https://conta.cc/2Z9zk53>.

Information on *when* one can get a vaccine is on <https://myturn.ca.gov/>

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Next Meeting

Saturday, April 10, 2021.