



## **State Council on Developmental Disabilities:**

### **Sacramento Regional Office**

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) MINUTES

June 15, 2021 (pending approval)

#### **Members Present:**

Abirami Duraiswamy (FA) Sacramento  
Benita Shaw (FA) Sacramento  
Brandy Boyd (FA), At-large (Chair)  
Christine Hickey (FA) Sutter  
Diane Walker (FA) Nevada  
Glenda Servantes (SA) Yuba  
Harold Ashe (FA) Placer  
Jesana Tran (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra  
Karen Mulvany (FA), El Dorado (Secretary)  
Kidada Medina (FA) Sacramento  
Nancy Esparza (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair)  
Nicole Mion (SA) Sacramento  
Tyson Whitman (SA) Placer

#### **Members Absent:**

Donnell Kenworthy (FA) Yolo (excused)

#### **Others Attending:**

Joyce McNair (FA) Council Member  
Lisa Cooley (SA) SSAN Member  
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Director of Client Services, ACRC

Peter Mendoza  
Jeffery Lewis  
Adam Ross  
Amanda Parker  
Cid Van Koersel  
Herman Kothe  
Sonja Cook  
Vanessa Bieker  
Pallavi Dave  
Lourdes Gomez  
Sareela Neal  
Yolanda Padilla  
Stephen Gersten  
Jordan Haynes  
Selene Anderson  
Sophia Ruiz  
Karen Bouey  
Elita Tolliver  
Jeanmarie Willbee  
Todd Rubien  
John Reven  
Ravita Devi, SCDD Staff  
Sonya Bingaman, SCDD Staff

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COMMITTEE CHAIR: Brandy Boyd

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

10:00 am

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**Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

13 of 14 members were present

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**Item 3. Inspirational Quote, Nancy Esparza**

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**Item 4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- RAC Members: Roll Call, state name and county affiliation and one new skill you learned during the Pandemic

- Welcome to new RAC members! Nicole Mion (SA, Sacramento), Harold Ashe (FA, Placer), Abirami Duraiswamy (FA, Sacramento), Diane Walker (FA, Nevada)

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**Item 5. Approval of Agenda for June 15, 2021**

First	Kidada Medina
Second	Benita Shaw
In favor	Yes
Opposed	None
Abstain	None

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**Item 6. Approval of Minutes for April 20, 2021**

First	Karen Mulvany
Second	Nicole Mion
In favor	Yes
Opposed	None
Abstain	None

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**PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT – Vanessa Bieker, Fly Brave Foundation**

Vanessa has a 27-year-old son named John Almeda, who is on the non-verbal autism spectrum. John is a marathon runner and ran in the Boston marathon as well. They started the Fly Brave Foundation in 2016 because they recognized the need for transition services suitable for young adults with autism.

The Fly Brave Foundation offers free social classes, writing classes, yoga, karaoke, public speaking, art and design programs. When the foundation started it began with a prom night organized by Vanessa since her son John could never attend one. She wanted it to be a positive experience for him.

She also mentioned it took them 5 years to get their own place to operate their program from and they are looking forward to opening a Coffee Shop later this year. They serve over 400 families completely free of charge which also includes employment training programs. They encourage people who want to volunteer their time to help and donations such as cash, clothes, shoes, housewares are

welcomed (no big furniture currently). Anyone interested can email them and schedule a donation. The email address is [flybravefoundation@gmail.com](mailto:flybravefoundation@gmail.com)

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## **Item 7. Sacramento Regional Office Updates (Sonya Bingaman, Regional Manager)**

- Announce new CPSII to begin June 21.
- Continuing with collaboratives
  - MCDAC Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committees
  - ADRCs – Aging and Disability Resource Connections in Placer, Nevada, and Yolo counties
  - Sacramento Food Collaborative
  - Yolo County Health Collaborative (Yolo Family Strengthening)
  - Yolo Oral Health Collaborative
  - Nevada County Office of Education CAC
  - Placer County Office of Education CAC
  - Sacramento County Office of Education CAC
  - Sacramento County DD Council (hosting and recording meetings)
  - CROWD
  - Racial Disparities and Justice Group
  - Independent Facilitator Network
  - City of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission (DAC)
  - UCD Mind Summer Institute Planning Committee
  - Marc Laver, Jonnie & Friends Inclusive Playground
  - CA Health and Wellness CAC
  - Anthem Blue Cross CAC
  - ACRC Board of Director's Meetings
- Continuing to distribute PPE to individuals, programs, events
- Will soon provide Emergency Preparedness trainings and distribute Red Cross Emergency Backpacks
- Southside Inclusive Playground
- ACRC Future Planning Task Force
- Inclusive Education Series (for Fall 2021)
- Trainings:
  - Transition Parent Group – presentation on History of ID Services in the US, California, current legislation and supports toward community inclusion.
  - Anthem Blue Cross Health Workshop – Stress during the Pandemic
  - SDP Q&A Workshops, recording

- Technical Assistance. Families seeking guidance and information on a variety of topics, particularly accessing IEP and IPP supports. Transition aged young adults. Housing issues. Self-Determination Program.
- List of recorded trainings is posted on SCDD's Sacramento Regional Office webpage. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sacramento/>
- SCDD Sacramento Regional Office during 2020: <https://youtu.be/AX7RHixs3K8>

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**Item 8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Council. Joyce McNair**

Joyce mentioned the Council meeting was on May 25, 2021 where the Council voted to approve the 2021-2022 budget. The American Rescue Plan Act provides temporary increases for HCBS programs for 2021-2022. The proposed budget includes increases to Regional Center staffing, structural equity supports, and increases rates to service providers. Also, funding for implicit bias training and efforts to reduce disparities in access to services. This is a major step in the right direction. Investments will be made in updating data bases used by state systems including DDS and the Regional Centers.

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**Item 9. Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN). Lisa Cooley**

Lisa mentioned that SSAN met June 9 and 10, 2021. In the meeting they agreed that the police need more education on how to interact with people with developmental disabilities. Also, the next Statewide Self-Advocacy Network meeting is September 7 and 8, 2021.

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**Item 10. Brief Reports from RAC Members on Issues in their counties**

**Abirami Duraiswamy (FA) Sacramento**

Abby mentioned that there are two choices for respite care and there are some concerns that she has with it. The top three concerns are that the service providers are not able to provide the care adequately, respite care workers are not trained correctly and there is lack of transparency among the service providers. She also mentioned that the individuals and families need more services for mental health conditions.

**Benita Ayala (FA) Sacramento**

Mentioned that she will share a flyer about the vaccine clinic which will take place from Thursday to Friday June 17-18, 2021. She also mentioned that the Fly Brave Foundation is offering a class on Introduction to HTML – which is a six week class and begins on June 30, 2021. The art classes are free and are available in July 2021.

**Kidada Medina (FA) Sacramento**

She shared an email where she mentioned how challenging it is for families to get services through respite agencies.

**Brandy Boyd (FA), At-large (Chair)**

She mentioned challenges with transportation and staffing issues within the agencies supporting her daughter. She is continuing to advocate for her daughter.

She serves as Chair of the City of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission which is taking a break in July and will resume in August 2021. Also mentioned that the City Council has a meeting at 2pm, June 15, 2021.

**Christine Hickey (FA) Sutter**

Christine is concerned about the funding for services and the status of day programs.

**Diane Walker (FA) Nevada**

No comments to add.

**Glenda Servantes (SA) Yuba**

She mentioned that her son is getting a paycheck but cannot work right now. Yuba is struggling in terms of mental health access. Many families are having to do their own research to find Regional Center services and supports.

## **Harold Ashe (FA) Placer**

He mentioned that there are concerns about respite care, concerns from parents about distance learning, and concerns about inclusion in school settings.

## **Jesana Tran (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra**

She mentioned that she has been lucky in terms of looking after her child during Covid-19. As things open, she will see how that works out for them.

## **Karen Mulvany (FA), El Dorado (Secretary)**

1. On June 5, DDS collected DS Taskforce and workgroup input on the one-time HCBS Spending Plan discussed by Joyce
    - a. See HCBS Spending Plan links at
      - i. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/ds-task-force/>
    - b. About \$5 billion in federal and matching state funds for HCBS programs
      - i. Intended for new projects and not existing ones
      - ii. just under \$1 billion proposed for allocation to DDS
  1. Builds upon the one time funding in Governor's Comeback Plan
    - i. meaningful funding intended to build a modern foundation for the IDD system of services and supports
  2. Other programs that we all use, such as IHSS, are also part of the funding package
  3. Key proposals:
    - i. Workforce investment: Bonuses for DSPs for retention \$225M
    - ii. \$256M Upgrade of IT system for Regional centers and DDS - at least 15 years overdue and desperately needed; focus will be on outcomes measurements rather than compliance
      - Provide consumer access to their own records
  1. \$100M IDD housing funding +\$50M rental assistance
    - Also adds funds for family home agencies
  - ii. A new ombudsman office that would potentially replace Fair Hearings and Rights violation processes, which are practically impossible for many if not most individuals and families to reasonably pursue.
2. El Dorado County has released its draft housing element, with comments due by July 8.
  - a. See <https://www.edcgov.us/Government/longrangeplanning/LandUse/Pages/General-Plan-Housing-Element---2021.aspx>

- b. Housing elements are required to discuss address IDD housing needs.
3. Alta held a POS 2nd meeting on 4/28 which was very well attended
- a. Dramatic increase in attendance and discussion as the regional center has embraced remote participation and added translation too
  - b. Some members of Racial disparities reduction group focused on a Early Start disparity, notably low utilization for black clients 0-2. This group collected input and submitted a targeted analysis, with a proposal for a disparity grant to close the gap. Kidada and Nicole did all the hard work in flushing out the underlying issues.
4. Alta SDP Q&A sessions have been very informative
- a. Learned many things that are not written down anywhere
  - b. The SDP will become available statewide on July 1; however, note that it is taking 6-12 months to initiate SDP services
  - c. Last Q&A session is July 22; to participate, you need to complete the online SDP training first via the regional center's learning website at <https://acrcfamily.arcalearn.org/default.aspx>
  - d. Recordings of these sessions can be viewed at <https://youtube.com/c/CalSCDD>
5. Alta's Coordinated Futures Planning Taskforce is accepting applications for members at [https://mcusercontent.com/56f13405b433d271dd1714dd8/files/994c9483-7214-bb17-356e-f5968c0cea87/Coordinated\\_Future\\_Planning\\_Task\\_Force\\_Invitation\\_and\\_Application\\_Updated.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/56f13405b433d271dd1714dd8/files/994c9483-7214-bb17-356e-f5968c0cea87/Coordinated_Future_Planning_Task_Force_Invitation_and_Application_Updated.pdf) .
- a. Focus on offering planning assistance to individuals with aging family caregivers
    - i. Goal is to avoid a housing and services crisis layered on top of the emotional crisis of losing a caregiving family member
  - 1. Make sure to send in applications by June 30. Alta is looking for diverse membership.

**Nancy Esparza (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair)**

Nothing to report at this time.



### **Nicole Mion (SA) Sacramento**

She provided information on home privacy concerns. She mentioned that the Summer Help Me Grow drive up event is this week. The activity kits can be made inexpensively by finding the items at the Dollar Store. The handout comes with the kits, also provides pictures and links for easy understanding.

### **Tyson Whitman (SA) Placer**

Nothing new to report for Placer currently.

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### **Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **Meena Kalyan from We Embrace in Sacramento California.**

She mentioned they are offering the classes this summer as well and it can be attended worldwide online. They serve 350 families weekly for ages 4 and up. All classes are available online on their website on [www.weembrace.com](http://www.weembrace.com)

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### **Item 12. Break for 5 minutes**

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#### **Item 14. Alta California Regional Center report, Jennifer Bloom**

Jennifer thanked Joyce, Karen and Benita for all the topics they covered during the meeting. She mentioned on July 1, 2021 SDP should be available for Regional Center clients. Moreover, on June 22 there will be Q&A on SDP for Service Coordinators. They have adopted the model with their service coordinators and for all staff. She's excited about the proposed budgets, SDP, Person Center Planning.

Jennifer also mentioned that families are being asked questions about what services are not working for them and what does work, so they can improve and be able to provide more and better services.

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#### **Item 15. Alta California Regional Center – Navigating the website, Herman Kothe, Training Officer**

<https://www.altaregional.org/>

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**Item 16. FUTURE MEETING DATES and Future Training Topics**

**Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10am-1pm**  
**Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10am-1pm**  
**Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10am-1pm**

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**Item 17. Adjournment at 1:00 PM**