



State Council on Developmental Disabilities:  
Sacramento Regional Office  
Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) MINUTES  
August 17, 2021 (not approved)

**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 (FA) Yuba  
Harold Ashe (FA) Placer  
Jesana Tran (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra  
Karen Mulvany (FA), El Dorado (Secretary)  
Kidada Medina (FA) Sacramento  
Tyson Whitman (SA) Placer  
Adam Ross (SA) Yolo

**Members Absent:**

Nicole Mion (SA) Sacramento (excused)  
Nancy Esparza (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair)

**Others Attending:**

Joyce McNair (FA) Council Member  
Jennifer Bloom, Associate Director of Client Services, ACRC  
Charles Shipley (FA)  
Janelle Lewis (FA)  
Daphne Chakurian (FA)  
Mariann Eitzman  
Valentinof Fernandez

Sherry Williams  
Donnell Kenworthy  
Angel Picon  
Magdeline Zogopoulos  
Ravita Devi, SCDD Staff  
Peter Mendoza, SCDD Staff  
Sonya Bingaman, SCDD Staff

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COMMITTEE CHAIR: Brandy Boyd

**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

10:05 am

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**Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM, Karen Mulvany**

12 of 14 members were present

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**Item 3. Inspirational Quote, Brandy Boyd**

“Life is like a camera, focus on what is important, capture the good times, develop from the negatives and if things don’t work out, take another shot.”

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**Item 4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- RAC Members: Roll Call, state name and county affiliation and what you would do if given a free hour!
  - Members of the Public introduced themselves in the Chat box.
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**Item 5. Approval of Agenda for August 17, 2021**

First	Kidada Medina (FA)
Second	Glena Servantes (FA)
In favor	All
Opposed	None
Abstain	None

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**Item 6. Approval of Minutes for June 15, 2021 (Delayed)**

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

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- Thanked all self-advocates and family members for their continued advocacy on a variety of issues to improve access to services for others.

- 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
  - Parent Group for Transition Aged Youth
- Continuing to distribute PPE to individuals, programs, events
- ACRC Coordinated Future Planning Task Force
- Inclusive Education Series (for Fall 2021)
- Trainings:
  - June 16 Dental Workshop for ACRC Clients – well attended by SA/FA/community members. Follow up event will be scheduled.
  - Anthem Blue Cross Health Workshop – Heart Health. Planning Oral Health for September.
  - Police Trainings – self-advocate and family member involvement. 48 officers. 3 hours. 3 RAC members and 1 other individual met with police officers and shared their personal experiences, about their disability, and other issues of interest to the officers. It was a very meaningful and impactful experience for all involved.
- 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>
- Provided this example of ‘the power of advocacy’:

### **In Pursuit of Justice: Felony Charges Filed Against the Ex-LAPD Officer Who Shot and Killed Kenneth French and Critically Wounded His Parents**

First and foremost, we continue to hold the French family in our hearts and admire them for their strength and persistence in pursuing justice for their son and family. In June 2019 Kenneth, a young man with disabilities, and his parents were shopping at Costco in Corona, California (Riverside County) when Kenneth was shot and killed by an off-duty Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Officer Salvador Sanchez. Russell and Paola French, Kenneth’s parents, were also shot and critically wounded during the shooting. This senseless tragedy was made even worse when Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin announced that no charges would be brought against the off-duty officer based on a grand jury’s failure to indict. Hestrin issued a statement saying, in part, that “charges against the officer were not warranted.” The disability community was outraged by such blatant disregard for the life of a young man with disabilities and complete lack of accountability for the officer who killed him. Kenneth was an unarmed young man who was shot in the back, and his parents were shot while trying to protect him. Charges were more than warranted, they were expected. Failure to hold this officer accountable sent shock waves through the community, prompting disability advocates, families, and loved ones, to organize protests, meet with elected officials, and demand a meeting with the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office to find out how the system could have failed this family and the community.

Thank you to EVERYONE who wrote letters, signed onto letters, met with elected officials, went to the protest sites (Riverside County and the LAPD), and otherwise expressed outrage at such a failure of justice. It is because of the strength and persistence of the French family, their loved ones, and the power of advocacy within the disability community that this shooting became so “high profile” that it led the Attorney General to step in and demand justice and accountability. ...Description from The Arc.

Self-Determination Program: SDP Orientation through ACRC’s website.

<https://www.altaregional.org/self-determination-program>

## **Peter Mendoza's report:**

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Videos of the 2021 Summer Institute Conference are now available for viewing on the MIND Institute YouTube channel (This includes the Personal Perspectives Panel).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MoerF8-lc&list=PLQnwECjj19Tqi1hVNWeSb\\_5EX5RYjDB-N&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MoerF8-lc&list=PLQnwECjj19Tqi1hVNWeSb_5EX5RYjDB-N&index=1)

I want to provide more information about our work expanding housing options for people living with I/DD. One very exciting project is a proposed housing development from Bethesda Cornerstone Village.

Peter Mendoza met with Bethesda Cornerstone Village project staff and talked about an affordable housing project development planned for 9270 Bruceville Rd Elk Grove CA.

Peter wrote a letter to and testified (Along with staff from ACRC and several members of the public) in front of the City of Elk Grove Affordable Housing Committee on 8-11-2021 regarding the need for an increase in affordable, accessible housing. He spoke about how projects like Cornerstone Village are important in addressing the lack of accessible and affordable housing for our communities. (The letter to the Affordable Housing Committee is attached)

Bethesda Cornerstone Village Project is seeking \$3.5 million from the City of Elk Grove for this project. The Affordable Housing Committee voted to move this project forward. This project will be agenized for a future Elk Grove City Council meeting.

The Bethesda Cornerstone Village proposal is consistent with SCDD's State Plan Goal 3 (Housing): Californians with I/DD and their families reflecting the diversity of the state will have increased access to affordable, accessible, safe, and fully integrated housing that provides choice and flexibility regarding where and with whom they live.

Additionally, Housing Goal 3.1 states: The Council will work with housing entities to increase the development and/or provision of community housing for people with I/DD. The Bethesda Cornerstone Village project is an 84-unit development. What sets this proposal apart is Bethesda's commitment to set aside 25% of the residential units specifically for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Another important initiative which sets this project apart is Bethesda's commitment to set aside nine apartments for people experiencing homelessness. 17.7 percent of the U.S. population had a disability whereas an estimated 42.8 percent of sheltered homeless adults has a disability (HUD, 2008).

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

July 27th State Council Meeting Report for the Regional Advisory Committee

At the July 27th State Council on developmental Disabilities meeting, the State Plan committee recommended four proposals from four different organizations to be approved for the Program Development Cycle 44 grants. \$260,00 in funds was available. Each of the proposals focused on a State Goal.

One proposal focused on mental health supports for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. A second proposal addressed parental training and mental health supports for Spanish-speaking families whose children are entering adulthood; a third proposal would create a collaborative approach between agencies that serve people of all ages with Down Syndrome and other people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, to ease access to high quality mental health services. These three proposals all addressed the Health and Safety State Goal.

The fourth proposal that embraced the Inclusive Education State Goal would ensure that self-determination and person-centered planning is strategically imbedded into students' educational programs from preschool through 12th grade.

After reviewing the four proposals the State Council voted to approve the State Plan Committee recommendations and directed the Executive Director to conduct the contract process with the four organizations.

Nicole Adler and Joyce McNair both shared personal stories of their own advocacy efforts and personal experiences with disability and mental health challenges.

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

“I’m participating on the ACRC Coordinated Future Planning Task Force. It’s composed of providers, regional center staff members, parents and few clients. The purpose of the task force is to create succession planning for the future of clients by giving them options to help plan their next steps after their primary caregiver passes away. The Employment Workgroup that I’m a part of as a SSAN member is thinking about our future activities as well.”

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

**Abi Duraiswamy (FA) Sacramento:**

1. Intake process with Alta is a challenge. For persons under 3, the eligibility process is supposed to take no more than 45 calendar days. For individuals 3 and over, families have reported they have not been called in a timely manner and the process is taking more than 120 days. In some cases 6 or 8+ months and they have still not received services.
2. Regarding the Self-Determination Program, the Service Coordinators still don’t have much information about SDP. Families who didn’t see community emails still don’t know about SDP. Families might benefit from a phone call from their Service Coordinator explaining what SDP is and how to access it. Many families are hearing about SDP on social media and there is much misinformation.
3. She agrees with Adam Ross – feeling of not feeling included in the community and services/supports. It has gotten worse during the Pandemic. With the Summer Institute, she is realizing issues with mental health for those with disabilities and their family members are important and challenging. We need more services in Sacramento. She knows of Greenhouse, Warmline FRC, and a once a month social group at the UC Mind Institute. Need more counseling and

support services. WeEmbrace is hosting a webinar with CAPTAIN to discuss about evidence-based practices.

**Benita Shaw** (FA) Sacramento: FlyBrave Thrift Store opened the last Saturday in July. They are open 9am-2pm Wednesday through Saturday. Please contact Vanessa prior to dropping off donations. She posts information on the FlyBrave Facebook page. They are offering classes in art, improv acting, social groups for adults and other classes. They are working to open a Coffee Shop in the back area of the store. It will be run by people with disabilities. Many individuals with disabilities are selling their products there.

UC Davis Mind Institute is offering vaccines on Fridays. They have separate rooms available, allowing space and quiet for those who need it. They offer the Pfizer vaccine for 12 and up.

**Brandy Boyd** (FA), At-large (Chair) Mentioned approval for the third dose for individuals with immunocompromised systems. She also shared COVID case data for Sacramento County - 751 new cases and 7 deaths the previous day. Delta variant is most common variant in Sacramento county for those hospitalized or those previously vaccinated. Here's the link for more vaccine clinics. Scroll down to the bottom to view "pop up" clinic locations for the current week.

<https://dhs.saccounty.net/PUB/Pages/Communicable-Disease-Control/Vaccine-Registration-for-Eligible-Individuals-in-Sacramento-County.aspx>

She shared that SacRT Go, which replaced Paratransit for providing ADA transportation in Sacramento County for Regional Center clients, has had better pick up times when her daughter has used it. Regional Transit also has Smart Ride, and on demand service in some areas, which acts like Uber. You order the ride on an app. Unlike Uber it is not door-to-door, but curb-to-curb. Los Rios Community College transit passes can be used for Smart Ride. RydeFreeRT offers fare-free transit for youth and students in grades TK through 12 for the entire SacRT network.

Concerned about shortages of staffing at day programs. Some in-person



activities have resumed but some are still limited due to Covid. Daughter is in Futures Explored and there is currently only one staff person for entire program. Worried about when in-person resumes.

Sacramento city staff is bringing the Public Hearing Draft 2021-2029 Housing Element to City Council on Tuesday, August 17 at 5:30 PM for a public hearing. Staff is asking that the City Council adopt the 2021-2029 Housing Element and approve the associated environmental review. Meeting materials will be available by close of business on Thursday August 12 at [http://sacramento.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=21](http://sacramento.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=21).

Chair the DAC for Sacramento and advocated for the meetings to be accessible. Now they are on webinar format. They don't have to sit on hold. They can be in the meeting and be called on. Live transcriptions is available and broadcast on the City's website. Prior, only City Council meetings had Closed Captioning. Now all of the city's public meetings are accessible. Includes today's meeting for the Housing Element.

**Christine Hickey** (FA) Sutter: FamilySoup is still closed to in-person family events but staff continue to work remotely and in the office to help families as much as possible. School just started this week and she is hearing of some issues. There continues to be a monthly scrapbooking support group. They will start a sibling group for 8-12 years old. A PALS playgroup for 0-5 year olds will start in September and run for 10 months. ASL class September through October, meets once a week. IEP and 504 training is scheduled for September 30th. Outreach has been difficult. There will be a Yuba Sutter Colusa United Way Resource Fair at a local park, 65 organizations participating. Hundreds of people expected to attend. It is outdoors.

**Diane Walker** (FA) Nevada: Nevada county is a rural region including community centers in Grass Valley, Truckee, and Nevada City. There is a Nevada County Association for those who are developmentally disabled which hosted social and recreational activities in the past. These were stopped during the Pandemic. Now they are communicating via Facebook and email. She is the mother of a 28 year old daughter on the Spectrum. There is a lack of housing options in Nevada county with only 2 licensed homes. Developing housing options is a big priority

for her. 49er Park, a local amusement park – offers a once a month evening dance outside. She is hoping for more outside activities soon.

**Glenda Servantes** (SA) Yuba: She would love to see something like Fly Brave’s activities and Thrift Store in her area.

**Harold Ashe** (FA) Placer: He is hearing a lot about challenges with the IEP process and lack of staffing for special education for Western Unified School District in Placer County. He’s trying to get more information on what their staff and retention plans are. He was nominated to be on the Steering committee for the Police Athletic League in Lincoln. He plans to focus on developing a Special Needs Registry in Placer county. Gigi’s Playhouse opened last year. It is allocation for a variety of therapies and services for individuals with Down Syndrome. He will be helping them navigate the system.

**Jesana Tran** (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra: No report.

**Karen Mulvany** (FA), El Dorado (Secretary): The Caldor fire in El Dorado county is expanding rapidly and large evacuations are starting. She participated in the El Dorado County Housing Element Update meeting this morning, and promised during Q&A that they would include more recommendations in their upcoming ADU ordinance update. The County took many comments regarding ID/DD and housing issues. They will take up some other issues when they review Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) policies in September. The county was advised by the State to allow large community care facilities on residential zones (7 or more beds) which seems counter to State and Federal government guidelines and policies which are helping individuals to move away from larger congregate settings. Some families, after 1 ½ years, are still struggling to access day programs due to the Pandemic.

Statewide: DDS will provide an update on electronic visit verification on August 24th at 3pm. Go to <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/> to sign up. As is the case with IHSS, all regional center direct support staff to log in and out electronically, starting early next year. She is hopeful it will be similar to the IHSS process.

She serves on the Self-Determination Program Advisory Committee and Ad Hoc group for Service Providers. In July, the Self Determination Program (SDP)

became available statewide for almost all regional center clients. The SDAC meets monthly now. Go to SDP page on ACRC's website <https://www.altaregional.org/self-determination-program> to sign up for notifications, begin SDP orientation, and find more information. This web page has been updated and revised to be easier to read and understand. The Service Provider Ad Hoc committee plans to offer trainings for Providers in September.

**Kidada Medina** (FA) Sacramento: Ongoing challenges include: dealing with the school districts, accessing respite, and accessing the Self-Determination Program.

**Nancy Esparza** (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair): Absent.

**Nicole Mion** (SA) Sacramento: Absent.

**Tyson Whitman** (SA) Placer: Nothing new to report for Placer county.

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## **Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Reven: In Yolo county, Washington School district is offering weekly COVID testing and Robla School District will also offer COVID testing weekly for student, parents, and staff.

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## **Item 12. Alta California Regional Center report, Jennifer Bloom**

Self-Determination Program. There are now over 230 individuals who have completed in-person or online SDP Orientations. 100 are in the process of moving forward with SDP. ACRC is working diligently to move things along. They took suggestions from the community to make information more accessible. They continue weekly Service Coordinator SDP Q&A sessions. 100+ Service Coordinators are joining each week. After a specific topic is addressed, there is open discussion and Q&A. There is an Ad Hoc Service Provider group which was formed to educate Service Providers on how to serve individuals who are in SDP. They are working on the PowerPoint to train the Service Providers.

Benita Shaw later asked about how a client's right to use 21 days of out of home respite can be included in the SDP budget and also suggested families be encouraged to use out-of-home respite to help clients get used to being in someone else's care, outside the parent's home.

Competitive Integrated Employment: They are working to promote the CIE Roadmap and invited community members, clients, Service Coordinators, family

members, and others to participate in workgroups. The CIE Roadmap was a partnership between DDS (Department of Developmental Services), CDE (California Department of Education), DOR (Department of Rehabilitation). The workgroups focus on 4 different age groups that correlate with the Roadmap sections. Peter Mendoza is involved on all of these workgroups and has provided valuable information. They are providing input/feedback/additions/corrections and will compile this and share it back with DOR to improve the Roadmap. The end goal is to incorporate CIE across all IPPs for ages 12 and up to discuss job skills and benefits of working at annual meetings.

There is a Coordinated Future Planning Task Force which is made up of a variety of stakeholders. The focus is to identify caregivers who are aging and taking care of adult children, also grandparents caring for grandchildren. The Task Force will develop training materials for Service Coordinators to have annual discussions with families about succession planning. John Decker and Lori Banales are spearheading this effort. Later, Joyce McNair suggested that a plan be developed for individuals to receive assistance to complete annual recertifications and paperwork for benefits such as: CalFresh, MediCare, SSI, etc. Benita Shaw later suggested that it is important to focus on all ages, particularly vulnerable single parents, not just clients with aging parents.

Fires: Today, Service Coordinators are calling clients who live in the line of the Caldor Fire in El Dorado county to be sure they are safe. There are about 17 individuals affected and Service Coordinators are making sure they are ready to evacuate, if needed. PG&E announced a possible PSPS tonight. ACRC is sharing this information with families who may be affected.

### **Item 13. FUTURE RAC MEETING DATES and Future Training Topics**

<p><b>Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10am-1pm</b> <b>Tuesday, December 14, 2021 10am-1pm</b></p>
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Future training topics or guests? Gigi's Playhouse

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### **Item 14. Adjournment at 1:00 PM**