



# San Bernardino Regional Office

## Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

08/23/2022

***Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM as approved  
By the Bagley Keen COVID Guidelines***

Posted on <https://scdd.ca.gov/sanbernardino/>

### **Members Present**

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**  
Dustlyne Beavers  
Cindy Cox  
Reginald Davis  
Kelly Guillory  
Brandi Halstead  
Ryan Nelson  
Maia Pawoskar, **Secretary**  
Kimberley Risser  
Christina Rockwell, **Chair**  
Cathy Rosas  
Ernie Saldana

### **Members Absent**

Carmela Garnica (reassigned from the SBRO RAC at the June 2022 meeting to serve on IRC Board of Directors)  
Cathy Rosas

### **SCDD Staff**

Patricia Herrera, MS, Staff Services Manager II (SSMII)  
Esteban Ortiz, MHA, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)  
Valarie Macias, Office Technician, Typing (OT)

### **Guest Speakers**

Patricia Roberson, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing  
Daniel Schenkel, Executive Director of California Community Housing  
Foundation

### **Public Attendees**

Athena Bond  
Silvia Del Villar  
Donna Hunter  
Rosa Gallegos-Valades

### **Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m.**

Quorum established -Welcome from Christina Rockwell, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Voting on the minutes – 06/08/2022 minutes. Kelli Guillory motion to approve the minutes, Ryan Nelson 2<sup>nd</sup>s the motion. Minutes approved.

### **Legislative Report – Presented by Kimberly Risser, Self-Advocate**

#### **Definition:**

**HELD UNDER SUBMISSION:** An action taken by a committee when a bill is heard in committee and there is an indication that the author and the committee members want to work on or discuss the bill further, but there is no motion for the bill to progress out of committee. This does not preclude the bill from being set for another hearing.

#### **SUSPENSE FILE**

Any bill with a fiscal effect in any fiscal year of \$150,000 or more (any fund source) will, by a majority of members present and voting, a quorum being present, move to the Suspense File. "Fiscal impact" includes any fiscal effect on any fund source. In addition, the committee will move to the Suspense File any bill the committee determines has the primary purpose of creating a task force, a commission, a work group, a pilot project or a pilot project extension, a report, or a study.

- **AB 1663 Probate Conservatorship Reform-** Bill co-sponsored by SCDD. The Probate Conservatorship and Supported Decision-Making Act focuses on ensuring that probate courts prioritize less-restrictive alternatives to conservatorship. The bill is on the Senate floor, it will be amended this week. We expect it will pass and get signed by the Governor. This bill would be a major accomplishment for Disability Rights California and SCDD.



- **AB 1900 Medi-Cal Level Maintenance** - 08/11/22 In committee: Held under submission.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1900](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1900)
- **AB 2475 School of Origin** - 05/19/22 In committee: Held under submission.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2475](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2475)
- **AB 2598 Restorative Justice** - Read third time and amended. Ordered to second reading.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2598](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2598)
- **AB 2632 California Mandela Act on Solitary Confinement**- 8/18/2022-Read second time. Ordered to third reading.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2632](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2632)
- **AB 2823 House Upkeep Allowance**- 08/11/22 In committee: Held under submission.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB2823](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB2823)
- **SB 281 California Community Transition Program**- 08/23/22 Assembly amendments concurred in. (Ayes 38. Noes 0.) Ordered to engrossing and enrolling.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB281](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB281)
- **SB 387 Pupil Health: Youth Mental & Behavioral Health**- 06/28/22 June 29 hearing postponed by committee.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB387](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB387)
- **SB 1092 Equitable Access to Services** - 08/11/22 August 11 hearing: Held in committee and under submission.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1092](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1092)
- **SB 1273 School Safety** - 06/29/22 June 29 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1273](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1273)
- **SB 1480 Electronic Ballot Return**- 06/29/22 June 29 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1480](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1480)

- **SB 2547 Housing Subsidies** for low-income with disabilities or over 50 years of age- This bill failed this session, but the co-sponsors (which includes SCDD) agreed to try to run it again in 2023
- **SB 1092 Fair Hearing Reform**- 08/11/22 August 11 hearing: Held in committee and under submission. This bill is co-sponsored by SCDD. Placed in budget bill and passed as part of this year's budget. The changes will go into effect March 2023.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220SB1092](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billHistoryClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB1092)
- **AB 2920 Inclusive College**- The bill failed this session, but will try to run the bill next year

**Affordable Housing Presentation – Guest Speakers, Patricia Robertson, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing & Daniel Schenkel, Executive Director of California Community Housing Foundation**

- Introduction of guest speakers by Christina Rockwell, RAC Chair, who emphasized affordable housing for individuals with I/DD as one of the most critical areas for systemic change as there is very limited affordable housing and a false assumption that housing for individuals with I/DD is being entirely managed through the Regional Center system. Christina Rockwell shared an update on a potential affordable housing development she has been following-up on in the City of Bishop.
- **Patricia Robertson, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing (MLH)** highlighted the following points in her presentation:
  - MLH is a non-profit 501c3 serving Inyo, Mono, and Alpine Counties offering leadership in affordable housing development, homeownership, and emergency rent assistance programs.
  - MLH just closed escrow on the Innsbruck Lodge to convert the boutique hotel into 16 apartments. Tenant occupancy will occur before May 2023. This acquisition is the result of a joint grant awarded to the Town of Mammoth Lakes and MLH for \$4.56 million through the Project Home key Program. The Mono County Board of Supervisors also made a financial commitment, which bolstered the grant application.
  - MLH working with Kern Regional Center (KRC) on affordable housing development. MLH is not a vendor of KRC.

- KRC Community Services Director, Enrique Roman connected MLH to SCDD.
  - MLH provides home ownership assistance for 80% -100% AMI within the town of Mammoth Lakes, emergency rental assistance, ADU loan programs, housing navigation and access to housing community resources
  - MLH will be able to work with KRC and Christina Rockwell on any potential housing project in Bishop, CA where Christina resides and works with Self-Advocates and Families in need of affordable housing.
- **Daniel Schenkel, Executive Director, California Housing Foundation Patricia (CHF)** highlighted the following points in his presentation:
    - CHF is a non-profit 501c3 located in Redlands, CA (San Bernardino County) dedicated statewide to creating homes for individuals with developmental disabilities served by the California Regional Centers.
    - CHF is a vendor of IRC and works closely with Regional Centers to build homes that are managed by care providers who provide licensed care for individuals with developmental disabilities.
    - CHF is a member of the Lanterman Housing Alliance (LHA) which comprises organizations throughout the State of California that serve the housing needs of people with developmental disabilities.
    - Areas of focus for LHA are: 1) improving system-wide data and planning 2) enhancing statewide and local partnerships, 3) expanding funding to identify and create additional housing opportunities, 4) ensuring mainstream systems increase their focus on the housing needs of people with I/DD through statewide advocacy.
    - LHA awarded a Cycle 40 grant by SCDD in 2017-2018 to develop a Statewide Strategic Plan on Expanding Housing Opportunities for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Implementation of plan affected by COVID and now being revisited by LHA with only volunteer support from partner organizations and with no paid staff
    - Daniel Schenkel is currently the Chair of LHA and working with SCDD on how data on the housing issues impacting individuals with developmental disabilities can be collected consistently across the state and how LHA and SCDD can jointly reach-out to mainstream affordable housing programs where the I/DD

population is not recognized and is less understood as other targeted vulnerable populations in the allocation of housing funding via federal and state programs.

### Report from Regional Manager

- Conducted in mid-August the Self-Determination Orientation (SDP) contracted by DDS. San Bernardino Regional Office (SBRO) conducted the SDP Spanish language week-day evening and Saturday orientation meetings as DDS certified SDP Orientation Trainers.
- Held an SDP Community Forum in-person and virtually on ZOOM for the Coachella Valley (Riverside County) for Self-Advocates, Family Advocates and community partners. Organized testimonials of IRC Self-Advocates and Family Advocates who have transitioned from the traditional service coordination to the SDP Program. The SDP Community Forum was held on August 10<sup>th</sup> in Palm Desert in partnership with *Desert Recreation District, California Tribal Families Coalition, Building Bridges for Special Needs Families, Creating a Legacy, Special Needs Network and Desert ARC*. A morning session was held in the English language and an afternoon session in the Spanish language. The SDP Community Forum was attended by SCDD Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers. Forum was well attended with 70 participants mostly virtually on ZOOM. In-person participants received Technical Assistance with enrolling into an SDP Orientation.
- Facilitated the leadership development of the Self-Advisory Council (SAC) formed in February 2022. Self-Advocate group leaders have been working with Esteban Ortiz's (AGPA) on topics and speakers of interest for Self-Advocates and on designing an announcement to promote a Facebook social media advocacy network directed by self-advocates.
- Launched the Parent Group Leader training in the Spanish language with Esteban Ortiz's (AGPA) facilitation with over 50 participants attending on a monthly since June 2022. In June 2022 a weekly four-part session on Navigating the Regional Center system was organized with excellent participation of a good number of Parent Groups represented in the sessions. On July 20, 2022 a workshop was held on the Regional Center Fair Hearing in August 10, 2022 an SDP Community Awareness workshop was conducted and in September 6, 2022, an English and a separate Spanish language session was held on the Alternative Conservatorship conducted by attorney from Disability Rights California.

- Distributed 16 Emergency Disaster Preparedness (EDP) backpacks for program participants at Desert in Palm Desert. EDP backpack training is being scheduled by Eric Aguilera, Self-Advocate trainer with facilitation by Esteban Ortiz in the month of September and October 2022.
- Assisted with the San Bernardino Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Law enforcement Training conducted for the Sheriff's department on Developmental Disabilities. Training conducted by Yolanda Cruz, CIT Trainer and SCDD Regional Manager of Fresno/Sequoia area with SBRO team. SBRO will be conducting this training working with IRC and the San Bernardino Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Team (CIT).
- Held meetings with IRC Behavioral Health/Crisis Intervention and Forensic Services to enhance the Law Enforcement training being conducted for the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department.
- Assisted with the Riverside County Equity and Justice Taskforce at UC Riverside University-Public Health sharing information on health inequities for individuals with I/DD.
- Assisted SCDD Disability Expert Advisory Panel on Housing on working with the Lanterman Housing Alliance (LHA) on the Statewide Strategic framework developed in partnership in 2018.
- Established partnership with Daniel Schenkel, Chair of Lanterman Housing Alliance and the Executive Director of the California Housing Community Foundation in Redlands, CA and with Patricia Robertson, Executive Director of Mammoth Lakes Housing. Facilitated meetings with housing development leaders and with SBRO RAC Chair, Christina Rockwell to discuss potential housing development project in the City of Bishop.

Patricia Herrera, SBRO Regional Manager had to leave the RAC meeting at 5:30 PM to attend another SCDD NCI QA Project meeting. Esteban Ortiz continued the Regional Manager report and concluded with the following:

- Introduction of Brandi Halstead, new RAC member who was not able to attend the June RAC meeting. Brandi Halstead is a self-advocate and the Chair of the IRC Consumer Advocacy Committee.
- SBRO AGPA Esteban Ortiz, MHA, shared his background and work experience:
  - Mental Health Field Experience. Former Resource Developer at South Central Los Angeles Regional Center. Master of Science in Healthcare Administration. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Biology. Proficient in Spanish Language

- Esteban highlighted his work on Health Disparities in the past and his focus on tackling the health inequities for individuals with I/DD in the Inland Empire. Shared Health Disparity data from Reach Out Social Justice Organization addressing health disparities in the Inland Empire.

### **Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda**

- Public comments focused on Health Disparities in the Inland Empire for the I/DD individuals. Athena Bond, community member shared information on the ACCESS Clinic in Moreno Valley funded by IEHP Medi-Cal. A clinic focused entirely on individuals with developmental disabilities providing excellent health care. Christina Rockwell, Chair and Kelli Guillory, RAC member added to the Health Care Disparities discussion the lack of compassion and understanding of the I/DD population by health and mental health professionals. Kelli Guillory, RAC member from DOR added how Employment is also affected by the same disparities where our community of focus is not viewed in the mainstream community as contributing members of society. Athena Bond parent of a 14-year-old with autism shared her husband is a film maker and suggested SCDD work on a documentary highlighting the invaluable contributions of individuals with I/DD to society. Esteban Ortiz shared that SBRO would focus now more than ever on capacity building activities to address disparities and the needed system change.

Valarie Macias, SBRO OT announced at 5:55 PM, that the 8/23 meeting would be the last for Maia Pawooskar, RAC Secretary and Ernie Saldana, RAC member as they would be concluding their two-year term limit in September 2022 with 6-years of service to the SBRO RAC. Valarie Macias thanked the two RAC members for their years of service.

### **Meeting adjourns**

- Meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. by Christina Rockwell, Chair.

### **Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, October 11, 2022 from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. The last meeting of 2022 will be held in December and pending at next RAC to decide if this meeting will be held on December 13, 2022.