



State Council on Developmental Disabilities:
Sacramento Regional Office
Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) MINUTES

February 15, 2022 (DRAFT)

Members Present: highlight if present

Abirami Duraiswamy (FA) Sacramento
Brandy Boyd (FA), At-large (Chair)
Christine Hickey (FA) Sutter
Diane Walker (FA) Nevada
Karen Mulvany (FA), El Dorado (Secretary)
Michelle Padilla (SA) Placer
Nicole Mion (SA) Sacramento
Nikki Chand (FA) At-large
Stephanie Crespín (FA) At-large
Tyson Whitman (SA) Placer

Members Absent:

Glenda Servantes (FA) Yuba
Benita Shaw (FA) Sacramento
Jesana Tran (FA) Colusa/Alpine/Sierra
Kidada Medina (FA) Sacramento
Nancy Esparza (SA) At-large (Vice-Chair)
Joyce McNair (FA) SCDD Council Member
Lisa Cooley (SA) SSAN Representative

Others Attending:

- Jennifer Bloom, ACRC
- George Lewis III, SCDD staff
- Peter Mendoza, SCDD Staff
- Sonya Bingaman, SCDD Staff
- Lena Lopez
- Kim Rothschild
- Lora Gonzalez
- Judi Yi
- Norma Torres
- Kat Soltanmorad
- Cindy Johnson
- John Reven
- Mary Nisson
- Lynne Boone
- Margaux de Leon
- Laurel Peterson
- Kim Brown
- Grace Trujillo

COMMITTEE CHAIR: Brandy Boyd

Item 1. Call to Order

10:06 am

Item 2. Establish Quorum, Karen Mulvany

10 of 15 members were present

Item 3. African-American History Month, Brandy Boyd

Brandy shared about an art installation at Inderkum High School in Natomas that changes throughout the year. Right now there is a poem and picture painted by students, celebrating African-American History Month. The poem reads:

Amplify Black Voices

If we merge mercy with might,

and might with right,
then LOVE becomes our LEGACY
– Amanda Gorman



Item 4. Welcome and Introductions

- RAC Members: Roll Call, state name and county affiliation

Item 5. Approval of Agenda for 2.15.2022

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| First | Christine Hickey |
| Second | Diane Walker |
| In favor | All |
| Opposed | None |
| Abstain | None |

Item 6. Approval of Minutes for 12.14.2021

Karen Mulvany: Requested to correct a date listing the beginning of EVV requirements to 2022, and the Medi-Cal RX program start date as 2022.

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| First | Karen Mulvany |
| Second | Diane Walker |
| In favor | All (as amended) |
| Opposed | None |
| Abstain | None |

Item 7. Sacramento Regional Office Updates

Sonya Bingaman, Regional Manager:

1. Welcomed new RAC Members, Nikki Chand, Michelle Padilla, Stephie Crespín and thanked them, and all the RAC members for their service. The RAC is currently full but we are always welcoming applications for the RAC or Council at www.scdd.ca.gov. Click on “Apply to be a Volunteer Member”. Applications are approved twice annually.
2. Reported on January 19, 2022 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training with 11 Sacramento Police Department officers, just before they received their first assignments. This is a follow up training provided by SCDD staff to the Academy for recruits from around Northern California. SCDD staff provides a 5- hour training called LD37 (Learning Domain) on People with Disabilities as part of the Academy. At the CIT, Peter Mendoza was a guest and a video recording of an interview with Benita Ayala, RAC member and Family Advocate, was shown.
3. SCDD Sacramento Regional Office has continued distributing PPE to individuals, families, staff, and programs in the disability community. Began distributing Covid-19 Tests as well. We have distributed about 14,000 kits with locations for pick up in Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Yuba/Sutter, Woodland, Elk Grove, and Sacramento (South, Central, and North). Gratitude to community partners who are assisting with kit distribution.
4. Sonya participates on Alta California Regional Center’s Coordinated Future Planning Task Force to create curriculum to train Service Coordinators to help families prepare for succession planning and discuss the variety of housing/living options throughout life.

5. Sonya participates on a variety of other community collaborative meetings.

Peter Mendoza, Community Program Specialist II:

Supported Life Conference 2022:

Peter Mendoza had the great honor of being the keynote speaker for this year's Supported Life Conference. This conference brings people together from throughout the state. People with disabilities, their families, and service providers come together to learn about best practices to enhance full inclusion in everyday life.

This conference began in 1987 and for the past 35 years has really been instrumental in bringing trusted partners together to share perspective, build community, move a system, and most importantly advancing our rights forward.

One of the primary beliefs of the SUPPORTED LIFE conference is that a supported life is a life that is rich in qualities a person most desires, and one which shows how connected we all are to each other.

A life which goes beyond just meeting a person's basic needs, to reaching a rich quality of life. Peter's presentation focused on his personal advocacy experience, what made him the advocate he is today, and his work at SCDD. In presenting Peter felt it was important to share his personal story but also talk about working and leading a full and happy life.

Peter talked about his family and his mom (Ruth Anne Mendoza) who was an early leader in developing the California Developmental Disabilities service system. His mother joined with a group of parent advocates who came together to help build our system in California. Both Peter and his brother (Michael) are recipients of services and supports of the Regional Center system. He also talked about his dad (Albert Mendoza) and his early work in advancing accessible sidewalks and curb ramps in the city Novato and Marin County. Peter also wished to honor his late brother, Steve Mendoza, whose onset of disability happened when he was an adult. Peter's brother Steve experienced

homelessness for approximately 30 years. The last few years Peter and his wife Jennifer were blessed to have Steve living in their home.

Peter discussed his early experience in Special Education and the fact that he was all but counted out. As his bio states: “no one ever thought I would amount to much”.

Let's Work Employment Workshops # 1 and 2

As Peter mentioned at the last Regional Advisory Committee meeting the council has established Disability Expert Advisory Panels (DEAP)'s self-advocacy, education, employment, health and safety, housing, and self-determination. In the interest of advancing plain language think of SCDD DEAPS as teams.

The SCDD Employment team in collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation, Alta California Regional Center, and Far Northern Regional Center, had a very successful first workshop kick-off on January 20th, 2022.

The target audience was people living with ID/DD, families, and stakeholders. The workshop brought people together to learn about the Department of Rehabilitation and available services to help people with disabilities including people with ID/DD prepare for and secure a job!

We had over 100 people in attendance via zoom.

We held our second Let's Work event on February 17th, 2022. The theme of the second workshop talked about the Regional Center System and the history of employment first legislation, policies and services!

Marysville People First Technical Assistance

As Peter talked about at our last RAC meeting, Marysville People First chapter members reached out to him as part of SCDD Sacramento Regional office with a technical assistance request. For background, Marysville People First chapter members have been experiencing a transportation barrier which directly impacts their ability to move about freely within the Yuba-Sutter area.

These valued self-advocates are not able to attend many community events, go to movies or shows, visit family or friend, or even accept employment. The local fixed route and paratransit provider, Yuba-Sutter Transit, only operates service until 5 or 5:30 pm on the weekdays and 9 or 9:30 pm on the weekends.

Peter attended the Marysville People First meeting in October 2021 and facilitated a discussion about the various ways to reach out to the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board of Directors for the purpose of addressing this transportation disparity. The People First membership decided the best course of action was to invite the Board of Directors to a future chapter meeting. This would serve as an opportunity for members to share their lived experience firsthand with key transit decisionmakers.

At the request of the membership, SCDD drafted a letter that was signed by the President of Marysville People First and sent to the Yuba-Sutter Transit Board outlining the transportation advocacy issue and inviting them to attend an upcoming Marysville People First chapter meeting.

We are excited to report the Yuba-Sutter Board of Directors agreed to send a representative to the Marysville chapter meeting happening in April.

The Yuba-Sutter Transit Executive Director reached out to the President of the Marysville People First to request a letter of support to be written to the Acting Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency; in support of a grant proposal being submitted by the Yuba-Sutter Transit Authority for funding of the planned Next Generation Zero-Emission Transit Facility to be located at 6035 Avondale Avenue in Linda, California.

This grant request also includes funding for the purchase of zero-emission buses. Marysville chapter members once again requested technical assistance from SCDD in drafting a letter for their review and signature in support of the funding request.

This is a great example of how SCDD supports self-advocates. Supporting community inclusion and systems change.

Inclusion Works Career and Hiring Fair:

Peter serves on the Northern California Business Advisory Council as the SCDD Sacramento Regional Office's designee. The Northern California Business Advisory Council is hosting an "Inclusion Works Hiring Fair" happening February 23rd, 2022 12-2 pm.

Looking for work? Join us as we meet with local employers who are hoping to hire YOU! You will be able to meet with employers directly at our virtual job fair.

If you are an Employer: Join us to reach local job-seekers looking for employment opportunities!

If you are a job seeker or employer please register today!:

<http://tinyurl.com/mr47wxpj>

The Northern California Business Advisory Council (BAC) was established in 2015 to promote partnerships between local businesses and employment training programs. The purpose of the BAC is to provide advice, guidance, and support for the continuing development of high-quality workforce development programs. Business partners are recruited to share their insight and expertise specific to their company and the industry sector they represent and allow programs that are providing supported employment services to people with developmental disabilities to learn from business experts.

To learn more about the Northern California Business Advisory Council:

<https://health.ucdavis.edu/mindinstitute/centers/cedd/bac.html>

George Lewis III, SCDD National Core Indicators Coordinator:

George shared about the National Core Indicators (NCI) Project (<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/>). He coordinates the project for clients in the Alta California, Central Valley, and Valley Mountain Regional Center catchment areas. SCDD has a contract with the Department of Developmental Services to distribute and collect the surveys to evaluate client and family satisfaction with Regional Center services throughout California. The NCI data takes about 2

years to be processed and posted on DDS's website. It can be compared with over 40 other states.

1. Children Family Survey (CFS): Surveys will be mailed to family members who have children ages 3 to 18 who live with at home with them and receive at least one regional center service in addition to case management. The Survey is voluntary and confidential. It is mailed to 400 randomly selected families per Regional Center.
2. Adult Family Survey (AFS): Surveys will be mailed to family members who have a child over the age of 18 who lives with them and receive at least one regional center service in addition to case management. The Survey is voluntary and confidential. It is mailed to 400 randomly selected families per Regional Center.
3. Family Guardian Survey (FGS): Surveys will be mailed to family and guardians of an adult over 18 who lives in an adult setting outside the family home and receives at least one regional center service other than case management.

Surveys will be able to be filled out on paper or online. It takes 30-60 minutes to complete. There are multiple choice answers and optional space for written answers. There is contact information lists if they need help filling out the survey. There is a phone number to Language Line to facilitate them filling it out. Participating in the NCI Survey gives individuals and families the opportunity to express what they think about service and supports. Please help spread the word about NCI and encourage families who receive Surveys to complete them.

Item 8. State Council on Developmental Disabilities report – Council member Joyce McNair (FA Sacramento): (submitted in writing and read by Brandy Boyd, Chair)

Highlights of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, January 25, 2022 Meeting

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities voted to approve the Cycle 45 Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the fiscal year beginning October 1,

2022 to September 30, 2023 prepared by the State Plan committee and SCDD staff.

Awarding grants to community-based organizations is one of many ways the Council fulfills its federal mandate “to research, develop and/or implement innovative programs and promising best practices throughout the state and its local communities.”

Cycle 45 focuses on SCDD regional grants. Each region selected a particular focus for their grant. Region 3 (Sacramento region) selected Health & Safety or Housing. Five other regions also selected Health & Safety, three others selected Education, two others selected Housing, and one chose Self-Determination. Two regions including Sacramento chose to add a second “or” selection.

\$20,000 has been allocated for each regional office geographical area.

Nancy Bargmann, the Executive Director of the State Department of Developmental Services, gave an overview of the 2022-2023 Governor’s proposed budget.

SCDD Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers, gave a detailed report on the 2021 Program Performance Report (PPR) that included a 5-year overview of 2017-2021 State Plan activities. This report is attached to the RAC Packet and posted on SCDD Sacramento’s webpage.

Item 9. Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) report: Lisa Cooley, member and Chair of ACRC SDAC (submitted in writing and read by Brandy Boyd, Chair)

Lisa is unable to attend today since she needs to represent the SDAC at the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) meeting all day today. She forwarded a report that at the March SSAN meeting, they will be discussing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

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

Abirami Duraiswamy:

1. Shared that WeEMBRACE classes are free and online. They were shared via email. For the schedule, see :
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1c9Xtvi02nvVkRDrfWu65eEbUddyJYuRR_EU16qOUU/edit#gid=1554148240 . All their virtual classes are free and offered only for children/adults with special needs and for their helpers. They have to create an account on their website.
<https://www.weembracefamilies.org/classes>. Email admin@weembrace.org
2. Shared about her gratitude for the relationship and support she receives from her Service Coordinator. “She is an amazing advocate for my son. She is my go-to person for anything, services in the community. I go to her.” She now has a Transition Coordinator. “It is unfortunate that some families do not have access to a Service Coordinator to meet or support more than once a year for an IPP.” [https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/crisis-safety-net-services/service-coordination/#:~:text=Every%20individual%20who%20is%20eligible,Program%20Plan%20\(IPP\)%20process.](https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/crisis-safety-net-services/service-coordination/#:~:text=Every%20individual%20who%20is%20eligible,Program%20Plan%20(IPP)%20process.)

Chris Hickey: Shared that she works for FamilySOUP which has a good newsletter listing a calendar of classes. <https://www.familysoup.org/newsletters/>
They will be starting a:

- Sibling Support Group, March 8-29th on Zoom.
- Morning in the Garden in a garden plot for individuals or groups in April outdoors on Saturday, once a month.
- Dad’s Group, April 27th.
- Family Hike on April 9th.
- Visual Support Workshop, April 11th.
- IEP 504 and Accommodations workshop, March 31st.
- PALS 0-5 Play Group.
- Sensory Playgroup on Zoom.
- Scrapbooking Support Group meets once a month.

- TEEM-G is a new group started by a local man in his early 20's for kids "Teen Employment Entertainment and Motivational" Group.
- ABLE Riders therapeutic horseback riding program, going on for 22 years.

Karen Mulvany:

1. The El Dorado County IHSS Advisory Committee is looking for additional IHSS recipient members. Please call (530) 621-6287 or email at IHSSPA@edcgov.us . For more info, see https://www.edcgov.us/Government/HumanServices/Protective%20Services/IHSS%20Public%20Authority/Pages/ihss_advisory_committee.aspx. The next meeting is April 18, 1-3 pm.
2. The El Dorado County SELPA is looking for additional members for its Community Advisory Committee. See <https://edcoe.org/educational-services/selpa-special-education-local-plan-area>. The next meeting is April 5, 9:00-10:30 am.
3. This coming Friday 2/18/2022 from 11am-12pm, Alta California Regional Center is hosting a Coffee with Community Services meeting for service providers interested in the Self-Determination Program, focusing on Financial Management Services agencies (Mains'l and GT Independence will present). There will be a similar meeting on 3/18/2022 on Independent Facilitators also from 11am-12pm. Go to <https://www.altaregional.org/search/site/coffee> to find the meeting links.
4. Electronic Visit Verification (EVV): DDS asks that we get the word out on the immediate need for providers to complete DDS EVV certification. This is a federal mandate, and is required for in-home service providers. See DDS EVV website at <https://www.dds.ca.gov/services/evv/> for which service codes must implement EVV, and look for the "providers" tab to learn how to complete EVV certification. The next DDS EVV webinar is scheduled for: 2/22/2022 3-4pm; register at https://cal-dds.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d_P9vXvORsavkl7R-A9eRg .
5. Medi-Cal Rx update: All patients on Medi-Cal transitioned to a new statewide prescription plan called Medi-Cal Rx on Jan 1, 2022. This plan covers COVID tests — see https://medi-calrx.dhcs.ca.gov/cms/medicalrx/static-assets/documents/provider/bulletins/2022.01_A_COVID-19_EUA_FDA-Authorized_Antigen_Tests.pdf

Michelle Padilla: She has been working with David Grady, SCDD Central Coast Regional Manager, on development of a virtual art festival. She is also involved with training people to learn about the Self-Determination Program. This is ongoing. February 28 is Rare Disease Day. There are over 7,000 rare diseases. Wear jeans and black/white. February 7-14 is Congenital Heart Week. Wear red or purple to show support.

Nicole Mion:

1. Help Me Grow Yolo is hosting Developmental Play groups.
<https://tockify.com/e/helpmegrowcommunity/pinboard>
2. ACRC is hosting Equity groups in English and Spanish to get input from the community.

Stephanie Crespin: Will speak later during the RAC meeting about her experience helping her daughter transition from Traditional Regional Center services to the Self-Determination Program and she is following the discussion of how to access social/recreational services which were re-instated July 1, 2021.

Tyson Whitman: He said the Supported Life Conference, held hybrid online and in-person in Sacramento, was great. He loved Peter's presentation. About 90 people attended.

Brandy Boyd:

1. Has a daughter she supports as a Family Advocate. She is learning to navigate the adult systems. Her Service Coordinator left the Regional Center at the end of January, has not yet been assigned a new Service Coordinator. Her daughter also experiences anxiety and they are requesting to be able to see a counselor more than monthly. Looking for therapist through Kaiser Mental Health insurance.
2. The California School for the Deaf was highlighted during the Superbowl.
3. She Chairs the City of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission which meets monthly on Zoom. In January, they recognized 8 individuals for their commitment to inclusion. Among those were: Vanessa with Fly Brave

Foundation, Meena Kalyanasundaram with WeEMBRACE, Marc Laver with Johnnie and Friends, working to update the inclusive Southside Park.

4. She attended Sacramento County's Disability Advisory Committee meeting – they received an updated report on Covid-19. County DAC was consulted to establish the set-ups for drive-through and walk-up clinics and assisted training the employees to be sure they can accommodate people with disabilities.
5. As a follow up to Coffee and Cops held in December, Conversations with the Sacramento Police Department was held January 25th, more than 20 people attended. It was a great first meeting, great information was shared and good questions were asked. Hope to have more conversations in the near future. Hopefully have an in-person meeting with self-advocates and the police department representatives.
6. Honoring Emma Roark. Emma was the same age, attended the same high school, and had the same diagnosis her daughter. Emma was a 20 year old woman with Autism. She went on a walk from her home toward the river in Rancho Cordova and didn't return. She usually returned within 2 hours. She had the mental capacity of about a 16 year old and had challenges picking up on social cues. Because of her age, the police department did not issue an alert or assist with searching for her. The family organized a Go Fund Me effort to raise money to hire private investigator who found her phone. Then the police put out an alert but did not mention her autism diagnosis. She was found 4 days later, murdered. The man accused of the crime was caught and is being charged by the District Attorney. Brandy would like to advocate for immediate alerts to go out for individuals who have a diagnosis of intellectual or developmental disability, regardless of their age.

Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT (Brandy Boyd, Chair)

- John Reven, Sac County CAC Chairperson, is establishing collaborations with different groups. Kathy Brian (former SCDD staff) used to attend meetings regularly, then Sonya began attending meetings and we began collaborating to promote inclusion. He started attending RAC meetings. This resulted in more active steps toward promoting inclusion. The Sacramento SELPA CAC covers 7 school districts.

- Lora Gonzalez, SELPA Director for Yuba County, is interested in connecting with other agencies/organizations to address legislative changes for Emma's Law.

Item 12. Alta California Regional Center report, Jennifer Bloom, ACRC

1. Self-Determination Program update: As of February 9, 2022, 72 clients have transitioned from Traditional services to SDP. 34 are white, 38 are minorities. 5 African-American, 13 Multi-racial, 9 Latin-x, 2 Pacific Islander. 3 Korean, 3 Other.
2. Purchase of Service (POS) public meetings will be hosted by ACRC on March 28 in the evening and March 30 at 10:30am. The POS reports show how authorized services, utilization of services, and actual service expenditures vary by race or ethnicity, age groups, diagnosis, and other factors. Flyers are forthcoming and will be shared with the community. They will be held via Zoom. The purchase of service data can be found at: <https://www.altaregional.org/post/expenditure-and-demographic-data>
3. Strategic Planning Survey; ACRC is requesting self-advocate and family input about how they can better serve their community for next 3 years. The Survey is on their website and available in 10 languages. Input will help future services and supports. To provide input, go to: <https://www.altaregional.org/post/strategic-planning-we-need-your-feedback>
4. Mindfulness and Acceptance Practices workshop will be March 24th 6-8pm. WarmLine FRC, co-hosted by ACRC, SCDD and others. Looking at coordinating systems of care to better serve individuals who are experiencing trauma. This training is an example of collaborating to offer community wide trainings. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mindfulness-acceptance-practices-tickets-256282717507>
5. ACRC is collaborating with SCDD, Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), and Far Northern Regional Center to host an Employment Series. Peter Mendoza is one of the SCDD staff serving on this collaborative. He has been instrumental in helping assure things are running smoothly and that registration and presentations are fully accessible. Last month, there was a general overview of DOR. This month's session will be on how Regional Centers support employment, and future sessions will be on the

Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Roadmap. See

https://www.altaregional.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/employment_workshops_flyer_2_accessible.pdf?1642809436

6. SDAC has ad hoc group. Coffee with Community Services – will have trainings on the Financial Management Service and the Independent Facilitator for service providers. Go to <https://www.altaregional.org/search/site/coffee> to find the meeting links.
7. Funding for social/recreational services through the Regional Centers was restored July 1st, 2021. ACRC's Board of Directors recently approved their social/recreation funding policy. All social/recreation requests must come to the Best Practices Committee so they can apply a consistent policy internally. If interested, contact your Service Coordinator with any questions. They are trying to recruit more vendored social/recreation providers. They are sharing information with potential vendors, reaching out to parks and recreation and other entities. Examples of services could be swim lessons, soccer club, karate, and horseback riding. The board approved policy is at: <https://www.altaregional.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/socializationrecreation.pdf?1490046525>
8. ACRC Organizational chart:
https://www.altaregional.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/org_chart_2.10.22.pdf?1644537047

Contact information: Jennifer Bloom, Alta California Regional Center
jbloom@altaregional.org (916) 978-6572

Item 13. Future RAC Meeting Dates:

2022 RAC meeting dates are:

Tuesday, April 19, 10am-1pm

Tuesday, June 21, 10am-1pm

Tuesday, August 16, 10am-1pm

Tuesday, October 18, 10am-1pm

Tuesday, December 20, 10am-1pm

Meeting calendar can be found at www.sccd.ca.gov/sacramento.

Item 14. Future RAC Agenda Items:

To share suggestions for future Program Spotlights or Presentation ideas, please email sacramento@scdd.ca.gov.

April – Peter is arranging for a presentation by Elk Grove Police Department on special programs they have to educate their staff and increase safety of individuals with ID/DD in their community.

Jana Cooper from START will give a Program Spotlight.

Other suggestions for future meetings:

- Invite Legal Services of Northern California to do a presentation.
- ACRC to talk about social/recreational funding policy, definition, what it looks like. Presentation on Person Centered Planning (PCP).
- Presentation on Social Security for a minor. What is available?
- Advocacy training around SDP. PCP, budget, unmet needs, FMS.

Item 15. Special Presentation:

Stephanie Crespín and Grace Trujillo shared about their experiences helping their family members transition from traditional regional center services to the Self-Determination Program.

End of Notes