



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING POSTED AT: www.scdd.ca.gov

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code Section [11123.2](#). Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

SCDD Headquarters
3831 N. Freeway Blvd #125
Sacramento, CA 95834

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

Call-In Number: **(669) 444 9171**
Meeting ID: **844 7182 5604**

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Meeting ID:
Password:

[APR.MEM.2026](#)
844 7182 5604
173800

DATE: April 7, 2026

TIME: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Kara Ponton

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 5 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 JANUARY 2026 MINUTES  Page 3

Item 6. MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT Page 6
Kara Ponton, Committee Chair

Item 7. DEMOGRAPHIC MAP Page 11
Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

Item 8. APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES Page 13
Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

Item 9. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL  Page 17
Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director & Kara Ponton, Committee Chair

- a. Review Expiring 1st Term Seats
 - At Large 6
 - North Bay Region
 - San Diego Imperial Region
 - b. Review Council Applications for Expired & Vacant Seats
 - At Large 1
 - North Coast Region
 - Sequoia Region
-
-

Item 10. NEXT MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT
TBA

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 (916) 263-7919. Requests must be received by 5 business days prior to the meeting. *All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.*

April 7, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.
ACTION ITEM

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES –
Membership Committee**

Approval of January 2026 Minutes

The draft minutes from the January 13, 2026, Membership Committee meeting have been included in the packet for review. Committee members will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment(s)

January 2026 Membership Committee meeting minutes.

Action Recommended

Approve the January 2026 meeting minutes.



DRAFT

**Membership Committee Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2026**

Attending Members

Kara Ponton [SA], Chair
Harold Ashe [FA]
Sonia Jones [SA]
Sascha Bittner [SA]

Members Absent

None

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Brandi Halstead
David Delgado
Julie Eby-Mckenzie
Kenya Martinez

Others Attending (cont)

Lisa Cooley
Lori Walker
Maria Teresa -
Franco Kearns
Renee Bauer
Robin Maitino-Erben
Sheraden Nicholau

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Kara Ponton [SA] called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers welcomed new committee member Sascha Bittner to her first Membership Committee meeting. Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Legend:
SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Bittner [SA]) and carried to approve the July 2025 meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a record of members present]).

6. MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT

Committee Chair Kara Ponton [SA] provided a summary of the August 2025 Membership Workgroup Report, which included an overview of reappointments and vacancies for the Regional Advisory Committees and the Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees.

7. DEMOGRAPHIC MAP

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed a map showing the current demographic makeup of the Council.

Members expressed that African American and Latino representation in disability statistics may be underreported due to barriers such as fear, low income, and lack of diagnosis. Members also noted that the other category on the disability chart may include individuals with dual diagnoses.

8. APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the current Appointment and Vacancies Tracking Form to the Committee.

9. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

The Committee reviewed applications for expired and vacant seats in the At-large, North Coast, and North State region categories.

Applicant 988 was held pending a legal opinion on a potential conflict of interest.

It was moved/seconded (Ponton [SA]/Ashe [FA]) and carried to move applicants 970, 971, 982, and 985 forward to the interview process. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a record of members present]).

10. MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled Membership Committee meeting is April 7, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

April 7, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Membership Workgroup Report

In November of 2023, the Membership Committee established a workgroup to review, vet and appoint/reappoint the membership of RACs and Local SDACs, allowing vacancies to be filled in a timely manner

The Membership Workgroup met on February 5, 2026. Committee Chair Kara Ponton will provide a brief update on the outcomes of that meeting.

Attachment(s)

February 5, 2026, Membership Workgroup Report



February 5, 2026 Membership Workgroup Report to Committee

Regional Advisory Committee Actions

North Coast Regional Advisory Committee

Removals

965	Removal
-----	---------

North State Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

983	Appoint
-----	---------

Removals

245	Removal
-----	---------

Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

956	Appoint
974	Appoint

North Bay Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

965	Appoint
966	Appoint
999	Waitlist

Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

998	Appoint
-----	---------

Removals

375	Removal
-----	---------

North Valley Hills Regional Advisory Committee

No new appointments, reappointments or removals

Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

980	Appoint
993	Decline

Removals

375	Removal
-----	---------

Sequoia Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

979	Appoint
-----	---------

Reappointments

622	Reappoint
-----	-----------

Removals

826	Removal
834	Removal
863	Removal

Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Orange County Regional Advisory Committee

New Applications

970	Appoint
958	Decline

Reappointments

677	Reappoint
715	Reappoint

San Bernardino Regional Advisory Committee

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

San Diego Regional Advisory Committee.

New Applications

961	Appoint
-----	---------

Reappointments

721	Reappoint
-----	-----------

Self-Determination Advisory Committee Actions

Redwood Coast Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Far Northern Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Alta California Regional Center

New Applications

493	Waitlist
-----	----------

North Bay Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Golden Gate Regional Center

Removals

X45	Removal
-----	---------

Regional Center of the East Bay

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Valley Mountain Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

San Andres Regional Center

New Applications

479	Appoint
487	Appoint
498	Appoint

Tri Counties Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Central Valley Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Kern Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

East Los Angeles Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Harbor Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Removals

460	Removed
X1	Removed

South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Westside Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

Regional Center of Orange County

New Applications

496	Declined
-----	----------

Inland Regional Center

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

San Diego Regional Center

New Applications

467	Decline
472	Decline
423	Decline
437	Decline
438	Decline
452	Decline
472	Decline

April 7, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Demographic Map

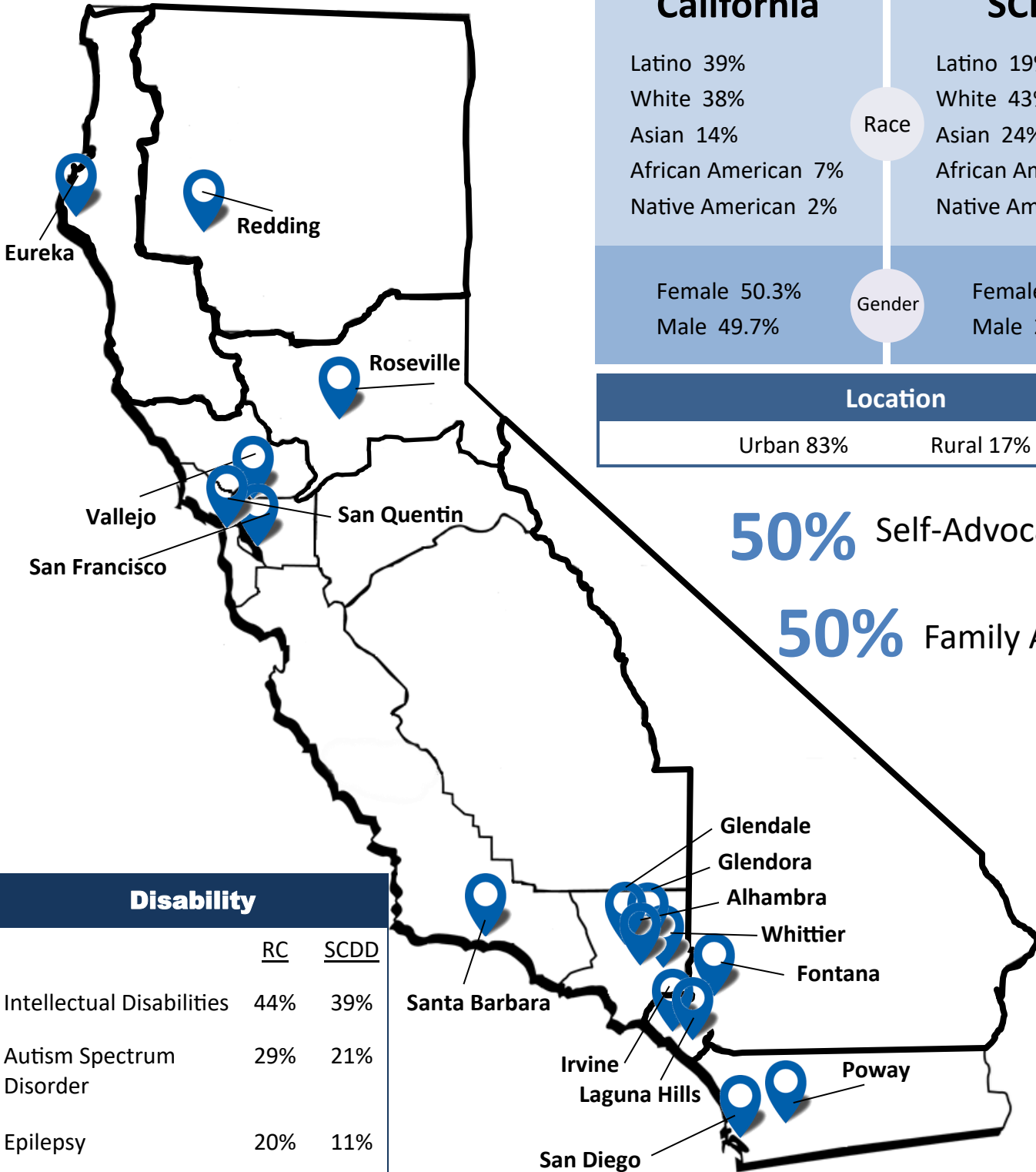
Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the current Council make-up.

Attachment(s)

Current Demographic Map as of February 2026.

Who Are Our Council Members

Non-Agency
February 2026



California	SCDD
Race	
Latino 39%	Latino 19%
White 38%	White 43%
Asian 14%	Asian 24%
African American 7%	African American 14%
Native American 2%	Native American 0%
Gender	
Female 50.3%	Female 72%
Male 49.7%	Male 28%
Location	
Urban 83%	Rural 17%

50% Self-Advocate
50% Family Advocate

Disability	SCDD	
	RC	SCDD
Intellectual Disabilities	44%	39%
Autism Spectrum Disorder	29%	21%
Epilepsy	20%	11%
Cerebral Palsy	9%	18%
Other	8%	11%

Note: Map displays SCDD regions

April 7, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP
COMMITTEE**

Appointment and Vacancies

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the appointment and vacancy chart in the packet. This chart shows Councilmember term limits as well as information on the seat they represent.

Attachment(s)
Appointment and Vacancy Chart

Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form

Category	Name	*1st Term Appointment	*2nd Term Appointment	Expiration Date	Expired >60	Expired >120	Sent to G.O.
At Large Institution	Harold Fujita (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/29/2028			
At Large 1	Vacant (August 2025)						
At Large 2	Azucena Garcia-Ferro (self-advocate)	10/29/2025		10/29/2028			
At Large 3	Harold Ashe (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/29/2028			
At Large 4	Sascha Bittner (self-advocate)	10/29/2025		10/29/2028			
At Large 5	Julie Gaona (self-advocate)	10/20/2022		10/20/2025	X		X
At Large 6	Nestor Nieves (self-advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			
At Large 7	Sherry Johnson Alvarez (family advocate)	1/29/2026		1/29/2029			X
North Coast Region	Kara Ponton (self-advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025		X	
North State Region	Rosanna Ryan (self-advocate)	6/14/2019	08/02/22	8/2/2025		X	X
Sacramento Region	Michelle Padilla (self-advocate)	10/29/2025		10/29/2028			

Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form

Category	Name	*1st Term Appointment	*2nd Term Appointment	Expiration Date	Expired >60	Expired >120	Sent to G.O.
North Bay Region	Sonia Jones (self-advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			
Bay Area Region	Bob Twomey (family advocate)	7/25/2025		7/25/2028			
N. Valley Hills Region	Irene Valdez (family advocate)	11/7/2024		11/7/2027			
Central Coast Region	Melissa Fitch (family advocate)	10/29/2025		10/29/2027			
Sequoia Region	Vacant (August 2025)				X	X	X
Los Angeles Region	Cathay Liu (family advocate)	9/16/2021	10/25/24	10/25/2027			
Orange County Region	Lupe Rodriguez (family advocate)	6/25/2024		6/25/2027			
San Bernardino Region	Eric Aguilar (self-advocate)	10/29/2025		10/29/2028			
San Diego Imperial Region	Jessica Brown (family advocate)	5/18/2023		5/18/2026			
Dept. of Rehabilitation	Kim Rutledge, Director Jessica Grove, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Education	Tony Thurmond, Director Noelia Hernandez, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				

Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form

Category	Name	*1st Term Appointment	*2nd Term Appointment	Expiration Date	Expired >60	Expired >120	Sent to G.O.
Dept. of Aging	Susan DeMarois, Director Mark Beckley, Adam Willoughby, Ana Acton Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
CA Health & Human Services Agency	Mark Ghaly, Secretary Debra Cooper, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Developmental Services	Pete Cervinka, Director Michi Gates, Jim Knight, Ernie Cruz, Aaron Christian, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Dept. of Health Care Services	Michelle Baass, Director Joseph Bilingsley, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Disability Rights CA	Andy Imparato, Director Sandra Smith, Designee	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence UCLA	Elizabeth Laugeson, Director Christine Moody, Yasamin Bolourian, Kecia Weller, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence USC	Larry Yin, Director Alexis Deavenport-Saman, Olga Solomon, Christine Mirzaian, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
University Center for Excellence UCD	Aubyn Stahmer, Director Janice Enriquez & Kris Wallman, Designees	Ongoing	Ongoing				
Non-Governmental Agency/Group Concerned with Services to Persons with DD	Kim Levy Rothschild	10/29/2025					

Notes:

- 1) 3- Year Term
- 2) Appointee can serve two successive terms.
- 3) Continues to serve until appointment of replacement is done.
- 4) Of the 20 non-agency members, at least 7 are people with DD and at least 7 are parent, family member, guardian or conservator of someone with DD residing in CA. All 20 must fall into one category or the other.

April 7, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 9.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Applications for Council

Members will review and make recommendations on expiring 1st term seats and applications to fill expired and vacant seats.

Recommendation

Move selected applicants forward to the interview process.

Attachment(s)

Applications for the following seats starting at 990

- At Large 1
- North Coast Region
- Sequoia Region

Handout(s)

There may be additional handout(s) the day of the meeting.

AT LARGE APPLICATIONS

Conflict Of Interest Update

Membership Application

MM-988

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North State (Butte, Glenn, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:
Intellectual Disability, Autism, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have two adult son's with disabilities and I value the supports and services they have received and I also believe there are more opportunities to advocate and improve on them. I have lived experience and I am not a self employed advocate for others with disabilities through my work as an Independent Facilitator within the SDP.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

advocating and championing for everyones best life

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I would like to be part of the solution and I am a natural problem solving and visionary. Would like to give back to the village that has and continues to support my family and I believe being on the State Council my skills would benefit more including the effectiveness of how the State provides the supports and services they currently do. I am also a strong connector and value bridge building, the underdog and seeing a greater potential in everyone and everything.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Lived experience, professional experience, positive outlook, visionary, determination and enthusiasm.

Membership Application

MM-994

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White, Asian

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:
Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability,
Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am the parent of a 24-year-old daughter who has a dual diagnosis of Autism and 22q11.2 Deletion Syndrome (aka DiGeorge Syndrome).

I have been navigating services with my daughter since she was referred to Alta for global developmental delays at 12 months of age. These services have included Early Intervention, Special Education K-12, and a myriad of therapies (speech, occupational, physical, and psychological), as well as Disability Services and Programs for Students (DSPS) in the Los Rios Community College District, Alta Regional, Department of Rehabilitation, Paratransit Inc., and the Sacramento Regional Transit's SacRT Go paratransit. I also assist my daughter with her Social Security, MediCal, and CalFresh benefits.

For nearly two years, I have served as a member of the Sacramento County Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee.

Three years ago, I founded the Disability Awareness Committee at the Sacramento Superior Court,

where I work as the Public Information & Communication Officer.

For five years, I served as the Communications Manager for the WarmLine Family Resource Center, a Sacramento-area nonprofit organization that provides parent-to-parent support to families with children who have disabilities from birth through adulthood. During my tenure, I managed Community Parent employees, coordinated family events, and presented on topics ranging from early intervention to transition to adulthood.

For six years, I served as a member of the Regional Advisory Committee, as vice chair, and as chair.

For nine years, I served as a member of the City of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission, as vice chair and as chair.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My interests are broad and include, but are not limited to:

- Advocacy, rights, and oversight
- Self-determination
- Residential and housing services
- Day programs and community integration
- Family support

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe in a culture of inclusion where all individuals feel welcome and respected, regardless of their neurodiversity, physical challenges, socioeconomic status, gender, or race.

All too often, discussions about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion fail to include individuals with physical and developmental disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I would bring a valuable combination of lived experience, long-term systems navigation, and public-sector leadership to the statewide committee.

As the parent, I have navigated California's developmental disability system continuously since my daughter's infancy. Beginning with Early Intervention at 12 months of age through Special Education, postsecondary supports, adult services, and benefits maintenance, I have firsthand knowledge of how policies translate into real-world outcomes for individuals and families across the lifespan. This includes experience with Regional Center services, the Department of Rehabilitation, community college disability services, transportation systems, and public benefit programs.

In addition to lived experience, I have substantial governance, advisory, and leadership experience at the local and regional levels. I have served on multiple advisory bodies focused on disability. Through this work, I have collaborated with elected officials, public agencies, and private-sector partners to identify barriers and implement practical, sustainable accessibility solutions—most notably working with city leadership and the Sacramento Kings organization to improve ADA access at Golden 1 Center.

My professional background further strengthens my contribution. As the Public Information and Communication Officer for the Sacramento Superior Court, I founded the court's Disability Awareness Committee to elevate accessibility, equity, and inclusion within a complex public institution. Previously, at the WarmLine Family Resource Center, I supported families in the greater Sacramento region by helping make complex service systems accessible to parents across diverse communities.

Taken together, these experiences allow me to:

- Center family and self-advocate perspectives in policy discussions
- Identify system gaps, duplication, and access barriers across agencies
- Communicate complex issues clearly to diverse stakeholders
- Balance policy-level thinking with practical implementation
- Advocate for solutions that are equitable, person-centered, and achievable

I would bring to the committee a collaborative, informed, and solutions-oriented perspective grounded in both lived experience and professional expertise, with a strong commitment to improving California's developmental disabilities system for individuals and families at every stage of life.

Membership Application

MM-995

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Los Angeles (Los Angeles)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Black or African American

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, fragile X syndrome

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability,
Vendor at several regional centers

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in and knowledge of the developmental disability field and service system developed through both personal and professional experience. As a family member of an individual with developmental disabilities, I have firsthand experience navigating the service system from the family perspective. This has given me a deep understanding of the challenges families face, including accessing services, advocating for appropriate supports, and coordinating care across multiple systems. These experiences have shaped my commitment to ensuring services are person-centered, accessible, and responsive to the needs of individuals and their families.

In addition to my personal experience, I am also a vendor with several regional centers, which has allowed me to engage with the service system from a provider perspective. Through this role, I have gained a strong understanding of regional center processes, vendor requirements, compliance standards, and the operational realities of service delivery. Working directly with individuals, families, and regional center staff has further strengthened my ability to collaborate effectively and balance policy requirements with the practical needs of those receiving services.

Together, these experiences give me a unique and well-rounded perspective on the developmental

disability service system. I understand both the emotional and practical realities families face, as well as the responsibilities and constraints of service providers. This dual perspective informs my approach to advocacy, service delivery, and system improvement, and reinforces my commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities in achieving meaningful, inclusive lives.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system center on improving access to high-quality, person-centered services while ensuring families are respected as essential partners in the process. From a family perspective, I am particularly interested in how systems can better support families as they navigate complex service structures, understand their rights, and advocate effectively for their loved ones.

I am especially interested in service coordination and continuity of care, as families often experience challenges when transitioning between life stages, programs, or providers. Ensuring that individuals receive consistent, well-coordinated supports reduces stress on families and promotes better outcomes for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Another key area of interest is enhancing communication and collaboration between regional centers, service providers, and families. Clear, transparent communication helps families feel informed, empowered, and confident in decision-making. I am also interested in policies and practices that promote flexibility and individualized services, recognizing that each family's needs, culture, and circumstances are unique.

Additionally, I am deeply interested in workforce development and provider quality, as strong, well-trained service providers directly impact both individual outcomes and family trust in the system. Supporting providers ultimately supports families by ensuring reliable, compassionate, and competent care.

Overall, my interests are guided by a commitment to strengthening the service system in ways that honor the lived experiences of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, promote dignity and independence, and create meaningful opportunities for inclusion and quality of life.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or one of its Regional Advisory Committees, because I am deeply committed to strengthening the developmental disability service system through informed advocacy, collaboration, and meaningful family involvement. As a family member of an individual with developmental disabilities, I have firsthand experience navigating the system, advocating for services, and understanding the real-life impact that policies and funding decisions have on individuals and families. These experiences have given me a strong appreciation for the importance of a responsive, person-centered system that truly listens to those it serves.

In addition to my personal experience, I am also a service provider and vendor with several regional centers. This role has allowed me to see the system from the provider perspective, including the operational challenges, regulatory requirements, and workforce issues that directly affect service quality and availability. Having experience on both sides of the system enables me to bridge the gap between families, providers, and policymakers, and to contribute practical, balanced insights to Council or Committee discussions.

I am particularly motivated to serve because I believe families should have a strong voice in shaping policies and priorities. Serving on the State Council or a Regional Advisory Committee would allow me to advocate for improved access to services, better coordination of care, transparent communication, and

supports that adapt to the changing needs of individuals across their lifespan. I am also committed to promoting equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive services so that all families can access the supports they need.

By serving on the Council or a Regional Advisory Committee, I hope to contribute my lived experience, professional knowledge, and collaborative approach to help advance the Council's mission and support positive, lasting change for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I would bring a combination of lived experience, professional expertise, and collaborative leadership to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee. As a family member of an individual with developmental disabilities, I offer a strong family-centered perspective and an understanding of the real-world challenges families face when navigating the service system. This allows me to ground discussions and recommendations in the actual experiences of those most impacted by policy and system decisions.

In addition to my family perspective, I am a service provider and vendor with multiple regional centers, which gives me practical insight into service delivery, regional center operations, compliance requirements, and workforce challenges. This dual perspective enables me to thoughtfully assess how policies affect individuals, families, and providers, and to contribute balanced, solution-oriented input. I bring strong communication and collaboration skills, and I value respectful dialogue among diverse stakeholders. I am experienced in listening to different viewpoints, identifying common goals, and working toward consensus. I also have a strong commitment to equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive services, and I am attentive to the needs of underserved and diverse communities.

Finally, I am dependable, prepared, and committed to meaningful participation. I take my responsibilities seriously and am motivated to contribute time, effort, and thoughtful engagement to support the Council's mission of advocacy, systems change, and improved quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

Membership Application

MM-996

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **San Diego Imperial (Imperial, San Diego)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My child is a 22 year old with a Developmental Disability.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I am very interested in working on the systems for housing, employment and life activities for adults with developmental disabilities.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe that the state is moving in the right direction and feel that as a parent navigating the current systems and encountering both strengths and areas that need focus, I would love to work with others passionate about creating opportunities and options for adults with developmental disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I work in the field of special education and also parent a child with significant needs. I know that if I have struggled navigating the system, others have also. I would love to be part of strengthening opportunities for people with disabilities in California.

Membership Application

MM-999

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My interest in the developmental disability field has developed through both professional and personal experience. I am a developmental psychologist and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst with research and clinical experience in autism and other developmental disabilities. I have worked for North Bay Regional Center as a Qualified Behavior Management Professional and served on its board. In addition, I am the parent of a 26-year-old daughter who is severely impacted by autism and resides in a group home in Fairfield, California.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

At this point in my life, as both a mother and a clinician, my primary interests in the developmental disability field are quality of life, health, and nutrition.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I hope to contribute my perspective as both a mother and a professional, and to listen, learn, and collaborate with others who are committed to improving the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I would bring a collaborative, informed perspective shaped by both professional experience and lived family experience, with a focus on practical solutions that support quality of life across the lifespan.

Membership Application

MM-1000

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, I was put in special education in elementary school for being a delayed learner. I have extensive trauma which has been effecting my ability to retain information since. I don't believe I was really given the correct chance to succeed

I am a: I worked with developmentally disabled adults for 14 years

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have struggled with my own set backs with learning and correct diagnosis since early in school. I am a trauma survivor and also in recovery. I believe there are many ways to help this population of human beings with dignity and pride. I worked with this population for 14 years and have some knowledge of regional services and other services that are involved.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Trauma informed care, diagnosis and substance abuse services

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe that every human being regardless of setbacks should be given the equal opportunity to live the best life possible. I do know from experience that any individual that is given the right guidance and support to get career training and school, supportive services etc. is more likely to succeed and suffer from also having metal health issues.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Advocating

Membership Application

MM-1001

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

TBI

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Parent of a now 27-year-old son who is living independently with autism ADHD and option defined disorder

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Started with my son in 2004 living in lake county California. My son was diagnosed and had to leave. My job is supposed to work her to jump in and learn about mental health and disabilities to advocate for my son and my mother who went to the ninth circuit To advocate for my son and protect the civil rights. Also was on the board of Redwood coast Regional Center for four years out of board member last two years as a board chair and served on the Arca board advocating for four counties, lake county Humboldt, Butte, and Del Norte. Advocating for clients needs and voice

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Special education, developmental disabilities, IEPs and 504's advocating for families within the school systems and working with Hispanic communities and local community tribes for services for their children and the end served.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

So all peers and our community have an awareness on dual diagnosis, development, disabilities, mental health and delivering an honoring, cultural where all families are heard and have a voice..

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Working in the field in mental health services, serving the communities, cultural competency and lived experience with my son. I have walked that walk and I am a parent that has been there. Understanding how hard it is to get service services for our children Who desperately need services and not given access to resources or parental rights Interpreters, parents and families families are being heard with dignity and respect and honoring their voice and choice. Meeting the families where they're at seeing the person and not the diagnosis. With advocacy and a person centered approach, using wellness recovery, action plan and credentialed Peer Support specialist, peer advocate for the state of California

Membership Application

MM-1002

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **San Bernardino (Inyo, Mono, Riverside, San Bernardino)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy, Downs Syndrome, Fragile X Syndrome, Turner's Syndrome, Traumatic Brain Injury

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Independent Facilitator, Psychology Professor

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Related to my educational background, relatives with support needs, and work history as a caregiver

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Ethical and Inclusive Advocacy

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I have served in the past and there continues to be a need in my community for volunteers in these roles.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have experience on many boards, and thus informed on board protocols. I am familiar with and known by many members of the community whom I would be representing. I have strong organizational skills, am trained and have high education on many types of disabilities, and have management, leadership and public speaking background.

Membership Application

MM-1006

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Los Angeles (Los Angeles)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Autism

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I served as a council member for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities for a year but had to resign to relocate to California last year.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Helping parents with a recent diagnosis; teaching teens how to advocate for themselves and creating new and exciting programs that offer services throughout the state.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I'm a single disabled parent with ADHD and Autism. I have 2 teens on the spectrum and I volunteered for many years in schools and with non-profits. I have a lot of experience and ideas that I would love to share. After I served for the council in Texas, I learned so much and I want to continue learning and help and guide more people like myself and my children in my State of California.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

My experience of serving for the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities gave me a different perspective about how all the programs are funded. I was always volunteering for the non-profits and so I have so much experience to offer! Everything that I've learned for the past 12 to 14 years after my son's diagnosis in how to navigate the school system and obtaining services, I'm very passionate about helping kids like my own to learn and thrive in our communities. I believe my greatest strength is my experience as a single parent, what me and my children lived and how we got to where we are now.

Membership Application

MM-1007

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Sequoia (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Asian

Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

After our son [REDACTED] was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder level 3, intellectual disability, and ADHD at age five in 2019 and our second son [REDACTED] diagnosed autism spectrum disorder level 2 at age three in 2021, my wife and I became heavily involved in the disability field and service systems due to their diagnosis. Their journey started with diagnosing through Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) which lead to their school assessments for early intervention special education preschool, and the implementation of their Individual Education Plans. I have centered my purpose around their quality of life and the systems they need to live successful adult lives; through watching my own sons navigate the systems and my background as a Registered Nurse at our local level 1 trauma hospital I see the challenges those with disabilities face in multiple settings and systems. My wife also became a local advocate and served in our local school systems, Clovis Unified Community Advisory Committee, in multiple roles and it is in her role and through her experiences that I have grown an interest and passion for making a positive impact in the school systems as well. Our son [REDACTED] was late diagnosed at age five and it is through his pain and suffering I have a great passion for improving the medical diagnosis and care systems. I have also seen what early intervention and diagnosing can do for children as my son [REDACTED] received services at 18 months and our daughter received early intervention speech services through our regional center. Our son [REDACTED] received support early and had better outcomes and our

daughter is now completely off her IEP. This is a testament to the current systems in place but also shows where we can grow and that is what motivates me most; the next generation have clear, strong, healthy systems to navigate so they can have the best outcomes and create the best lives possible.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

The areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service systems greatly reflect my background and life experience. I am a United States Marine Corps Veteran, the son of an immigrant, and currently a Registered Nurse. The areas I am focused on are clinical support for children and adults with disabilities, neurodiversity and developmental services including improving diagnosing strategies and access to early intervention services which I believe heavily relies on pediatricians and their knowledge and relationships within their local communities/patients, law enforcement education and systems to better support individuals and provide safety should they be in crisis and/or interacting with law enforcement, overall safety in multiple settings including school systems and medical/hospital systems, improving vocational and job coaching systems, systems to support care providers and their mental health, and support to immigrants and their families who need services. Other areas of passion are direct support and daily living assistance related to medication administration, transportation, and community integration/housing, advocacy related to research and specialized healthcare for instance a focus on genetics, metabolic disorders, and improving access to healthcare and screening for individuals and immigrant families. I have a deep focus on the full spectrum of the individual's life especially life after family/care providers pass away; what does housing, support, and daily life systems look like and where can we reduce homelessness and poverty for adults with disability.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities because as a father to two sons with disabilities I feel called to make a difference in the systems they navigate. I feel as a USMC Veteran and Level 1 Trauma Nurse I have a unique perspective on many systems that impact citizens' lives, being able to experience the world through travel as a service member I have seen firsthand where our systems have the capacity to grow and stabilize. I want to contribute positively to our community and to the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and my sons have opened my eyes to the reality that individuals with disabilities and their families face. This has birthed a mission within me to create a world where individuals with disabilities and their families can grow and thrive; a world where parents can fear less about leaving their disabled children behind after old age and know they will have the systems in place that will allow their adult children to live healthy and safe lives. One of the worst fears as a special needs parent is "what will happen to my child if something happens to me" and I hope to create a world where that fear is silence by support.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Strengths I would bring to the State Council are leadership skills learned from the USMC, critical thinking skills that grew through military training and nursing in a level one trauma setting, discipline and accountability, adaptability, clinical judgement, compassion and empathy for individuals with disability and their families through my own life experience, leadership under pressure and crisis management skills related to nursing in a level one trauma setting during the COVID pandemic, integrity and honor, multitasking and organization, communication skills, decisive under pressure, mission focused, patient advocacy, high emotional resilience, and a high standard of personal conduct.

Membership Application

MM-1009

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Sacramento (Alpine, Colusa, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo, Yuba)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Special Olympics

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Helping everyone with disabilities

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

Helping everyone with disabilities

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Advocating

Membership Application

MM-1011

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability

I am a: Person with a developmental disability, Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, [REDACTED]

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

By speaking up for others as well

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I would like to help [REDACTED]

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To be honest with the group

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

To help people make choices

Membership Application

MM-1012

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Central Coast (Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Ventura)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:
Intellectual Disability, Autism, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy

I am a: Representative of the general public

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

When keeping abreast of current laws and regulations

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I am interested in not wasting time looking at the redundancy of what this population have to go through just to get the simple things, when it comes to paperwork, being realistic and not just pretty words on paper, there are too many agencies doing the same thing

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To bring my 30+ years of experience and my drive to make a difference, a positive change somewhere in this area of chaos, while continuing to build on what I've learned.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

My practicality my focus on simple workable solutions, straightforwardness I'm honest and direct and I think that being easy to work and talk too is a plus as well.

Membership Application

MM-1013

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Bay (Napa, Solano, Sonoma)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Asian

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism

I am a: Representative of the general public, Career counselor at the local community college

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

Yes

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

My first position after my Master's program was direct service working with at risk young adults in the foster care system. This work brought me to the Bridges to Work program in San Francisco, a program that was designed to work with students with disabilities. The collaborative effort created a seamless effort that helped students from age 14 to 21 transition from school to career. With partners including Department of Rehab, school district representatives, group homes were critical; and this experience made a significant impact in my role as an advocate. (My doctoral research is in the field of career development of youths in the foster care system.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Policy Work to ensure that funding and resources for families and transitional age youth are quality and affordable

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve so that I can advocate for the community and be knowledgeable of the resources available

for families. And also, to continuous build and strengthen the field (best and promising practices are implemented at all levels).

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Extensive background in program development and implementation, 20+ years in the field of family support services, demonstrated background in providing career services for youths with disabilities (and foster care youth) in the SF Bay Area.

Membership Application

MM-1014

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Valley Hills (Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tuolumne)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Hispanic or Latino

Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Autism

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am currently on the North Valley Hills RAC and the RM approached me about At Large positions available on the Council. My son was diagnosed with Autism 5 years and still learning about our rights, benefits and resources available. I am really interested in making a difference.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Building educational programs for families. Help advocate for families. Help disseminate information to the communities.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

To better educate myself, provide valuable feedback, be a resource to the organization/community, be part of the solution, help connect people to the appropriate resources.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I've been a Financial Planner for 19 years and knowledgeable about aspects of financial planning for that special person in people's life. I'm well versed as a public speaker. I've been running my own small

business for 25 years. I have been on the North Valley Hills RAC and have enjoyed my time. Through that role, I have volunteered on the CHOICES Planning Team for the annual conference. I am now one of two treasurers for the March 27, 2026 conference.

NORTH COAST APPLICATIONS

Membership Application

MM-1000

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, I was put in special education in elementary school for being a delayed learner. I have extensive trauma which has been effecting my ability to retain information since. I don't believe I was really given the correct chance to succeed

I am a: I worked with developmentally disabled adults for 14 years

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have struggled with my own set backs with learning and correct diagnosis since early in school. I am a trauma survivor and also in recovery. I believe there are many ways to help this population of human beings with dignity and pride. I worked with this population for 14 years and have some knowledge of regional services and other services that are involved.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Trauma informed care, diagnosis and substance abuse services

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I believe that every human being regardless of setbacks should be given the equal opportunity to live the best life possible. I do know from experience that any individual that is given the right guidance and support to get career training and school, supportive services etc. is more likely to succeed and suffer from also having metal health issues.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Advocating

Membership Application

MM-1001

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **North Coast (Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Two or more races

Gender: Female

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

TBI

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability, Parent of a now 27-year-old son who is living independently with autism ADHD and option defined disorder

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

Started with my son in 2004 living in lake county California. My son was diagnosed and had to leave. My job is supposed to work her to jump in and learn about mental health and disabilities to advocate for my son and my mother who went to the ninth circuit To advocate for my son and protect the civil rights. Also was on the board of Redwood coast Regional Center for four years out of board member last two years as a board chair and served on the Arca board advocating for four counties, lake county Humboldt, Butte, and Del Norte. Advocating for clients needs and voice

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

Special education, developmental disabilities, IEPs and 504's advocating for families within the school systems and working with Hispanic communities and local community tribes for services for their children and the end served.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on

one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

So all peers and our community have an awareness on dual diagnosis, development, disabilities, mental health and delivering an honoring, cultural where all families are heard and have a voice..

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Working in the field in mental health services, serving the communities, cultural competency and lived experience with my son. I have walked that walk and I am a parent that has been there. Understanding how hard it is to get service services for our children Who desperately need services and not given access to resources or parental rights Interpreters, parents and families families are being heard with dignity and respect and honoring their voice and choice. Meeting the families where they're at seeing the person and not the diagnosis. With advocacy and a person centered approach, using wellness recovery, action plan and credentialed Peer Support specialist, peer advocate for the state of California

SEQUOIA APPLICATIONS

Membership Application

MM-1007

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: **Sequoia (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Tulare)**

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: Asian

Gender: Male

What intellectual & developmental disabilities do you have experience with?:

Intellectual Disability, Autism, ADHD

I am a: Parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Do you want to serve on the State Council or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I want to apply to serve on the State Council

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

After our son [REDACTED] was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder level 3, intellectual disability, and ADHD at age five in 2019 and our second son [REDACTED] diagnosed autism spectrum disorder level 2 at age three in 2021, my wife and I became heavily involved in the disability field and service systems due to their diagnosis. Their journey started with diagnosing through Central Valley Regional Center (CVRC) which lead to their school assessments for early intervention special education preschool, and the implementation of their Individual Education Plans. I have centered my purpose around their quality of life and the systems they need to live successful adult lives; through watching my own sons navigate the systems and my background as a Registered Nurse at our local level 1 trauma hospital I see the challenges those with disabilities face in multiple settings and systems. My wife also became a local advocate and served in our local school systems, Clovis Unified Community Advisory Committee, in multiple roles and it is in her role and through her experiences that I have grown an interest and passion for making a positive impact in the school systems as well. Our son [REDACTED] was late diagnosed at age five and it is through his pain and suffering I have a great passion for improving the medical diagnosis and care systems. I have also seen what early intervention and diagnosing can do for children as my son [REDACTED] received services at 18 months and our daughter received early intervention speech services through our regional center. Our son [REDACTED] received support early and had better outcomes and our

daughter is now completely off her IEP. This is a testament to the current systems in place but also shows where we can grow and that is what motivates me most; the next generation have clear, strong, healthy systems to navigate so they can have the best outcomes and create the best lives possible.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

The areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service systems greatly reflect my background and life experience. I am a United States Marine Corps Veteran, the son of an immigrant, and currently a Registered Nurse. The areas I am focused on are clinical support for children and adults with disabilities, neurodiversity and developmental services including improving diagnosing strategies and access to early intervention services which I believe heavily relies on pediatricians and their knowledge and relationships within their local communities/patients, law enforcement education and systems to better support individuals and provide safety should they be in crisis and/or interacting with law enforcement, overall safety in multiple settings including school systems and medical/hospital systems, improving vocational and job coaching systems, systems to support care providers and their mental health, and support to immigrants and their families who need services. Other areas of passion are direct support and daily living assistance related to medication administration, transportation, and community integration/housing, advocacy related to research and specialized healthcare for instance a focus on genetics, metabolic disorders, and improving access to healthcare and screening for individuals and immigrant families. I have a deep focus on the full spectrum of the individual's life especially life after family/care providers pass away; what does housing, support, and daily life systems look like and where can we reduce homelessness and poverty for adults with disability.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities because as a father to two sons with disabilities I feel called to make a difference in the systems they navigate. I feel as a USMC Veteran and Level 1 Trauma Nurse I have a unique perspective on many systems that impact citizens' lives, being able to experience the world through travel as a service member I have seen firsthand where our systems have the capacity to grow and stabilize. I want to contribute positively to our community and to the lives of our most vulnerable citizens and my sons have opened my eyes to the reality that individuals with disabilities and their families face. This has birthed a mission within me to create a world where individuals with disabilities and their families can grow and thrive; a world where parents can fear less about leaving their disabled children behind after old age and know they will have the systems in place that will allow their adult children to live healthy and safe lives. One of the worst fears as a special needs parent is "what will happen to my child if something happens to me" and I hope to create a world where that fear is silence by support.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

Strengths I would bring to the State Council are leadership skills learned from the USMC, critical thinking skills that grew through military training and nursing in a level one trauma setting, discipline and accountability, adaptability, clinical judgement, compassion and empathy for individuals with disability and their families through my own life experience, leadership under pressure and crisis management skills related to nursing in a level one trauma setting during the COVID pandemic, integrity and honor, multitasking and organization, communication skills, decisive under pressure, mission focused, patient advocacy, high emotional resilience, and a high standard of personal conduct.