

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

We are welcoming a new staff member to the policy unit! I am excited to announce Veronica Bravo as our new policy analyst; she will be assisting with our legislative priorities and with the Employment First Committee. Veronica comes to us with a degree from McGeorge School of Law, a wealth of knowledge in the legislative process, and a passion for advocacy. Veronica also brings lived experience with adult onset profound hearing loss and welcomes opportunities to lift up individuals' experiences of working with a disability.

It took us 9 months to fill this position, but it was well worth the wait!

Update on SCDD Sponsored Bills: "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: passed in the state budget, implementation by DDS is taking place in stages, ranging from what immediately became law when the budget was signed to October implementation and then finally the last stage will be March 2023. SCDD will engage in limited fair hearing observations to track implementation success and challenges.

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 sitting on the Governor's desk, pending his signature. The deadline to sign bills this year is September 30th at midnight.

AB 2920 (Arambula) Inclusive College

This bill would increase the number of inclusive college programs at University of California campuses and California State University campuses. The goal is to increase living wages & employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Update: AB 2920 was not funded this year, so the bill did not move. Cosponsors are resuming meetings this October to find ways to improve the bill, identify an author and move the bill in 2023.

SCDD Supported Bills: we supported 19 bills this 2-year legislative cycle (2021-22), 7 of which have either become law or are pending a Governor signature. We will have the final list by the November Council meeting.

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.

2022 Bill Ideas Contest: we launched the second annual “There Should be a Law” contest September 1-30th. There is a “bill ideas” link on the main page of our website, it will remain active even after the contest. We will be releasing a report with the results of the contest by December 2022. We strongly encourage all people with solutions to public policy problems to participate, we welcome anyone from the public and we encourage Councilmembers and self-advocates to participate.

September 2022 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE *(July 13 – September 12, 2022)*

OUTREACH

- ✓ July & August Events email disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses.
- ✓ 32nd ADA Day Commemoration with social media specific creative (<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=418674256970705&set=pb.100064844014593.-2207520000..&type=3>) featured on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Including a video featuring Council Chair, Witherspoon with a special message for the celebration (<https://youtube.com/shorts/mTbxGTbAP5U?feature=share>) disseminated via Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and shared via a Constant Contact email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses.
- ✓ Disseminated messaging to Council email distribution list and via social media about the July 27, SB 639 Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting Session Four. <https://bit.ly/3RQAbB2>

- ✓ Back-to-School Resources an email blast disseminated to over 11,000 unique email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature, and social media (Facebook & Twitter).
- ✓ Aaron Carruthers talked about the state's requirements to hire people with disabilities in public sector jobs and the history and purpose of the LEAP initiative during a pre-recorded interview on the disability radio show, Pushing Limits on 94.1 KPFA. The segment aired Friday, August 12 and can be heard OnDemand here: [Pushing Limits | Hunting the Elusive State Job – Pushing Limits – August 12, 2022 \(kpfa.org\)](https://www.kpfa.org/programs/pushing-limits/2022/08/12/hunting-the-elusive-state-job-pushing-limits-august-12-2022)
- ✓ Extreme Heat Warning Messaging, with heat related resources email blast disseminated via Facebook, Twitter, and shared via an email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature.
- ✓ Launched the 2nd Annual There Should Be A Law Contest. Promoted via a call-to-action on the homepage of the SCDD website, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, and shared via an email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature in English and Spanish.
- ✓ September & October Events/National Preparedness Month messaging email disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature.
- ✓ Participated in outreach planning meetings and assisted regional offices and other units with disseminating information about upcoming initiatives (including webinars and live in-person events) via statewide email or social media.

CO-SPONSORED BILLS

- ✓ 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. <https://bit.ly/3eM9pvi>
- ✓ In progress: Facilitate and participate in weekly comms coalition meetings to strategize on outreach efforts for Council co-sponsored bills.

BRANDING

- ✓ August 22 the Office of Policy and Public Affairs launched SCDD News Clips. News clips are a compilation of electronic stories from state and national media sources featuring articles blog posts of interest that directly or indirectly affect the disability community.

- ✓ Completed: Redesign of the Plain Language Active Shooter Guide for People With Disabilities – How We “Run, Hide, and Fight!” (English and Spanish) include attachments
- ✓ In Progress: SSDAC – An easy-to-understand flow-chart for the Self-Determination Program (entities flow chart, flow-chart for prospective participants) to explain the law the statute creates.