



**DRAFT**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 26, 2022**

**Members Attending**

Alex Reyes (S.A.)  
Andy Imparato (DRC)  
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)  
Brian Winfield (DDS)  
Cathay Liu (F.A.)  
Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson (UCEDD)  
Eric Ybarra (S.A.)  
Harold Ashe (F.A.)  
Harold Fujita (F.A.)  
Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)  
Joyce McNair (F.A.)  
Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)  
Julie Austin (F.A.)  
Julie Neward (F.A.)  
Julio Garnica (S.A.)  
Kara Ponton (S.A.)  
Larry Yin (UCEDD)  
Lee Bycel (F.A.)  
Maria Marquez (S.A.)  
Mark Beckley (CDA)  
Michael Ellis (F.A.)  
Michael Thomas (DOR)  
Nicole Adler (S.A.)  
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)  
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)  
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

**Members Absent**

Kilolo Brodie (F.A.)  
Marko Mijic (CHHS)  
Nick Wavrin (CDE)

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Adam Willoughby  
Anne De Medeiros  
Bella  
Beth Hurn  
Brian Weisel  
Bridget Kolakosky  
Charles Ngyuen  
Chris Arroyo  
David Grady  
Dena Hernandez  
Disability Voices United  
Gabriela Solval  
Gilda Giron  
Holly Bins  
Janet Fernandez  
Jennifer Lucas  
Julie Eby-McKenzie  
Ken DaRosa  
Kristianna Moralls  
Lisa Hooks  
Mary Agnes Nolan

**Others Attending**  
**(cont.)**

Michelle Cave  
Miguel Lugo  
Otto Lana  
Patricia Herrera  
Peter Mendoza  
Rachel Sing  
Riana Hardin  
Rihana Ahmad  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Ryan Duncanwood  
S Simmons  
Scarlett VonThenen  
Sheraden Nicholau  
Sidney Jackson  
Sofia Cervantes  
Tamica Foots-Rachel  
Tania Morawiec  
Tina Reszler  
Veronica Magallanes  
Victoria Schlussler  
William Del Rosario  
Yaritza Sanchez  
Yolanda Cruz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
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## 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

## 3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

## 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gilda Giron, the Director of Outreach and Leadership Training at Disability Voices United, announced that DVU is accepting applications for the second round of their Emerging Leader Program. The application period will close on August 13<sup>th</sup>. The program is a five-part leadership training for people with disabilities and their families. The first training will be on September 13<sup>th</sup> with bi-weekly trainings via Zoom on Tuesdays from 4:30-6:30pm. Spanish and Korean interpretations are available. Other languages may be available upon request. For more information and to access the application, visit [DisabilityVoicesUnited.org](https://DisabilityVoicesUnited.org).

Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD Bay Area Regional Manager, stated that she and other SCDD team members served as mentors for the first cohort of the Emerging Leaders Program. She shared that she had a great experience as a mentor and felt that the mentees were well prepared. She continues working with the two graduates of the program and reported that they were already making great impacts in the region and looking for statewide leadership opportunities.

## 5. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

### Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [S.A]/Marquez [S.A.]) and carried to approve the May 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

## 6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon reported that he and Executive Director Carruthers travelled to Washington DC for the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities' (NACDD) annual conference. Attendees received a virtual reality demonstration for people with autism, presented awards to self-advocate national champions, and networked with other self-advocates from all over the country. Executive Director Carruthers was elected Vice President of the National Association. Additionally, Chair Witherspoon reminded members that July

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26th, 2022, was the 32nd Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Anniversary and provided a presentation with information about the ADA and its impact on the lives of people with disabilities.

Chair Witherspoon asked that members refer to their meeting packets for SCDD committee reports. The committee reports and Chair Witherspoon's ADA presentation can be found online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

Executive Committee Chair Lee Bycel provided an update on the Executive Director Evaluation. Executive Committee Chair Bycel shared that the Executive Director Evaluation process has been streamlined and if adopted, the process and timeline will be used annually. As part of the process, the evaluation was mailed to Councilmembers. His goal is to receive responses from at least 25 of the 30 Councilmembers. A third party will collect and tabulate the results. They will provide the Executive Committee Chair with a summary of the Councilmembers' survey responses, and the Executive Committee will discuss and make recommendations at their August Committee meeting. The Executive Committee will bring these recommendations to the Council for review and adoption at the September Council meeting. He urged Councilmembers to email him or Wesley if they have any questions or need any assistance with the evaluation.

## 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

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

Executive Director Carruthers emphasized the significance of the anniversary of the ADA and asked if Councilmembers wanted to share what the ADA meant to them. Councilmembers shared their gratitude over the ADA and how it had impacted their/their family member's life. The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Chair Nicole Adler posed the same question to SAAC members at their meeting the day prior. A handout summarizing their responses can be accessed online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

Executive Director Carruthers shared photos from the NACDD Conference and Washington DC. While in Washington DC he met with the Administration on Disability Commissioner, the Administration on Disability Deputy Commissioner, and the Director of the Office of

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Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. He spoke to them about the State Council's work and highlighted the Council's priorities as outlined in its 5-year State Plan. In 2021 the Council reached 2.4 million Californians directly and impacted the lives of another 4.2 million through systems change efforts. Council staff provided technical assistance to 84,000 and provided training to 24,000 people. He highlighted the Council's collaboration with its federal partners and other ACL grantees including Disability Rights California (DRC), the three University Centers of Excellence of Developmental Disabilities (UC Davis MIND Institute, UCLA, Tarjan Center, USC Children's Hospital), Independent Living Centers (ILC's), and the Department of Aging. The Administration on Community Living expressed concerns about the direct service provider crisis, brought on by decades of neglect. A recent audit by the Bureau of State Auditors noted that the rates for service providers failed to keep up with inflation. Other issues addressed included underfunding in the Developmental Disabilities system and disparities in access to service providers

The Administration on Community Living also discussed compliance with the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) final rule. The March 2022 Compliance report showed that only 86% of providers have completed an assessment and only 57% of those report meeting full compliance. Almost 900 providers report not meeting the requirement of "right to be treated well" and 13% meet criteria for a heightened scrutiny review. ACL emphasized that the federal government would adhere to the March 2023 deadline.

Executive Director Carruthers provided an update on the Council's Access and Inclusion Bill Package. SB 1092 (Hurtado) was adopted in the budget process, but discussions are still being held regarding the remaining 20% of the bill that did not make it into law. AB 1663 (Maienschein) remained in the Assembly Appropriations suspense file as members discussed funding for the bill. The final bill budget package did not fund AB 2547 (Nazarian & Wicks) and AB 2920 (Arambula), so SCDD will be meeting with the sponsoring coalitions to discuss next steps. Executive Director Carruthers and Deputy Director Kolakosky are working with Councilmember Julie Neward to form a coalition around issues of abuse and neglect. The State Council is also working to extend an internship for people with disabilities who want to work in State government. The internship ends in January 2023, so the Council is working to get it extended to January 2024.

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Executive Director Carruthers provided an update on the state's budget and 2021 projects. In addition to a \$400 million dollar down payment that the Legislature already made, they will be providing an additional \$1.4 billion to implement the rate model over five years. The Social Recreation and Camp Services that were lost during the recession of 2009 will receive \$45.6 million, \$45.8 million for different language access and cultural competency projects, and \$41.7 million for the Coordinated Family Supports Pilot Project. Under Regional Center Operations, \$87.5 million will be used to reduce caseload ratios, \$16.2 million to implement the training and development for direct service providers, \$14.2 million to enhance service coordination for low or no purchase of service, \$8.1 million for Lanterman Act provisional eligibility for children, \$4.4 million for specialized caseload ratios for complex needs, \$2.5 million for emergency coordinators, \$850,000 for emergency preparedness, and \$8.5 million for the acceleration of the rate reform. New significant highlights of budget items for Purchase of Services include: \$65.5 million for children's support and early start coordination, \$15 million for communications assessments for consumers who are deaf, \$8.4 million for subminimum wage phase out pilot, \$1.8 million for federal compliance, one-time \$186.4 million investment for promoting workforce stability, one time funding of \$11.8 million for service access and equity grant, \$7.2 million for financial management services, \$6.5 million for early start eligibility, and \$2.8 million for half day billing elimination.

The Self-Determination Program Orientation Training launched on July 14th, 2022. Since then, they have held thirteen trainings and trained 168 people. Legislation was passed to allow for state agencies the flexibility to meet remotely for at least another year. As part of his administrative updates, Executive Director Carruthers welcomed Andrea Lynch as SCDD's new Personnel Officer, wished Personnel Manager Janet Butts a long and healthy retirement, and congratulated Budget Officer Lynn Cache, who will leave SCDD to work at the Governor's Office of Emergency Services. Lastly, he announced that they are hiring for a new Budget Officer and a manager for the North State Regional office.

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

SCDD SSAN representative Maria Marquez provided Councilmembers with an update from the most recent SSAN meeting on June 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The next SSAN meeting will be held on September 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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## 9. YEAR OF OPTIMIZING UPDATE

The Year of Optimizing effort was presented to the Council in September of 2021. Executive Director Carruthers and Deputy Director Morawiec provided Councilmembers with an update and discussed next steps for the Year of Optimizing.

The pandemic changed how people work and how they wanted to receive services and supports. The pandemic was a catalyst for change and SCDD adjusted to meet growing needs. The Council pivoted to providing direct support/supplies and moved to remote working and virtual meetings. Community needs continued to increase, and the pandemic accelerated existing disparities in regional center services, health access and care, employment, education access and success, and housing. The Executive Director shared that the Council has credibility among the community, decades of experienced and knowledgeable staff, and was known as a state entity with an advocacy heart. The Council's reach, impact, and role continued to grow as more people turned to SCDD throughout the pandemic. Councilmembers were directly involved in writing and approving the State Plan, so the Executive Director focused on a presentation highlighting the second way– the Year of Optimizing.

The Year of Optimizing is an initiative that was created with information from staff, community feedback, and staff climate surveys. The plan included shifting duties within regional offices to increase capacity, organizing around staff strengths/expertise, maximizing on-demand information and training platforms, and ensuring that headquarters is functioning to provide support to regional offices. These changes will streamline processes throughout the state, help offices increase coordination and avoid duplicative efforts, allow staff to connect to passion and reduce burnout, and build capacity. In addition to laying the groundwork, there are emerging and priority issues that also require staff attention. These include self-determination, employment, and sub minimum wage (SB 639), health and safety (vaccines, PPE, wildfires, power shutoffs, abuse and neglect), and DDS budget initiatives.

The full presentation can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

## 10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on September 20, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 P.M.

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Action 1 Minutes</b>
Adler, Nicole	For
Ashe, Harold	For
Austin, Julie	For
Barnwell, Viviana	DNP
Beckley, Mark	For
Billingsley, Joseph	For
Bycel, Lee	For
Ellis, Michael	For
Eriksen, Jeana	For
Fujita, Harold	For
Garnica, Julio	For
Imparato, Andy	For
Laugeson, Elizabeth	For
Liu, Cathay	For
Marquez, Maria	For
McNair, Joyce	For
Neward, Julie	For
Ponton, Kara	For
Reyes, Alex	For
Rosanna, Ryan	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For
Thomas, Michael	For
Winfield, Brian	For
Witherspoon, Wesley	For
Ybarra, Eric	For
Yin, Larry	For