STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
COUNCIL MEETING

This is a teleconference and zoom meeting only. There is no physical location being made available to the public per Government Code Section 11133. Therefore, members are not required to list their remote locations and members of the public may participate telephonically or by Zoom from any location. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

MEETING DETAILS:

PHYSICAL LOCATION
SCDD HQ OFFICE
3831 North Freeway Blvd., #125
Sacramento, CA 95834

TELECONFERENCE:
CALL IN NUMBER: (888)-475-4499
or (877)-853-5257
MEETING ID: 865 4680 6146

ZOOM LINK:
MEETING ID: 865 4680 6146
PASSCODE: 087805

DATE: July 26, 2022
TIME: 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAIR: Wesley Witherspoon

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

Item 5. APPROVAL OF MAY 2022 MINUTES

All

Item 6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Wesley Witherspoon, Council Chair

A. Employment First Committee (EFC)
B. Executive Committee
C. State Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)
D. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Item 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

A. Executive Director Report
B. Chief Deputy Director
C. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
D. Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
E. CRA/VAS Report
F. QA Project Update Report

Item 8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

SCDD SSAN Representative Maria Marquez

Item 9. YEAR OF OPTIMIZING UPDATE

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director
Tania Morawiec, Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations

Item 10. ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Council meeting will be on September 20, 2022.
Accessibility:
Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Yaritza Sanchez at (916)-207-2856 or yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov. Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.
This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.
AGENDA ITEM 5.
ACTION ITEM
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of May 2022 Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 2022 Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment
May 24, 2022 Council meeting minutes

Action Recommended
Approve the May 2022 Minutes.
DRAFT
Council Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2022

Members Attending
Alex Reyes (S.A.)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Brian Winfield (DDS)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Christine Moody (UCEDD)
Eric Ybarra (S.A.)
Harold Ashe (F.A.)
Harold Fujita (F.A.)
Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)
Joyce McNair (F.A.)
Julie Austin (F.A.)
Julie Neward (F.A.)
Julio Garnica (S.A.)
Kara Ponton (S.A.)
Kilo Brodie (F.A.)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Maria Marquez (S.A.)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
Michael Ellis (F.A.)
Michael Thomas (DOR)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Nicole Adler (S.A.)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)

Members Attending
Sandra Smith (DRC)
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

Members Absent
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Michelle Baass (DHCS)

Others Attending
Mary Ellen Stives
Maureen Fitzgerald
Michelle Cave
Patricia Herrera
Riana Hardin
Rick Wood
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben
Ryan Duncanwood
Scarlett vonThenen
Sascha Bittner
SCDD LA Office
SCDD Bay Area Office
Sheraden Nicholau
Sidney Jackson
Tania Morawiec
Tim Jin
Tina Reszler
Veronica Magallanes
Vicki Smith
Victoria Schlussler
Yaritza Sanchez
Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM
A quorum was established.
3. **SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBERS**
Chair Witherspoon and Executive Director Carruthers swore in new Councilmembers Alex Reyes and Eric Ybarra.

4. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**
Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
Candis Bowles, the Associate Director of the Legal Advocacy Unit at Disability Rights California, provided a public comment on this item. She relayed that before planning their work for the year, DRC solicits feedback from their colleagues, constituents, and self-advocates regarding what should be prioritized. She encouraged everyone to participate in the survey and help circulate it to friends and colleagues. Responses will remain anonymous. The survey can be accessed at https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/latest-news/we-want-to-hear-from-you-2022-disability-rights-california-survey.

Maureen Fitzgerald provided a follow up to her public comment at January’s Council meeting. She relayed that Alta Regional Center was still in violation of the Lanterman Act, as they are not allowing public comment at all of their committee meetings, only at Executive Committee meetings. She also mentioned challenging Alta Regional Center for holding their Strategic Planning Committee meeting in private instead of in public. Alta Regional Center said the Lanterman open meeting requirements do not apply to all meetings, and it can hold strategic planning committee meetings in private. DDS said Alta Regional Center does not have to allow for public comment at strategic planning committee meetings. She believes the statutory language is clear that the public can speak at Regional Center committee meetings, and that committee meetings must be open to the public. She mentioned that DDS can still fix the issue by taking a closer look at the language and issuing a letter to Alta Regional Center asking them to allow for public comment and to hold all committee meetings in public.

6. **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2022 MEETING MINUTES**
   **Action 1**
   It was moved/seconded (Smith [DRC]/Reyes [S.A.]) and carried to
approve the March 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

7. **SCDD 2022-2023 BUDGET**

Councilmember Brian Winfield presented updates from the Governor’s May Budget Revise for the 2022-23 fiscal year.

Councilmember Winfield mentioned that DDS will be implementing a DSP Academy for individuals that provide direct support to people with I/DD and family members. They will be given the opportunity to go through three different tiers of training, and when complete, they will receive an increase in wages. They will also be implementing a bilingual staff pay differential. Stakeholders will evaluate how to implement these two initiatives. The Governor’s May Revise contains several proposals that provide immediate action to help stabilize the workforce in developmental services. These proposals include: $500 training stipends for direct support professionals and $150 for service providers, a three-month training and entry level internship, tuition reimbursement for service coordination staff, and piloting remote support services.

Councilmember Winfield provided details about a proposal to amend the criteria for early start services. Currently, individuals must show a 33% delay in a particular area and show deficits in both perception and expression to become eligible. The proposed amendment would change this criteria to require 25% delay and deficits in either perception or expression. This would allow for more infants and toddlers to meet the criteria to obtain early start services.

DDS received funding to hire deaf access specialists to improve the agency and regional center services for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing. Councilmember Winfield reported that regional centers and DDS have already filled most of these positions. After hiring these specialists, regional centers began to note the need for interpreters for the individuals to be effective in their roles. The Governor’s May Revise provides funding for regional centers to hire interpreters for their staff.

Alternative services were critical during the pandemic to keep service providers operating and to provide services to individuals when they needed to stay home. The Governor’s May Revise proposes to continue alternative services through the end of December. They will eliminate the half-day billing at the termination of alternative services effective July 1st.
In addition, DDS is proposing changes to tailored day services to make it more accessible. It intends to allow individuals to use tailored day services and traditional services in coordination with one another. Furthermore, they are proposing that on an ongoing basis, financial management services (FMS) be paid outside of the self-determination participants’ budget. This would assist individuals in maintaining their status in self-determination.

DDS found that they are receiving more disparities proposals each year than they have the funding to approve. Many of the projects have been successful and resulted in policy changes within the system. The Governor’s Revise is proposing an 11 million dollar of augmentation funding for their service access and equity grants. Lastly, DDS will receive funding to work with the city of Costa Mesa on the disposition of the Fairview Developmental Center property.

Executive Director Carruthers presented the SCDD budget for 2022-2023. This presentation focused on updating Councilmembers on the changes since the March Council meeting. On May 4th, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) informed SCDD that their Basic State Grant was increased by $198,000 for the current federal Fiscal Year. He recommended that the Council apply $150,000 for salaries and wages, and $40,000 for other items of expense this year. The proposed 2022-2023 budget distributes the increase by allocating $104,000 for salaries and benefits, $75,000 for in-state travel, and $19,000 for information technology. There was also an increase in funding related to the Client’s Rights Advocates/Volunteer Advocacy Services Project. The project gained $201,000 for salaries and benefits, and $24,000 for other items of expense to match increased costs for client services over the last several years. SCDD was awarded a grant of $95,000 from the Federal Administration on Community Living to support ongoing work related to COVID-19. The Council took the following action:

**Action 2**
It was moved/seconded (Bycel [F.A.]/McNair [F.A.]) and carried to adopt the SCDD 2022-2023 budget as proposed. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

**8. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**
Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon began his report by sharing that he was invited to present and train other Councilmembers across the country.
on how to be a supportive Chair and make a good Council. Chair Witherspoon encourages Councilmember to attend all meetings, listen to the concerns of others, create a culture of collaboration, and learn how to resolve internal/external conflicts. Chair Witherspoon spoke about the importance of diversity and equality and the development of leadership skills in Councilmembers.

SCDD committee reports were provided in the meeting packet. Chair Witherspoon asked that members read through these reports when they are able. The committee reports can also be accessed online at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/.

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented a report on recent Council activities and goals.

Executive Director Carruthers reminded Councilmembers that May is Mental Health Awareness Month and spoke about the importance of belonging and being accepted for who you are. He expressed hope that Councilmembers feel a sense of belonging at SCDD.

Executive Director Carruthers provided a legislative update, sharing that the Council is co-sponsoring an “Access and Inclusion” bill package. These bills include SB 1092 (Hurtado), AB 1663 (Maienschein), AB 2547 (Nazarian & Wicks), AB 2920 (Arambula). Three of the bills (SB 1092, AB 1663, and AB 2547) passed out of the suspense file hearings and will be voted on by the full house by May 27th. Next steps include developing plans for outreach and advocacy, and tracking policy bills that will be heard in June. Mr. Carruthers provided an update on Cycle 45 grant process, reporting that SCDD did not receive any viable applications that met funding requirements. In order to solicit additional responses, staff will consolidate the 14 Requests for Proposals (RFP) descriptions and re-release them for statewide consideration, increasing the available funding amount to $260,000. The Chair of the State Plan Committee will review the final RFP before release, and SCDD will hold an additional pre-bidders conference.

Executive Director Carruthers shared that he led a meeting with CEOs of Energy Companies (IOUs) and disability leaders regarding the public safety power shut offs. IOU leaders agreed to provide funding to mitigate the impact of PSPS on people with disabilities, have a uniform approach
across the state, and make significant progress before the next fire season.

Executive Director Carruthers provided an update on SCDD’s collaboration with DDS to develop standard, statewide Self-Determination Orientation training modules. DDS has drafted training modules and is training SCDD staff to provide training facilitation. Executive Director Carruthers recognized Wilbert Francis for his work as the UCLA representative delegate to the Council and wished him well on his new position. In addition, he recognized Fran Goldfarb’s retirement, sent a get well to SCDD staff Peter Mendoza, welcomed back Tamica Foots-Rachal to SCDD’s team as the Vaccine and Public Health Coordinator, and announced that the Council has re-posted a job examination for a legislative analyst position.

10. **SB 639 PHASING OUT SUBMINIMUM WAGE UPDATE**
Deputy Directors, Tania Morawiec and Bridget Kolakosky provided Councilmembers with an update on the SB 639 workgroup efforts to write a recommendations report to phase out subminimum wage.

Deputy Director Morawiec began by stating that people with disabilities deserve to be paid at least minimum wage in an integrated setting, and the opportunity to pursue jobs related to their interests and skill sets. The Council co-sponsored SB 639 (Durazo) to phase out the subminimum wage by 2025. The bill was signed into law on September 27, 2021 and is in the implementation phase. SB 639 requires SCDD to work in collaboration with stakeholders to develop a multi-year plan that will identify benchmarks, create a list of resources, find ways to optimize federal funding, and develop comprehensive data collection. SCDD has hosted community conversations throughout the state to create spaces for people to share their thoughts, concerns, and discuss their ideas of what they deem essential for effective implementation. In response, people across the state relayed their suggestions and ideas to help support the individuals with IDD in a successful transition out of subminimum wage and into their next pathway. Deputy Director Morawiec’s asked that Councilmembers participate in the community conversations and share the details with others.

The responses received through community conversations will be used to inform the Stakeholder group’s work and will serve as an archive for others across the nation that are working to phase out subminimum wage.
The full presentation with recommendations that came from community conversations can be accessed at [https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/](https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/).

Deputy Director Kolakosky shared that the SB 639 Workgroup submitted a budget request to the legislature in April for $3 million to ensure the transition out of sub-minimum wage is successful. The workgroup recommended that the $3 million budget request be used to cover: $350,000 for work incentive benefits coaching, $900,000 for upskilling job developers/coaches, $300,000 for transportation needs assessment, $1.3 million for competitive integrated employment pilot, and $150,000 for sourcing and developing diverse transition case studies. SCDD staff accompanied SB 639 Workgroup members in meetings with budget committee staff. Deputy Director Kolakosky shared that the legislature has been receptive and responsive to the budget request so far. The final deadline for the budget is June 15th.

11. **SELF-DETERMINATION SPOTLIGHT**

The Self-Determination Program (SDP) is a priority for the State Council. SCDD was a co-sponsor of the legislation and trained over 10,000 people in the program. The Department of Developmental Services, regional centers, the State Council, the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee, the SDP Ombudsperson, and local volunteer advisory committees are named in statute to help the people in the program and the program itself be successful. Representatives from each of these groups, except for regional centers who were unable to make it, were represented on the Self-Determination panel. Executive Director Carruthers recognized that there are networks of others, formal and informal, that are also involved in helping to ensure the program is successful.

Co-Chairs of the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) Harold Fujita and Rick Wood relayed that their advisory committee’s purpose is to advise the State Council about the program, and to improve it. They are made up of the 21 chairpersons of local advisory committees, one from each regional center. The members discuss and report their observations, experiences, and provide updates on the work they are doing. The committee released a report identifying barriers to enrollment and implementation, and recommendations to overcome those barriers. The report resulted in several directives, guidance, and best practices among regional centers. Moreover, the committee has established a Self-Determination Facebook forum to
facilitate the sharing of information about the SDP, created a reporting form to assist local chairs with reporting data to their committee, and formed a nine member workgroup to determine priorities and discussion topics. The committee will be working to create a platform for sharing best practices and information, identify and create solutions/recommendations in addressing and overcoming disparities, identify activities/projects that they want to focus on, work to identify their top three-five priorities for a work plan for the next 18 months or two years, and participate in the delivery of additional training for service coordinators.

Chair of the Golden Gate Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee Sascha Bittner presented on best practices for a local self-determination advisory committee. These include: getting statistics of where people are in the process, respectful questioning of low numbers, learning how to use resources for better client outcomes, strategizing with regional centers to assist in serving more people, prioritizing empathy, and differentiating regional center issues and system wide issues. Problems she has seen from the local perspective include: service coordinators and supervisors lacking in knowledge, long delays in the accounting process, not enough person centered plans or coaching, loud and persistent clients getting served quicker, and the program not being advertised on the Golden Gate Regional Center website. To help with some of the issues, she mentioned that her regional center has hired a company to conduct independent facilitation trainings and provide coaching supports to people. They also hired someone to help manage communication to their community. Funds will also be allocated for a Bay Area resources website. She concluded by sharing that her local advisory committee needs a better understanding of the appropriate timeline to get into the SDP, and clarification on their role from DDS.

Vice Chair of Orange County Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee Tim Jin mentioned that he was in a traditional regional center system for a long time. No one asked him what they could do better, and assumed he was doing fine. He suffered in silence from constant neglect, missed numerous lunches, did not receive physical support when needed, worked around staff schedules, and needed constant permission to live his life. It took him almost six months to get started with SDP. Since he has joined the program, his stress levels are lower, he exercises almost every day, has gotten a job, and seen friends he has not seen in years.
Mr. Jin mentioned that many of the members of his local advisory committee are parents and family members with children in the traditional system. They do not have firsthand knowledge or experience with SDP, except for one other member who is in the program. It leads to lack of oversight from the committee because they are not taking responsibility for advising their regional center. He has attended many other local advisory committee meetings from other regional centers and noted the same trend. He relayed that there needs to be transparency from regional centers and committees. Things that could help his local advisory committee include professional training on how to be a productive member of the committee and using subcommittees to do some of the leg work. Lastly, he identified access to online orientations as a best practice used at his local advisory committee.

Katie Hornberger, the interim SDP Ombudsperson, shared that Suzy Requarth was hired as the official SDP Ombudsperson and will be starting on July 11th. The Ombudsperson helps and advises people with SDP related issues and complaints. The office reports trends and frequent questions to DDS. She relayed that the most common calls are from SDP participants inquiring how to get more money in their budget, regional centers calling to verify what services they can cover, regional centers struggling with how to implement the program, and questions around financial management services. Issues with the program, trends, and frequently asked questions have been identified through the calls and complaints that her office has received. She relayed that there is still a lot of work to do for the Self-Determination Program, but that she is optimistic in its success due to all of the proposals, directives, and guidance that have and will continue to come from DDS.

Vicki Smith, Special consultant for federal projects at DDS, relayed that the department is committed to the long-term sustainability of the Self-Determination Program. There are currently 1,378 participants enrolled in the program, averaging an increase of about 72 new people per month. She described the current demographics of program participants and notes that the White population is overrepresented and Hispanic population is underrepresented in SDP.

DDS has issues several directives to improve the enrollment process, including: clarifying what services, supports, and goods can be purchased through self-determination; information on how individual budgets, the certification tool, and spending plans are developed; and information on
how the home and community based services waiver, and self-assessment for the settings is determined. DDS issued guidance to the regional centers asking them to identify how they were going to support the implementation of SDP in conjunction with the local vendor advisory committees on the outreach plan. They also recently updated their frequently asked questions on their website. They are working to ensure that there are subject matter experts at each of the regional centers to assist with questions from case managers and to support the local vendor. They are working to provide more support between the time of orientation, time of attending, time of enrollment, and the potentially unbundling of services. In conjunction with SCDD, DDS will be rolling out the self-determination orientations with a new curriculum in June. Ms. Smith concluded by sharing that DDS submitted trailer bill language requesting that FMS fees be pulled out of the self-determination participants' budget.

Councilmember Maria Marquez shared her struggles with SDP. Her service coordinator refused to accept her paperwork, which also delayed her entry into SDP. She is still fighting to get the paperwork accepted.

Councilmember Ponton shared that a disagreement with her service coordinator led her to the decision to stay with traditional services.

Councilmember Nicole Adler shared that she had a positive experience with SDP. She gained freedom and choice to her own decisions without the need to rely on others. She hopes that others can also gain access and entry into the program.

12. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**
The next Council meeting will be held on July 26, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 P.M.
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Chair Report and Committee Reports

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon will provide Councilmembers with an oral report about his recent activities and current priorities for the Council.

SCDD Committee reports have been provided for informational purposes.

Attachment(s)
Employment First Committee (EFC) met on 06/06/22 and 07/14/22. The meeting summary is attached.
Executive Committee met on 06/21/22. The meeting summary is attached.
State Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) met on 06/28/22. The meeting summary is attached.

Handout
Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 06/25/22. The meeting summary will be provided as a handout.
**AGENDA ITEM 6a.**

**EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

**Date of Meeting**
June 6, 2022

**Meeting’s Focus**
The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on June 6th. The meeting began with a Chair Report from Chair, Wesley Witherspoon on employment related activities he engaged in since the February meeting.

The focus of the meeting was reviewing and finalizing the text of the 2021 EFC Report and receiving updates on two of the Committee’s targeted priorities for 2022 (Implementation of SB 639 and Data).

Members concluded their meeting by receiving updates on standing agenda items such as the implementation status of data sharing legislation, the CIE Blueprint, Workgroup updates and more.

**Items Acted Upon**
- The Committee approved the February 2022 meeting minutes.
- The Committee approved the 2021 Report pending updates that were made during the meeting.

**Future Meeting Dates**
July 14th and October 20th
AGENDA ITEM 6a.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting
July 14, 2022

Meeting’s Focus
The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on July 14th. The meeting began with a Chair Report from Chair, Wesley Witherspoon on employment related activities he engaged in since the June meeting.

Committee members focused on three targeted priorities during this meeting, the implementation of SB 639, data/reestablishment of the Data Workgroup and preventing people from falling through the cracks. Members also reviewed the annual report layout and made adjustments/additions to the sections.

Members concluded their meeting by receiving updates on standing agenda items such as the implementation status of data sharing legislation, the CIE Blueprint, Workgroup updates and more.

Items Acted Upon
• The Committee approved the June 6, 2022 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates
October 20th
AGENDA ITEM 6b.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting
June 21, 2022

Meeting’s Focus
The Executive Committee met on June 21, 2022. The meeting’s focus centered on three sponsorship requests, five conflict of interest waiver requests, a presentation on the Employment First Committee annual report, a presentation on the Executive Director evaluation process, and an update on the Council’s budget. Executive Director Carruthers provided Committee members with a report on updates regarding Cycle 45 Grants, SCDD’s policy package, COVID tests, vaccines, outreach updates, and administrative items.

Items Acted Upon
• Approval of the April 2022 meeting minutes.
• Sponsorship requests from the Special Needs Resource Foundation of San Diego, California Sibling Leadership Network, and MIND Institute were approved.
• Conflict of interest waiver requests from treasurer Ana Quiles and board members Shawna Hall, Jose Ayala, Nilo Choudhry, and Rocio Sigala were approved.
• The Committee adopted the Employment First Committee’s recommendation to approve the 2021 Employment First Report pending the completion of the executive summary and COVID sections.
• The Committee adopted the standard ED evaluation survey and ED evaluation timeline as presented.

Future Meeting Date
August 23, 2022
AGENDA ITEM 6c.

STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSDAC) SUMMARY

Date of Meeting
June 28, 2022

Meeting’s Focus
The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) met on June 28th. The meeting began with Co-Chair reports that included updates on several self-determination program (SDP) related items, including spotlighting their work, Committee accomplishments, the work of the SSDAC Workgroup, and updating members on Bagley-Keene.

Following the Co-Chair reports, Committee members reelected Co-Chair Rick Wood to serve a second 2-year term beginning July 1st. DDS Director, Nancy Bargmann then provided members with an update on SDP-related activities, including the reestablishment of the DDS SDP Workgroup, relevant updates on trailer bill language, and new initiatives. Executive Director Aaron Carruthers also provided members with an update on the SDP-related activities the Council is engaging in.

Following lunch, SSDAC members heard from members of the Self-Determination Advocate Leadership Committee (SDALC) on the Committee’s purpose, a barrier they have identified and a proposed solution to that barrier.

Members were then presented with the SSDAC Workgroup’s activity workplans and timelines for the Best Practices Platform, Service Coordinator Training recommendations, and Disparities Outreach and Training. Following the presentation, members of the Committee and the public participated in a JamBoard exercise to inform the activities/process identified in the workplans.

Item’s Acted Upon
- Approval of February 2022 meeting minutes.
- The Committee adopted the workplan presented in the timelines and delegated the workgroup to carry out the activities, using the input received from members during the meeting.

Future Meeting Dates
TBD
AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Director Report and Staff Reports

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide Councilmembers with an oral report regarding recent Council activities. Additionally, SCDD Staff reports have been included in the packet for informational purposes.

Attachment(s)
Chief Deputy Director Report
Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report
QA Project Update Report

Handout
Executive Director Report
Chief Deputy Director’s (CDD) Report
July 27, 2022

The CDD continues developing procedures, in concert with staff, and organizational tools to assist the team. Time also has been spent attending meetings and organizing briefings on SCDD program operations and policies, administrative issues, and deliverables such as procurement, budgeting, contracts, payments, and recruitments.

Program

- Participated in bi-weekly meetings with the full regional management team.

- Worked with the department’s vaccine project manager planning several vaccine support events in the state.

- Worked with the Policy Director on legislative inquiries and fiscal policy matters.

- Managed several technical budget change proposals through development and introduction to the Department of Finance. These technical changes provided funding re-appropriations and spending for a newly awarded grant from ACL. These were approved by the Legislature and included in the 2022 Budget Act.

Administrative

- Reviewed several program and administrative contracts for approval.

- Reviewed and approved numerous invoices for program, administrative, and operational services.

- Resolved several state data system access and utilization problems on behalf of staff and management and worked closely with state-level information security personnel to manage against increasing cybersecurity threats.
- Organized equipment purchases to replace aging mobile phones and laptops and have been working closely with staff to develop procedures on deploying these devices ensuring reliable asset tracking and management.

**Personnel**

- Conducted first and second round interviews for an Office Technician for the Headquarters and Sacramento Regional Office.

- Conducted first and second round interviews to back-fill the department’s Human Resources Office Manager position.

- Started the recruitment process to backfill the department’s Budget Office Manager position vacated on July 8.

- Participated on the interview panel to backfill the department’s policy analyst vacancy.
REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Here is an update on the status of SCDD’s “Access and Inclusion” bill package:

**SB 1092 (Hurtado) Relating to the Regional Center fair hearing process**
This bill improves the regional center fair hearing process by making it more accessible and fairer for self-advocates and family advocates.

Update: the majority of contents of SB 1092 was adopted by the budget and passed on June 30th. This is ideal because it means there is funding to pay for the improvements to the fair hearing process with the full support of DDS.

SB 1092 is currently in Assembly Appropriations committee, next steps on this bill are pending the committee meetings in August.

**AB 1663 (Maienschein) Relating to Conservatorships**
This bill improves probate conservatorships by ensuring they are the option of last resort and by making sure that families and self-advocates are aware of the many tools available to ensure individuals can make their own life choices with the level of supports that they need. Conservatorships take away civil rights, we believe that with supported decision making and knowledge of the alternatives to conservatorships all individuals will be able to live their best lives on their own terms.

Update: AB 1663 is currently in Senate Appropriations committee. It is set for a hearing mid-August but the author (Assemblyman Maienschein) will waive presentation. The bill will then go to the committee’s Suspense File, which will be set for a hearing around the second week in August. If the bill passes, it will go for a vote of the full Senate, then go back to the Assembly to approve of Senate amendments, then go to the Governor for signature no later than August 31st.

**AB 2920 (Arambula) Inclusive College**
This bill will increase the number of inclusive college programs across the state. The goal is to increase living wages & employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Update: this bill was held in Assembly Appropriations committee. We are working on improving the bill, growing the coalition, and finding a champion in the Legislature for 2023. This work includes meetings with the UC Office of the
President, the CSU Chancellor’s office, the appropriate policy staff in the Legislature and various other stakeholders.

The legislative session is quickly ending. The months of July and August wrap up the 2021-22 two-year legislative session and September will see bills signed by the Governor. During the fall and winter months SCDD staff will return to developing ideas for legislation in 2023. Here is a breakdown of what is happening in the next three months:

1. **July is summer recess.** Legislators return to their constituents and district work for the month. All official legislative business is put on pause. Legislative committees and staff take this time to improve the bills that are still moving through the process in preparation for the Appropriation committee hearings in early and mid-August. During this time, Council is working with legislative committees.

2. **August is when the legislature returns to its business.** This is a very busy month that will see the fate of all of the bills introduced in this 2-year legislative session. By August 31st at midnight, all bills must pass to the Governor. Bills that do not pass will have to be re-introduced for the 2023 legislative session.

3. **September is when the Governor must sign or veto the bills on his desk.** The Governor has 30 days to sign or veto the bills that the Legislature sent to him in August. If a bill is on his desk and he does not sign it or veto it, then it will default to becoming law, but this does not happen very often.

**JULY 2022 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

**OUTREACH**

✓ Pride Month Commemoration with social media specific creative ([https://www.instagram.com/tv/CepSMETlXuh/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link](https://www.instagram.com/tv/CepSMETlXuh/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link)) featured on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Including a video featuring Councilmember Adler sharing personal thoughts about the month-long annual celebration ([https://youtu.be/CId8FYUuriQ](https://youtu.be/CId8FYUuriQ)) disseminated via Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and shared via a Constant Contact email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses.
✓ Juneteenth/National Freedom Day Commemoration through a series of three videos which featured Council Chair Witherspoon (https://youtu.be/m2SNJehz5HI), and Councilmembers McNair (https://youtu.be/WFy7jv_tfEI) and Ashe (https://youtu.be/e-8htRPkdc4) as they each shared their personal reflections and the significance of the holiday. The video series ran from Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19 on Facebook, Twitter, and shared via a Constant Contact email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses.

✓ Coordinated and facilitated a pre-recorded interview via Zoom with Aaron Carruthers for the disability show Pushing Limits on 94.1 KPFA talk to about the state's requirements to hire persons with disabilities in public sector jobs and the history and purpose of the LEAP initiative. The segment is scheduled to air Friday, August 12.

✓ Assisted in the development of the Council’s official statement on the Uvalde school mass shooting. Disseminated via the Council’s email distribution list.

✓ Disseminated messaging to Council email distribution list and via social media about the June 24, SB 639 Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting Session Three.

✓ Participated in outreach planning meetings and assisted regional offices and other units with disseminating information about upcoming initiatives (e.g. webinars, live events) via statewide email or social media.

✓ Developed dynamic creative (https://www.instagram.com/tv/CePTzoxlCFY/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link) to advertise the second posting of the Policy Analyst position which was shared on social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) including state professional associations such as the California State Information Officers Council (SiOC) and the Regional Public Information Officers group.

**CO-SPONSORED BILLS**
✓ Ongoing: Dissemination of the Council’s Access and Inclusion Bill Package Update which is updated and disseminated via email and social media to bring awareness and encourage support of each bill.

✓ Ongoing: Develop and disseminate social media call to action messaging targeting organizations, individuals, and legislators to raise awareness and encourage support for the following co-sponsored access and Inclusion bills; AB 1663 and SB 1092.

✓ In progress: Facilitate and participate in weekly comms coalition meetings to strategize on outreach efforts for Council co-sponsored bills.

BRANDING

✓ In progress: Redesigning the Plain Language Active Shooter Guide for People With Disabilities – How We “Run, Hide, and Fight!” (English and Spanish)

✓ Ongoing: Branding project includes, LMS training elements, reports, newsletter, and letterhead to start.
REPORT FROM: TANIA MORAWIEC  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS  
REPORT RANGE 5/12/22-7/13/22

During this reporting period SCDD staff completed 195 activities tied to self-advocacy, systems change and capacity building. We continue to focus on areas such as health & safety, employment, education, housing and self-determination.

![Activities by Goal Area](image)

**CREATIVE COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR EQUITY & ACCESS**

SCDD continues to create unique opportunities to outreach and support underserved community members who have I/DD. We do this through partnership with trusted community messengers and strategic event planning. An example this reporting period occurred on Juneteenth. SCDD partnered with the Sacramento Juneteenth Planning Committee, Alta Regional Center, the California Department of Public Health and Disability Rights California. SCDD staff engaged community members in discussions about I/DD and offered PPE equipment as well as access to Covid vaccinations and booster shots.
By attending community events that draw underserved community members, we can educate people by providing information on targeted resources. We equip people who have disabilities and their allies to advocate for services and equity by increasing awareness and sharing strategies for service access. During this event many people unfamiliar with our services learned what we have done and what we can do. Many of these new contacts indicated they will reach out for assistance or share information with those in need.
**SELF- DETERMINATION**

During this reporting period DDS finalized their official, statewide, statutorily required Self-Determination Orientation module. SCDD is contracting with DDS to implement the statewide Self-Determination training initiative. The SCDD training team includes SCDD staff, self-advocates, and family advocates who have lived experience with the Self-Determination Program. This team will train and support community members by providing information and answering questions about the program.

The first training opportunity is slated for 7/14/22 and at the time of this report, over 100 individuals are registered! If you would like to see the DDS modules and learn more about this initiative, please follow this link [SDP Orientation | SCDD (ca.gov)](ca.gov)
Our CRA/VAS team continues to work within COVID-19 protocols inside the facilities. DDS increased visitor access to the facilities. Community transition activity slowed due to lack of community staffing.

**Program Activity for May and June 2022**

**Canyon Springs Community Facility and Desert STAR Unit**
VAS notes that placement is postponed due to lack of community staffing. CRA conducted 18 staff and self-advocacy trainings this period. As Covid-19 decreases, CRA advocating for programming to increase in the community.

**Porterville Developmental Center and Central STAR Unit**
In-person activities resumed but with some restrictions due to continued positive cases. CRA attended 59 meetings on behalf of clients at PDC. Worked with IDT to lessen restrictive interventions. VAS successfully advocated for alternative behavior methods for a person recently transitioned. VAS pushing for return to residence instead of remain at SNF after hospitalization from Covid.

**Southern STAR Unit Moved off Fairview DC Campus**
CCL granted a license to operate the adult and adolescent STAR homes at the Mark Lane location. Per our inter-agency agreement with DDS, SCDD transitioned CRA services for the Southern STAR Unit to the Regional Center Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy upon move off the DC campus.
Eligibility for Family Surveys

*Family Surveys collect demographic information on both the individual receiving services (‘family member’) as well as the person who fills out the survey (the ‘respondent’) and information on services and supports received.*

Child Family Survey (CFS): Mailed to families who have a child family member (ages 17 and under) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Adult Family Surveys (AFS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Family Guardian Survey (FGS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives in the community (outside the family home) and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Current Cycle: Family Surveys

The mail out of Family Surveys has been completed. To date, we have received 8,711 responses for the Adult Family Survey (AFS) with 5,133 responses received for the Child Family Survey (CFS), and 4,235 responses for the Family Guardian Survey (FGS). The tables and charts in the following pages break down the responses by regional center, method and language.

The ability for respondents to enter their response directly on-line (Direct Entry) is still only available in English, but Department of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) is working to make other languages available for the future family cycles.
Table 1 - Adult Family Survey Responses by Method (n=8711)

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<th>RC</th>
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<td><strong>2264</strong></td>
<td><strong>8711</strong></td>
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</table>

* Eligible population is fewer than 2,000

Figure 1: Adult Family Survey Responses by Method – Mail v Direct Entry (DE)
Figure 2: Adult Family Survey Response Rate English vs Spanish (based on sample size of each language)

AFS Rate of Response: English v Spanish

Figure 3: Adult Family Survey Responses - Other Languages (based on sample size of each language)

AFS Responses: Other Languages (Not including Spanish or English)

Table 2: Adult Family Survey Responses - Other languages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Languages</th>
<th>Arabic</th>
<th>Armenian</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Farsi</th>
<th>Hmong</th>
<th>Khmer</th>
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Table 2 - Child Family Survey Responses by Method (n=5133)

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<td>GGRRC*</td>
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<td>HRC</td>
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* Eligible Population is fewer than 2000

Figure 4: CFS Responses by Method: Mail vs Direct Entry (DE)
Figure 5: CFS Response Rate of English and Spanish

![Graph showing response rate comparison between English and Spanish.]

Figure 6: CFS Responses Other Languages

![Graph showing response rates for various languages other than English and Spanish.]

Table 3: CFS Responses - Other Languages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Languages</th>
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Table 4: CFS Responses - Other Languages (Continued)

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Table 5 - Family Guardian Survey Responses by Method (N=4235)

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<td>TCRG*</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VMRC*</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRC*</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2948</td>
<td>1287</td>
<td>4235</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Eligible sample population less than 2000

Figure 7: FGS Responses by Method
About National Core Indicators

National Core Indicators™ (NCI) strives to provide states with valid and reliable tools to help improve system performance and better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Through a contract with Department of Developmental Services (DDS), State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), using the NCI Survey tools, collects quantitative data on consumer satisfaction, provision of services, and personal outcomes. Data collection is completed through face to face interviews with consumers as well as mail-in surveys from families.

This data collection effort will enable DDS to evaluate the quality and performance of California's developmental disability service delivery system and among all the 21 regional centers over time.

For RC results of past surveys go to:
https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/reports/

For more information about the NCI go to:
https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/

Scan QR code below to go to QA Project Webpage
scdd.ca.gov/qap

QAP Regional Center Assignments

Mary Agnes Nolan
Support Staff: Vacant
Far Northern
North Bay
Redwood Coast

Ron Usac
Support Staff: Valerie Buell
East Bay
San Andreas

George Lewis
Support Staff: Marigene Tacan-Regan
Alta California
Central Valley
Valley Mountain

Lia Cervantes Lerma • Brianna Reynoso • Jenny Villanueva
Support Staff: Marina Bchtikian • Austin Murphy
East Los Angeles
Frank D. Lanterman
Harbor
North Los Angeles
San Gabriel Pomona
South Central Los Angeles
Westside

Angel Wiley
CPS II: Vacant
SSA- Jennifer Melendez
Support Staff: Brian Hoang
Golden Gate
Orange County
San Diego

CPS II: Vacant
Support Staff: Valarie Macias
Inland
Kern
Tri-Counties
AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN), which is a project of the Council, will provide a summary of their recent activities. SCDD SSAN Representative Maria Marquez will provide Councilmembers with this report.

Attachment
June 2022 SSAN Update Report
Recent Activity: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) met on June 29th & 30th, 2022 over Zoom.

Focus of Meeting:

The June 2022 Zoom SSAN meeting was held over the course of two days. SSAN members introduced themselves and shared one self-advocacy related project that they have been working on.

Tamica Foots-Rachal, SCDD Vaccine Program Manager, talked to SSAN members about the importance of access to accurate, up to date, easy to understand information on public health related topics and asked for input from SSAN on the accessibility of California’s COVID-19 Parent Information Page. SCDD Vaccine Program Manager Foots-Rachal, plans on sharing feedback from self-advocates with the California Department of Public Health to improve the website. SCDD is in the planning stages of organizing a webinar on the impact of COVID–19. If you are interested in sharing your story during the webinar, please contact your local SCDD office. Members reviewed a COVID-19 informational resource and offered suggestions to make it more accessible and easier to understand.

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided SSAN members with an update on SCDD activity since the March SSAN meeting. This included a brief overview of the Council’s legislative work, and efforts to distribute COVID-19 test kits and increase access to vaccines and vaccine-related information. Executive Director Carruthers informed members that SCDD staff has undergone training in preparation to facilitate the statewide Self-Determination Program Orientation and answered SSAN members’ questions about how to ensure that Supported Decision Making is made available to those who would benefit from it.

Day one ended with a presentation from Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) on the impact of stress on our wellbeing and the importance of including self-care practices in your life. Members were given tips and strategies on how to relax and help people who are struggling, along with resources.
On day 2 of the meeting, SSAN Members were provided with a legislative update that informed them of the status of each of the 4 bills that SCDD is sponsoring during this legislative session. SCDD staff members provided updates on the SCDD Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) video project and the activities of the SCDD Self-Advocacy Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP). SSAN Members provided SCDD staff with feedback about self-advocacy related training topics.

Members talked about how to embrace disability justice and shared their thoughts and experiences in relation to their identities as people with disabilities, person first language, and the medical vs. social model of disability.

The SSAN workgroups met using Zoom breakout rooms to discuss ongoing projects, goals, and priorities.

**Actions Taken:**

- Approved the Minutes from the March 2022 SSAN Meeting
- Approved the June 2022 Edition of SSAN Newsletter

**2020—2022 SSAN Leadership:**

**Chair:** Desiree Boykin, ARCA Representative  
**Vice-Chair:** Paul Mansell, SCDD San Diego Regional Representative  
**Secretary:** Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD Representative

**SSAN Workgroups:**

- Operations (formerly Officers, Bylaws, and Membership)  
- Self-Determination  
- Employment  
- Legislative and Civic Engagement  
- Newsletter and Communications  
- Youth Engagement

The next SSAN Meeting is scheduled for September 7–8 2022 over Zoom. Please visit the [SSAN Page](#) on the SCDD website for more information.
AGENDA ITEM 9.
INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Year of Optimizing Update

In October of 2021, Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the Year of Optimization plan to Executive Committee members. The plan focused on SCDD’s infrastructure and targeted focus issues such as self-determination, subminimum wage and Health & Safety.

During this meeting, Executive Director Carruthers will provide members with an update and discuss next steps.

Handout
Year of Optimizing PPT
The Council's next meeting date is scheduled for September 20, 2022.