



State Council on Developmental Disabilities:  
Sacramento Regional Office  
Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) MINUTES  
October 19, 2021 (DRAFT)

**Members Present: highlight if present**

Abirami Duraiswamy (FA) Sacramento  
Adam Ross (SA) Yolo (pending confirmation)  
Benita Shaw (FA) Sacramento  
Brandy Boyd (FA), At-large (Chair)  
Christine Hickey (FA) Sutter  
Glenda Servantes (FA) Yuba  
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  
Nikki Chand (FA) (pending confirmation)  
Tyson Whitman (SA) Placer

**Members Absent:**

Diane Walker (FA) Nevada

**Others Attending:**

Joyce McNair (FA) SCDD Council Member  
Harold Ashe (FA) SCDD Council Member  
Lisa Cooley, Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Member for Sac Katelyn Quintero, Best Buddies  
Lori Banales, Executive Director, ACRC

Virginia Perks  
William Reed  
Samantha Wood  
Cynthia True  
Margaux De Leon  
Magdeline Zogopoulos  
Amy Cabano  
Linda Nelson  
De Layna Eskridge-Brown  
John E Reven  
Julie Murray  
Kelsey Handcock  
Meena Kalyanasundara  
Sailaja Ganti  
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**

10:02 am

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

11 of 12 members were present

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

"When you meet obstacles with gratitude, your perception starts to shift, resistance loses its power, and grace finds a home within you." -Oprah Winfrey.

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**Item 4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

- RAC Members: Roll Call, state name and county affiliation and how do you like to relax!

- Members of the Public introduced themselves in the Chat box.
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**Item 5. Approval of Agenda for October 19, 2021**

First Jesana Tran (FA)  
Second Glenda Servantes (FA)  
In favor All  
Opposed None  
Abstain None

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

First Karen Mulvany (FA)  
Second Jesana Tran (FA)  
In favor All  
Opposed None  
Abstain None

**And Approval of Minutes for August 17, 2021**

First Karen Mulvany (FA)  
Second Jesana Tran (FA)  
In favor All  
Opposed None  
Abstain None

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**Item 7. Approval of RAC meeting Calendar for 2022**

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First Karen Mulvany (FA)  
Second Benita Shaw (FA)  
In favor All  
Opposed None  
Abstain None

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**Item 8. Sacramento Regional Office Updates**

Sonya Bingaman, Regional Manager:

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

develop local resource list of SA/FA. If you have thoughts about this, please let us know.

- Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is proposing regulations to make Participant Directed Services in 3 areas a permanent policy. Those areas are Personal Assistance, Independent Living Skills, and Supported Employment. DDS welcomes public comments at this time. Some families took advantage of these services during the Pandemic and want to continue to use the services that they are now directing for their loved one.
- The US Social Security Administration announced a 5.9% cost of living adjustment beginning January 2022 for Social Security and SSI recipients. This is the biggest increase since 1982.
- Continuing with collaboratives
  - MCDAC Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Committees
  - ADRCs – Aging and Disability Resource Connections in Placer, Nevada, and Yolo counties
  - Yolo County Health Collaborative (Yolo Family Strengthening)
  - Yolo Oral Health Collaborative
  - Sacramento Oral Health Collaborative
  - Nevada County Office of Education CAC
  - El Dorado SELPA CAC
  - Placer County Office of Education CAC
  - Sacramento County Office of Education CAC
  - Sacramento County DD Council (hosting and recording meetings)
  - Marc Laver, Jonnie & Friends Inclusive Playground
  - Anthem Blue Cross CAC
  - Lunch and Learn (Future for our Kids) Parent Group for Transition Aged Youth
  - Cornerstone Housing
- Continuing to distribute PPE to individuals, programs, events. No plans for a drive-through event. Contact Sonya or Peter if you need PPE. You can also contact the Regional Center directly at [ppe@altaregional.org](mailto:ppe@altaregional.org) to request PPE.
- ACRC Coordinated Future Planning Task Force. SCDD is participating on this Task Force. Curriculum is being developed and trainings will begin with Service Coordinators this Fall.
- Inclusive Education Series being developed for Fall 2021 or Spring 2022.
- Trainings:
  - October 27, 4-6pm. Dental Workshop for ACRC Clients. Still time to register. <https://bit.ly/3m85mcz>

- SCDD Sacramento Regional Office does trainings for new Recruits to the Sacramento Police Department – October 26.
- 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. Accessing dental services.
- 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>

Peter Mendoza, Community Program Specialist:

- Collaborating with Bethesda Cornerstone Village Project. They have received approval to develop an 84 unit multifamily housing project in Elk Grove. 25% of units will be allocated for people with ID/DD. 842 ACRC clients live in Elk Grove. 62% of people served by ACRC live with their families. This is a \$54 million dollar project. SCDD supported and advocated for the project to move forward. SCDD also wrote a letter of support and testified to the Elk Grove City Council. The City of Elk Grove is allocating \$2.9 million dollars. This is an Inclusive project. 9 apartments are for adults who experience homelessness. 21 are for individuals with ID/DD. 54% of the affordable housing units are for folks earning 20-30% below median income. There are 42 1-bedroom units, 21 2-bedroom units, 23 3-bedroom units. A variety of inclusive activities are planned for on-site. There is a service and support component. The complex will have Smart technology to increase individual independence. Cornerstone wants to hold workshops in the near future to assess community interest and need and get input and feedback.
- We continue to host Disaster Preparedness trainings in collaboration with the American Red Cross. Each person with ID/DD who attends receives a Red Cross Backpack full of supplies. The next training is October 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-3:15. Also there is a training with ASL and Spanish interpreting on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:15pm. Contact [Peter.mendoza@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:Peter.mendoza@scdd.ca.gov) for the flyer to register.
- Peter is supporting the roll out of Self-Determination on various committees including the SDAC and Provider Ad Hoc Committee to offer training to Service Providers who are vendors of the Regional Center who may provide

support to those in SDP. Participants can utilize services from those not vendored with Regional Center and learn the nuts and bolts of SDP.

- Sacramento Regional Office is helping other agencies to make their training materials Accessible.
- Peter is participating on two SCDD internal committees called DEAP: Employment and Self-Advocacy. Employment: Governor signed SB639 to promote CIE (Competitive Integrated Employment) to the community. They are putting together trainings and supports around the states and educating policy makers.
- The Sacramento Regional Office is collaborating with FNRC, ACRC, DOR and North State SCDD office to put together a series of educational workshops on CIE starting in January. The goal is to share about services that support employment and managing benefits.
- Staff is beginning to participate in in-person activities: Placer Youth Transition Fair put on by PIRS and last week, a community event for Spanish speaking families. SCDD staff handed out information and flyers in Spanish.
- Staff is participating on the Business Advisory Council (BAC), planning the next employment fair for March 2022. Just completed an event for businesses/employers and job seekers last month.

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**Item 9. State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Council. Joyce McNair (FA Sacramento) and/or Harold Ashe (FA Placer):**

Report from Joyce McNair:

The State Council Development on Developmental Disabilities met on September 14, 2021, and took the following actions:

A. Voted to accept Legislative & Public Policy Committee 2022 policy priorities recommendations with some modifications. Here are the priorities:

1. Protecting and enhancing civil rights
2. Guaranteeing access to education and employment
3. Identifying and prioritizing emerging issues in the I/DD community which means that the State Council will ensure that the newly created Office of the Ombudsperson for Self-Determination at the Department of Developmental

Disabilities helps people with I/DD become successful participants in the program.

4. Promoting access to quality supports in the community
5. Ensuring safety in the community
6. Improving housing and community living

Bridget Kolokowsky, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs gave a detailed, step-by-step description of how a legislative bill becomes law.

Voted to approve the final 2022-2026 State Plan to take effect on October 1, 2021, containing three goals-Goal 1, Self-Advocacy; Goal 2, Systems Change/Advocacy; Goal 3, Capacity Building/Advocacy.

Rosie Ryan, SA and David Pegos, FA shared information about themselves and their friends and family.

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### **Item 10. Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN). Lisa Cooley**

The SSAN is a statewide network of a self-advocate representing each of SCDD's regional offices. They meet regularly to learn advocacy skills and develop and offer trainings and resources to their peers and communities. Lisa participated in the last SSAN meeting where they discussed Social Justice and Voting. There was a Panel with people with ID/DD who are employed that Lisa participated in as a moderator. It went very well. They hope to do another project with the director of Sacramento City College's Workability III program next. Lisa is reaching out to her. The next meeting is December 8-9th over Zoom.

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### **Item 11. Brief Reports from RAC Members on Issues in their counties**

**Abi Duraiswamy** (FA) Sacramento: It is still a challenge to locate Respite care providers in Sacramento. Regarding day programs that serve adults, they are still affected by the Pandemic causing challenges for families. Many families only have their adult children in program 2 days a week (because the programs can only serve that many days of in-person supports). We should support Bill AB1417, to increase the availability of staff trained to work with people with ID/DD.

[file:///C:/Users/abira/Downloads/20210AB1417\\_99%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/abira/Downloads/20210AB1417_99%20(2).pdf)

**Benita Shaw** (FA) Sacramento: Independent Study for students has been an obstacle in Sac City District. Over 1000 students are enrolled with no teachers. Parents are signing IEPs but not getting services. A lawsuit AB130 has been filed by DREDF and DRC to make sure students are getting their services. She is suggesting to parents to review the IEP to make sure it addresses how the goals will be met before signing. There is no help to get some of those students who can't keep a mask on back into school settings.

The UCD Mind Institute is hosting a Drive-Thru Trick or Treat event, Friday Oct. 22. 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Location: UC Davis MIND Institute Parking Lot, 2825 50th Street, Sacramento

This social distancing event will require families to remain in their cars as they drive through our parking lot to collect treats and candy through their car windows. Feel free to come dressed in festive costumes! We ask that each family arrive during their designated time and wear a mask when you are near other staff. Special guests with decorated cars, the NorCal Challengers!

Contact: Erin Roseborough Phone number: 916-703-0222

Email: [HS-mindchildlife@ucdavis.edu](mailto:HS-mindchildlife@ucdavis.edu)

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/events/index.html>

Fly Brave Emporium, Thrift Store and Café is hosting art classes and theater workshops. See details on their website: <https://www.flybrave.org/>

Sankofa is a support group for African American parents/family members with a child (of any age) with a disability. Meetings are held once a month on Wednesdays from 6-8pm. See additional information:

[https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/resources/family\\_resource\\_centers.html](https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/resources/family_resource_centers.html)

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

Brandy is excited about affordable housing options developing in Elk Grove. Increasing set-asides for those with ID/DD is heartening and she looks forward to hearing from this Bethesda Cornerstone. She posted a link to a Sacramento



Business Journal article.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/sacramento/news/2021/07/13/two-elk-grove-affordable-housing-projects.html>

Pride industries launched a new hotline for job supports (for people seeking employment and employers seeking assistance to connect with applicants with disabilities): 1-844-I-Am-Able. [https://www.prideindustries.com/work-with-pride/employment-helpline#:~:text=Call%20\(844\)%20I-AM-ABLE%20or%20\(844,foster%20youth%2C%20and%20trafficking%20survivors](https://www.prideindustries.com/work-with-pride/employment-helpline#:~:text=Call%20(844)%20I-AM-ABLE%20or%20(844,foster%20youth%2C%20and%20trafficking%20survivors)

She is working to organize a Cops and Coffee event in Sacramento with Officer Meyer. She plans to host the first event at Fly Brave Café TBD for individuals in the community to interface with officers casually, learning from each other. Hopefully provide real life interactions. It will include honest Q&A, how best to work with police to provide supports and respond to calls. Will reach out to partners to schedule these events as things open up and resume in person trainings and get together.

SDAC (City of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission) meets the first Wednesday of each month except for December. They created an Ad Hoc Committee to address accessibility issues of meetings of all City committees. She encourages RAC members to share recommendations by email to bring to Ad Hoc committee. Information about the Sacramento Disabilities Advisory Commission can be found at

<http://sacramento.granicus.com/boards/w/1bf6f42dcf77babf/boards/2138>

Please send meeting accessible suggestions to Brandy at [sactowritemama@yahoo.com](mailto:sactowritemama@yahoo.com).

**Christine Hickey** (FA) Sutter: She works at FamilySoup

<https://www.familysoup.org/> which serves Yuba, Sutter and Colusa counties.

They attend a lot of IEP meetings, recent issues include a lot of suspensions, behaviors, learning gap for kindergartners and 1<sup>st</sup> graders (behind academically and then having behaviors). FamilySoup continues to have workshops and support groups virtually. Transition Plan Training October 29<sup>th</sup> by DRC. Sensory Playgroup on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Sutter county. PALS group, Scrapbooking on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Office is still closed to public. There is a doorbell to be able to pick up or drop off items.

**Diane Walker** (FA) Nevada: Absent.

**Glenda Servantes** (SA) Yuba: No report.

**Jesana Tran** (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra: She is concerned about losing many providers around the State, in particular, medical providers.

**Karen Mulvany** (FA), El Dorado (Secretary): Many doctors have resigned/retired recently.

El Dorado County SELPA works with Charter Schools across the state and they are citing increased mental health issues. In El Dorado County, it was exacerbated by the Caldor Fire, evacuations, and people losing their homes.

El Dorado county SELPA CAC is looking for more families to be involved with the Community Advisory Committee. Email Daina M. Mahaffey

[dmahaffey@edcoe.org](mailto:dmahaffey@edcoe.org) for info about serving on the CAC.

[https://dwscbcy9jc8hm.cloudfront.net/sites/468/comfy/cms/files/65413/files/original/County\\_CAC\\_Flyer\\_2021-22.pdf](https://dwscbcy9jc8hm.cloudfront.net/sites/468/comfy/cms/files/65413/files/original/County_CAC_Flyer_2021-22.pdf) for more info and CAC virtual meeting links.

El Dorado county IHSS Advisory Committee is looking for more self/family advocate participation in El Dorado county. Providers across the state have not been able to hire people during the Pandemic. County Health and Human Services says in the past month, they are getting more applications and recently hired 9 people to fill 12 positions. This is good news. Call (530) 621-6287 or contact the PA by email at [IHSSPA@edcgov.us](mailto:IHSSPA@edcgov.us)

According to IHSS authority, it is up to the recipient of IHSS to enforce vaccine requirements. They do have the right to only get services from those vaccinated but no other entity is monitoring or enforcing it.

She is involved with the Self-Determination Program Ad Hoc Service Provider committee at ACRC. The trainings will focus on how the business can operate in SDP vs. Traditional Services. Trainings for Service Providers are scheduled for November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage providers to attend upcoming trainings – they should contact Community Services at ACRC for details.

There will be a training by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on Electronic Visit Verification, for direct support staff that are Regional Center

funded. They will need to comply with new requirements to log in and out electronically at the beginning and end of their shift. DDS has not stated if SDP staff will need to do this. October 26<sup>th</sup> is the next training by DDS. Go to <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/> to register.

Karen will be providing a presentation on ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) and issues in family owned ADUs on November 5<sup>th</sup> to the Lunch and Learn Parent Group hosted by Kim Brown with Future for our Kids.

**Kidada Medina** (FA) Sacramento: My daughter successfully transitioned into the Self-Determination Program on October 1st, it has been the best 19 days in our lives in 4 years. From chasing care givers to having an overflow of applicants, that is a huge difference. We are now able to pay a little more and that has made a difference. The FMS (Financial Management Service) provider has been helpful. Started the process on July 21<sup>st</sup>, because we waited for the rush to die down. If you don't know the process it is still difficult for other families.

**Nancy Esparza** (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair): The Arc of Placer county plans to reopen some in-person programming early 2022.

**Nicole Mion** (SA) Sacramento: She is participating in the Racial Disparities group, ACRC is looking at cost rate analysis for offering services evenings and weekends to accommodate working families. She is working with ACRC to develop a self-referral process for self-advocates to apply directly to the Regional Center for eligibility determination and services (and not have to involve "family" when the individuals is an adult).

**Tyson Whitman** (SA) Placer: No report

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## **Item 12. PUBLIC COMMENT**

If there are more families that are having troubles with special education services for AB-130 independent studies, please feel free to contact the Office of Clients Rights Advocacy office phone number at (916)504-5958 or you can email me at [Kelsey.handcock@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:Kelsey.handcock@disabilityrightsca.org)

WeEmbrace is hosting a Halloween party at Hagan Community Park on Sunday October 31 from 3 to 5 pm. Event will include arts and crafts and special guests in a safe and secure environment for families. They plan more outdoor events soon. Meena will be sending flyer to Sonya.

Visit [www.weembracefamilies.org](http://www.weembracefamilies.org) for all our activities and program.

Debbie Morris is the Sacramento SELPA Director. She acknowledged that staffing is a challenge and that each district is working hard to fill vacancies. Schools are aware this is critical. They are moving toward 100% capacity. Part of a grant through California Department of Education is for the CA Transition Alliance Institute to be held in March (virtual hybrid combo), Bridging the Future. How do we make sure there are supports and services at various stages. Interested in hearing from the community. What are good topics for breakouts at the conference. Conference is for staff, community members, parents and students. Good topics? Please share with her. Also looking for inspiring keynote speakers. We support Arcohe, Center, Elverta, Natomas Charter, Robla, Galt HS, Galt Elementary, River Delta, SCOE Specialized Programs, and the Natomas Charter School. [dmorris@scoe.net](mailto:dmorris@scoe.net)

### **Item 13. Break**

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#### **Item 14. Spotlight: Best Buddies, Katelyn Quintero**

Presentation on Best Buddies. Powerpoint is posted on SCDD Sacramento webpage. [www.scdd.ca.gov/sacramento](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/sacramento).

#### **Item 15. Alta California Regional Center report, Lori Banales, ACRC**

A recording of Lori's presentation and Q&A is located on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pchB3\\_rJeS8&t=21s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pchB3_rJeS8&t=21s)

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

Gigi's Playhouse confirmed – Spotlight in December

**Housing topic: Cornerstone Bethesda Village (John Decker, ACRC?, Karen Mulvany? Patti Uplinger?)**

**Next Meeting is December 14, 2021 from 10am-1pm**



2022 training topics or guests? Contact [Sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:Sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov) with any suggestions.

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