



San Bernardino Regional Office

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

10/11/2022

***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

Christina Christenson-Rockwell, **Chair**

Cindy Cox

Reginald Davis

Brandi Halstead

Ryan Nelson

Kimberly Risser

Cathy Rosas

Members Absent

Ronald Allan

Kelly Guillory

SCDD Staff

Patricia Herrera, MS, Staff Services Manager II (SSMII)

Valarie Macias, Office Technician, Typing (OT)

Esteban Ortiz, MHA, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)

Matoya Terrel, QA Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)

Guest Speakers

Robert Chavez, Operation Manager, South Bay Workforce Investment Board

Scott Richmond, President of the Association of California State Employees with Disabilities and member of the CECD

Susan Senior, Regional Director of the LA/South Bay District, State of California Department of Rehabilitation

Marcos Villa, Disability Rights of California Senior Advocate

Public Attendees

Donna Hunter

Maia Pawooskar

Meeting called to order at 4:06 p.m.

Quorum established -Welcome from Christina Rockwell, Chair.



Approval of Minutes

Voting on the minutes – 08/23/2022 minutes. Dustlyne Beavers motion to approve the minutes, Ryan Nelson 2nd's the motion. Minutes approved.

Recognition of RAC Members Maia Pawooskar and Ernie Saldana

- Maia Pawooskar – Served 2-Terms for San Bernardino County.
1st Term: 9/9/16 – 9/9/19 **2nd Term:** 9/9/19 – 9/9/22
 - Congressmen Pete Aguilar to present a certificate of recognition for Maia's leadership & dedication.
- Ernie Saldana – Served 2-Terms for Riverside County.
1st Term: 9/9/16 – 9/9/19 **2nd Term:** 9/9/19 – 9/9/22
 - Request for State Assembly District 42 Assemblymember Chad Mayes office for Ernie's recognition certificate.

Legislative Report – 2022 SCDD LPPC Update

Esteban Ortiz, MHA, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)

- Access and Inclusion Bill Package
 - This year's bills all focus on improving access and inclusion for all of our community members
 - SB 1092 (Hurtado) Fair Hearing Reform
 - AB 1663 (Maienschein) Conservatorship Reform
 - AB 2547 (Nazarian) Housing Subsidies
 - AB 2920 (Arambula) Inclusive College
- **SB 1092 (Hurtado) Fair Hearing Reform**
 - Current status: Passed in the budget

- Reforms the Regional Center Fair Hearing process to create more transparency and eases participation for the family and self-advocates.
 - Next steps: Implementation, observation, and training.
- **AB 1663 (Maienschein) Conservatorship Reform**
 - Current status: Signed by the Governor
 - AB 179 (budget bill) gives \$5M to SCDD to manage the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP). This is one-time funding for 3-5 years.
 - Next steps: Implementation of SDM-TAP in coordination with DRC and UC Davis Mind Institute UCCED with the long-term goal of establishing permanent, ongoing funding.
- **2547 (Nazarian) Housing Subsidies**
 - Current status: Reintroduce in 2023? This bill provided \$1.4 billion dollars for five years of rental housing dollars (or vouchers) to low income individuals with disabilities and to individuals over the age of 50.
- **AB 2920 (Arambula) Inclusive College**
 - Current Status: Reintroduce in 2023? Provided \$10 million for inclusive college programs at UC and CSU campuses.

Presentation – The Coalition for the Employment of Californians and the National Disability Employment Awareness Month

- Speakers: Susan Senior / Robert Chavez
 - Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access for Individuals with Disabilities partners include;
 - Disability Rights of California (DRC)
 - Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
 - Regional Center of Orange County
 - Board of South Bay Workforce Investment
 - South Bay 1 Stop Business & Career Centers
 - Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities (CECD) works to transform California’s economic landscape in a manner that is more just, more inclusive, more equitable, and more resilient than the economy we had going into the pandemic.
 - Disability Rights California and our diverse partners are working through collaboration to engage Federal, State and local government officials, disability community partners, business

leaders, labor leaders, educators, civil rights leaders, service providers, family members, and policy professionals in this state-wide movement to increase the employment opportunities for all people with disabilities, including people from intersectional communities and people who have significant support needs.

- **For more information about the Coalition:** Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities: Transforming California's Approach to Disability Employment | Disability Rights California
- Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities (CECD) GOALS
 - Increase the number of people with disabilities in the workforce.
 - Close the gap in service disparities for Black, Indigenous and communities of color.
 - Ensure people with disabilities can participate in program design, policy decisions, and California's economic recovery efforts.
 - Increase access to a living wage for people with disabilities.
 - Increase opportunities for work-based learning from an early age. (Example: DOR's partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the SBWIB/DOR STEPS programs)
 - Increase access to employment supports for people who need them.
- Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities (CECD) Partners
 - CECD Disability Rights California
 - State Department Partners
 - California Department of Rehabilitation
 - California Department of Civil Rights Department
 - California Department of Education
 - California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
 - Educational, Regional Center and Workforce Partners
 - University of California at Davis MIND Institute
 - Sonoma County Office of Education
 - California Foundation of Independent Living Centers

- Regional Center of Orange County
 - South Bay Workforce Investment Board
 - Associations/CBOs/Non-Profits dedicated to increased access for individuals with disabilities
- Partners
 - Association of California State Employees with Disabilities
 - California Association of People Seeking Employment First
 - Access Inclusion Advancement Project
 - California Youth Leadership Forum
 - Helix Opportunity, Inc.
 - The Center
 - Purple Tree Café
 - STEP Inc.
- Coalition for the Employment of Californians with Disabilities (CECD) EVENTS
 - **May 2021 - Building Back Better for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access Summit in California**
 - The theme of the summit was Transforming California's Approach to Disability Employment
 - The event took place over **3** days and featured speakers with informative and interesting breakout rooms that connected the attendees.
 - **Day 1:** Building Back for the Nation
 - **Day 2:** Building Back for California
 - **Day 3:** Building Back in the Business Community; Building Back Better for the Future
 - **Building Back for the Nation**
 - Keynotes and panel discussions from national leaders, setting forth their vision for building a more equitable, inclusive, and just workforce in our economic recovery from COVID-19.
 - **Building Back for California**
 - Keynotes from state leaders and panel discussion with representatives from various state agencies.
 - **Building Back in the Business Community**
 - Panel discussion from business leaders about including people with disabilities in diversity, equity and inclusion priorities, recruitment/hiring/retention of people with disabilities.
 - **Building Back Better for the Future**

- Highlighted young leaders, advocates, and activists working in, and for a more inclusive world.
- **Elected Officials**
 - **Gavin Newsom** – Governor, California
 - **Alex Padilla** – United States Senator, representing California
 - **Sydney Kamlager** – California State Senator
 - **Alex Lee** – California State Assembly Member
 - **Isaac Bryan** – California State Assembly Member
 - **Eric Garcetti** – Mayor, City of Los Angeles, CA
 - **Libby Schaff** – Mayor, City of Oakland, CA
- **National and State Leaders**
 - **Kimberly Knackstedt** – Director of Disability Policy for the Domestic Policy Council at The White House
 - **Alison Barkoff** – Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging, Administration for Community Living
 - **Kevin Kish** – Director, Department of Fair Employment and Housing
 - **Joe Xavier** – Director, Department of Rehabilitation
 - **Kim McCoy Wade** – Director, Department of Aging
- **Business Community**
 - **Catherine Nichols** – Senior Director of Accessibility Programs, Office of Accessibility, Salesforce
 - **Jenny Lay-Flurrie** – Chief Accessibility Officer for Microsoft
- October 2021 - National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration
 - The Disability Rights California and partners hosted two National Disability Employment Awareness Month Celebration events, one in Northern California and the other in Southern California. The CECD coordinated each event and drew local elected officials and the business community to assist in building capacity and provide firsthand testimonials in hiring and retaining employees that have disabilities.
- **The event was designed to:**
 - Breakdown the myths of hiring individuals with disabilities
 - Educate on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives to assist in onboarding individuals with disabilities
 - The benefits of hiring a qualified, talented and hardworking workforce

- Share best practices and build employers capacity to hire a workforce during the pandemic including tax incentives and reimbursement programs
 - Educate employers on upcoming legislation
- Community conversations
 - Coalition members and partners held 17 community conversations--informal virtual or in-person gatherings where participants shared ideas and experiences, engaged in a dialogue that highlights common goals and develops understanding.
 - We hope these conversations will be a launch pad for developing action items that we, together as a community, can achieve to bring us closer to our goals of advancing disability employment in California.
- **Here are some questions that participants discussed:**
 - What barriers have you (or the people with disabilities in your life) experienced in accessing the things needed to prepare for employment, find a job, or participate in the workplace?
 - In an ideal world, what types of supports would be available to people with disabilities to help with getting or keeping a job?
 - What do people with disabilities need to return or enter the workforce as California recovers from COVID-19?
 - How can employers improve their hiring and recruitment practices to be more welcoming, inclusive and accessible?
 - What can agencies, partners and service providers do to better meet the needs of disabled job seekers and employers?
- Best Practices
 - Consistent and Continued Relationship Building-Local, Regional, and Statewide
 - Resource and Funding Development Partnership-Diverse and Multi-pronged
 - Joint Partnership Solicitation
 - Creation and coordination of Special Committee's-Job Developer's Network and Grant Solicitation Committee
 - Braiding and leveraging of funding for Apprenticeship, On the Job Training, Paid Work Experience/Internship Vocational Training and support services
 - Development of CECD's ability to act as lead on DEI initiatives and providing technical assistance

- Building Workforce Development Boards One-Stop/AJCC Staff's special population capacity and knowledge
 - Building the CECD's capacity and knowledge of the Workforce Developments Board/AJCCs, DOR and partners CBOs services and programs
 - Coordinate Regional Collaborative Meetings to Support our shared clients with disabilities
 - Forum to educate Employers on the myths of hiring individuals with disabilities, the expense of accommodations and the value of hiring individuals that meet the diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives
- Speaker Marcus Villa, Disability Rights of California (DRC) Senior Advocate
 - Specific service is employment, prior to current role, was a Program Director for a school that focused on neurodiversity, helping people to transition into the workforce.
 - DRC is working intersectional with State, Federal, and organizational levels.
 - Working at the leadership level talking to collaborators across platforms. Talking to business, education, and community leaders.
 - Breaking down barriers to help individuals' transition into employment.
 - DRC helps with the challenges accessing the different State or Federal resources.
 - Disability Rehabilitation Resources
 - Navigating SSI or SSDI
- Speaker Scott Richmond
 - Working on getting Legislation passed so that State Departments can order LEAP Lists directly. The State Personnel Agency has been requiring that Departments receive a blended list. The hiring authority is unaware the candidate is LEAP Eligible.
 - Governor Newsom signed that bill on September 30th, and it will become effective in January 2023.
 - Making is possible for Departments to actively seek people with disabilities.
 - Limited Examination and Appointment Program (LEAP) – Paid internship with State Employers for individuals with disabilities.

Report from Regional Manager

- October 27, 2022 SBRO office is coordinating a Speaker Panel on this topic. “Covid-19 Disability Employment Tools for Inclusion and Success.”
- SCDD San Bernardino Regional Office is fully staffed
 - Matoya Terrel, new Quality Assurance (QA) Project Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)
 - Employment Development Department for 13 years
 - Disability Insurance Programming Manager I in Riverside and San Bernardino Offices
 - Parent of a teenager with Autism
 - 30 IPS Interviewers have been recruited
 - Seeking additional Interviewers - Independent Contractors in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Bishop Counties.
 - 14 are returning IPS Interviewers from the 2021 IPS Cycle.
 - SBRO during the IPS 2022-23 Cycle covers 3 Regional Centers
 - Kern Regional Center
 - Tri-County Regional Center
 - Inland Regional Center
 - Development of Heat Map
 - 2022-23 In-Person Survey Cycle
 - Participants are selected at randomly by DDS
 - Survey is over 100 questions
 - Survey can be conducted virtually online by Zoom or In-Person with an interviewer at their home, program, or wherever they choose to meet.
 - SCDD SBRO is working with The San Bernardino County Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Team to conduct Law Enforcement training. By teaching a section on developmental disabilities. This 40-hour course the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department has available for all incoming police officers.
 - Next training will be held on October 25, 2022
 - In February 2022, SCDD SBRO started the Self-Advocacy Council (SAC).
 - Members have been working on a Self-Advocacy Facebook Network and development of a flyer for being in more Self-Advocates into the group.
 - SAC is a group for Self-Advocates
 - Next meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2022

- Work Incentives partnered with the Social Security Office.
- SCDD SBRO has been working with Inland Regional Center Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Program.
 - Problems with meeting a Quorum for SDAC meetings. Without quorum voting cannot take place and items are not moved.
 - Working on a more proactive outreach of SDAC meeting agenda.
- In October SCDD SBRO will be conducting a presentation with Autism Society of the Inland Empire called “Let’s talk about Employment.”

Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda

- RAC member Risser is interested in working with State Council on educating people about the different work incentives for SSI and social security supplemental income (SSDI).
- RAC member Halstead mentions the struggle of transportation for individuals once employment has been secured. Depending on the type of transportation that is used. This can cause the employee to be late to work, at no fault of the employee but rather due to transportation service.
- SCDD SBRO Regional Advisory Committee has vacant seats
 - (1) San Bernardino County
 - (2) Riverside County
 - (1) Mono County
 - (1) Inyo County (In March 2023)
- Dustlyne Beavers motion to have next RAC meeting Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 4:00pm - 5:00pm, Cathy Rosas 2nd's motion. Motion passes.



Meeting adjourns

- Dustlyne Beavers motion to adjourn meeting, Ryan Nelson 2nd's, Meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 13, 2022 from 4:00pm – 5:00pm.