



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

Pink Owl Coffee
1816 Second Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

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

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

Meeting ID:
Password:

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

DATE: July 7, 2026
TIME: 10:30 AM – 11:00 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 Membership agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

Item 5. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL 

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Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director & Committee Chair

a. Review Council Applications for North Coast Region

Item 6. 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.*

July 7, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 4.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Public Comment

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July 7, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Applications for Council

Members will review and make recommendations on applications to fill North Coast Region's expired seat.

Recommendation

Move selected applicants forward to the next phase.

Attachment(s)

Applications for the following seat:

- North Coast Region

Handout(s)

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

NORTH COAST APPLICATIONS

Membership Application

MM-1017

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

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

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

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

Epilepsy

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

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

My interest and knowledge in the developmental disability field grew deeply from my own lived experience with Traumatic Brain Injury and seizures. These challenges have caused me to lose jobs, licenses, homes, and insurance multiple times, yet each time I rebuilt my life stronger. I am a client of the Redwood Coast Regional Center and have firsthand understanding of the system's impact.

Before turning 18, I suffered multiple head injuries, with a severe car accident at 16 being the most difficult to overcome. During my healing journey, I was grateful to attend college and work in the science department, where I supported students with disabilities long before digital tools were available. For example, I helped a legally blind student succeed by creating adaptive learning methods using overhead projection and one-on-one lab practicals, enabling them to excel in biology and continue onto anatomy and physiology.

In Field Biology, I used macro photography and adaptive techniques to help students with mobility challenges navigate the class content and Sierra Nevada terrain. My career in outdoor education focused on adventure and experiential learning, always adapting programs to include individuals with disabilities. One moment that shaped me was seeing a student sidelined from canoeing because her parents didn't trust me to keep her safe. That day I was inspired to pursue and earn an adaptive canoeing certificate to ensure no student would ever be excluded again. I have also hosted Adult Transitional Programs and

adapted countless activities to empower people with disabilities, even as my own career was cut short by my TBI.

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

Since September 2022, I have been an active member of RISE (Realizing Independent Success and Empowerment), a client-led leadership group with the Redwood Coast Regional Center. Through RISE, I have participated in trainings and collaborations on projects with the Department of Developmental Services. RISE has the honor of helping to guide how our region's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funds are allocated and ensure that their impact is reaching the most individuals and the least supported.

My key areas of interest include improving accessibility, supporting the Blue Envelope Program, enhancing crisis management systems, and creating empowering opportunities through grassroots initiatives like Love in Humboldt—a volunteer led community program I founded to provide inclusive activities and support for individuals 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 have proudly served on the North Coast Regional Advisory Committee since January 2023 and have actively encouraged others to join and contribute. The North Coast remains significantly underrepresented in our state, individuals with disabilities are facing unique challenges due to its geography and remote communities.

In July 2023, I joined the Statewide Self Advocacy Network, further deepening my commitment to amplifying the voices of individuals with developmental disabilities in my region and all over the USA. Learning that this seat remains unfilled compelled me to apply, because I believe my voice carries the power to empower, connect, and advocate effectively..

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

California is home to approximately 760,000 individuals living with Traumatic Brain Injury and 425,000 living with epilepsy. I am one of those individuals, living with both conditions, which gives me a deeply personal understanding of the challenges faced by this community.

I bring to the State Council a fierce commitment to advocacy, ensuring that no one is left behind—especially during times of crisis or life transitions that can devastate individuals and families. I empower others by guiding them through these difficult moments toward meaningful next steps of advocacy, services, resources and renewed hope.

My lived experience, combined with my background in accessibility across diverse environments—from green spaces, educational to urban settings—equips me with a unique perspective on practical solutions. I am dedicated to using this insight to create inclusive, empowering opportunities for all.

Membership Application

MM-1019

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

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

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: American Indian or Alaska Native

Gender: Female

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

Intellectual Disability, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, non-verbal few words uses Ipad

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, 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?:

History with son and committees

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

getting more knowledge and making positive changes in rural and sovereign nations for those with disabilities and families

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

I want to make changes to sovereign nations and rural communities so those with disabilities and their families can access services without having to fight for everything and their rights that should already be in place.

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

I have advocated for my son and others, helped start a parent group in our community, worked with regional center, worked with DREDF, attended CAL-TASH conference

Membership Application

MM-1043

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

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

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: Family member

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

No. I work for two people with developmental disabilities through the self-determination program and through IHSS.

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

I want to serve on the State Council. I have termed off the North Coast RAC.

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

My background is in Early Childhood Education and Family Services. My job required me to screen and refer children when I had concerns for their development. When my 3rd child was born she had physical and developmental disabilities. As my child grew working full-time became difficult so I worked part-time in programs for autistic children and with adults adults with developmental disabilities. I am a grandparent of 6. Two of my grandchildren have been diagnosed with Autism. I, also, have a daughter with schizoaffective disorder.

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

My interest is in early childhood development and transition services, those are foundational services.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees: As a parent and grandparent of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and a member of my local community I want to insure that there are systems in place to support folks in leading long and fulfilling lives. I want to see a continuum of services in place that support all folks equitably.

I am concerned with that with recent federal budget cuts and, potential, state cuts, services for folks with disabilities are being greatly affected leading to the risk of health and safety being jeopardized as well as the overall quality of life being eroded.

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

I bring personal knowledge of supporting folks with developmental disabilities with their daily lives, supporting them in accessing and using services so that they can lead successful lives. I understand systems as I worked for Head Start for many years. I understand coexisting conditions- Developmental Disabilities and Mental Health.

Membership Application

MM-1047

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

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

Email : REDACTED

Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

Gender: Female

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

Neurological condition

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?:

As a mother of 4 children all having either autism or ADHD, and a grandparent to a sweet 2 year old boy with Autism I am familiar with the standards that are set in the school systems, the expectations of development and how these standards and expectations can be limiting to the actual success of those living with developmental disabilities. My children all have some form of developmental disability, as well as intellectual disabilities, and my grandson who is 2 is currently served in Humboldt by RCRC. I work in the field with Tri-County Independent Living and have worked as an ABA therapist, as a paraprofessional in the Para-education department in a local school, as a career mentor for a work force development program in Redding, and raised my own children with their own medical needs. I also struggle with ADHD myself and dyslexia.

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

My field of concern and focus is on educational goals and expectations, care support and respite, as well as the medical needs and autonomy of the individual as a whole and not a medical mystery.

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

As a grandparent, parent, and individual with a disability I strive to be instrumental in implementing positive change in my childrens and my grandchildrens lives. I cannot be the change from outside the room. I need to advocate for them on a personal level with a seat at the table.

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

I have many skills outside of my support, advocacy, and knowledge base. I manage the social media of TCIL, the newsletter, and the advocacy but I also am educated, experienced, and focused on making things better for everyone.