

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities Bay Area Office**  
**Community Outreach &**  
**Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**  
**Networking 6:15-6:30 PM Meeting 6:30-9:00 PM**  
**This is a Teleconference and Zoom meeting.**

Per [Senate Bill 189](#), teleconferencing restrictions are waived during the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the public may participate telephonically or by Zoom from any location. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found at least 10 days prior to the meeting at: [www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/).

**Join by Zoom:**

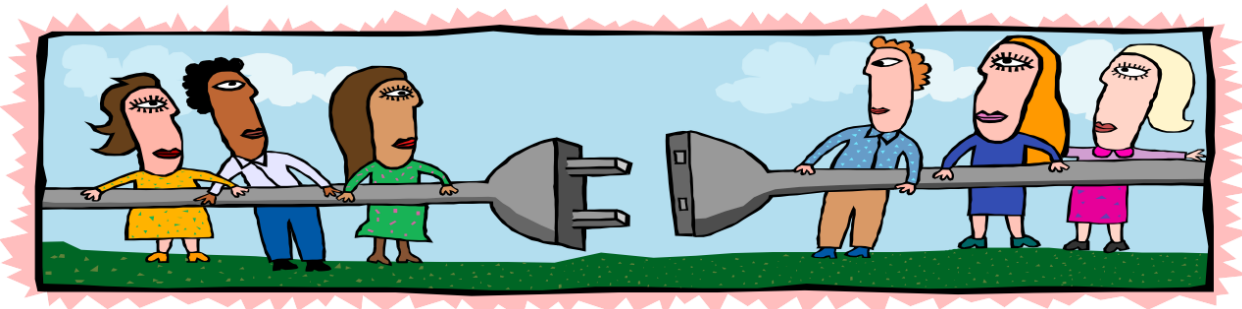
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86856611802?pwd=TnRMVHY1QUhxWVAvVlNiWWkwcGN2dz09>

**Or by Telephone, US Toll-free:** (877) 853-5257 or (888) 475-4499

Meeting ID: 868 5661 1802 Passcode: 493170

**Collaboration is key!** We invite members of the community to share input, issues and concerns. **All are welcome.** Featured this meeting:  
2023 policy priorities and policy work update, RAC Member updates, and more!

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f) and SB 189, individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact us at **510-286-0439** or [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov), at least five business days prior to the meeting.



**Consejo Estatal de Discapacidades del Desarrollo del Área de la Bahía**  
**Alcance Comunitario Y**  
**Reunión del Comité Asesor Regional**

**Miércoles, 22 de febrero de 2023**

**Oportunidad de red 6:15-6:30PM Reunión 6:30-9:00PM**

**Esta es una teleconferencia y una reunión de Zoom.**

Según el proyecto de ley [189 del Senado](#), las restricciones a las teleconferencias se eliminan durante la pandemia COVID-19. Los miembros del público pueden participar telefónicamente o por Zoom desde cualquier lugar. Los formatos accesibles de todos los programas y materiales se pueden encontrar al menos 10 días antes de la reunión en:

[www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/).

**Únase por Zoom:**

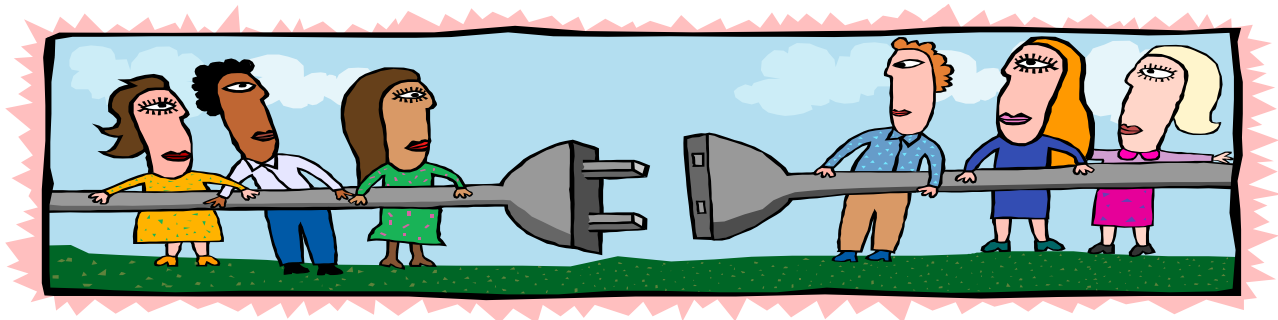
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**O por teléfono, número gratuito de EE. UU.:** (877) 853-5257 o (888) 475-4499

ID de la reunión: 868 5661 1802      Contraseña: 493170

**¡La colaboración es clave!** Invitamos a los miembros de la comunidad a compartir aportes, cuestiones y preocupaciones. **Todos son bienvenidos.** Destacado en esta reunión: ¡Prioridades de políticas y actualización del trabajo de políticas para el 2023, actualizaciones de los miembros del RAC y más!

**Información:** De conformidad con las Secciones 11123.1 y 11125(f) del Código de Gobierno y la SB 189, las personas con discapacidades que requieren formatos alternativos accesibles de la agenda y materiales relacionados y/o auxiliares/servicios para participar en esta reunión deben contactarnos al 510-286-0439 o [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov), al menos cinco días hábiles antes de la reunión.





## STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (SCDD)

### BAY AREA REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC) MEETING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH NOTICE & AGENDA\*



**Date** Wednesday, February 22, 2023



**Time** Networking 6:15pm – 6:30p, Meeting 6:30pm – 9:00pm



**Locations** This is Zoom meeting. Members of the public may participate telephonically, or by Zoom from any location.

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#### **Join by Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86856611802?pwd=TnRMVHY1QUhxWVAvVINiWWkwcGN2dz09>

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### 6:30p Call to Order

Introductions / Establishment of Quorum

Grigsby



### 6:35p Approval of the November 2022 Meeting Minutes

Grigsby



### 6:40p Public Comment

An invitation to provide the public an opportunity to comment and/or present information to the Committee on **any matter that is not on the agenda**. Each public member has up to 3 minutes to speak. Written requests will be considered first. The Committee will provide a public comment period not to exceed 5 minutes total for all public comments prior to action on any agenda item. Legislative office elected officials or staff may also introduce themselves or provide comment.



### 6:55p 2023 Policy Priority Updates

Garcia & Grigsby

Hear an overview of policy priorities, bills, and proposals for 2023 from the State Council, Children Now, and Disability Rights of CA. Learn how you can track progress and get involved for a productive year ahead in advocacy.



### 7:40p Additional Legislative Office Comments

Grigsby



An invitation for legislative offices in attendance to provide brief statements, comments on emerging issues, or updates impacting their constituents from disability communities.



**7:50p Community Reports**

**Grigsby**

- People First Report
- Regional Center Reports
- County Developmental Disabilities Councils Reports



**8:15p Member Reports: SCDD Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) & SCDD Councilmembers**

**Garcia & Grigsby**

Hear updates from RAC members and Councilmembers on their regional and statewide advocacy work, and their priorities.



**8:50p Other Announcements  
& Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

**Grigsby**

An opportunity of members of the community to bring up ideas, needs, issues and concerns.



**9:00p Meeting Adjourned**

**Grigsby**



**\*All times indicated, and the order of business are approximate and subject to change. Any agenda items have the potential to be brought for a vote.**



**CONSEJO ESTATAL DE DISCAPACIDADES DEL DESARROLLO (SCDD)**  
REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ ASESOR REGIONAL (RAC) DEL ÁREA DE LA BAHÍA Y ALCANCE  
COMUNITARIO  
**NOTICIAS Y AGENDA\***



**Fecha** Miércoles, 22 de febrero, 2023



**Hora** Oportunidad de red 6:15pm – 6:30pm, Reunión 6:30pm – 9:00pm



**Ubicación** Esta es una teleconferencia y reunión de Zoom. Los miembros del público pueden participar telefónicamente o por Zoom desde cualquier lugar.

Según el [proyecto de ley 189 del Senado](#), las restricciones a las teleconferencias se eliminan durante la pandemia COVID-19. Los formatos accesibles de todos los programas y materiales se pueden encontrar al menos 10 días antes de la reunión en: [www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/).

Esta reunión será subtitulada en vivo y tendrá interpretación en español.

**Únase por zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86856611802?pwd=TnRMVHY1QUhxWVAvVINiWWkwcGN2dz09>

**O por teléfono, número gratuito de EE. UU. (solo voz):** (877) 853-5257 o (888) 475-4499

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Para más información, póngase en contacto con el Consejo Estatal de Discapacidades del Desarrollo Oficina Regional del Area de la Bahía al, 510-286-0439 o [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov).

De conformidad con las Secciones 11123.1 y 11125(f) del Código Gubernamental y la Orden Ejecutiva N-29-20, las personas con discapacidades que requieran formatos alternativos accesibles de la agenda y los materiales de la reunión relacionados y/o ayudas/servicios



auxiliares para participar en esta reunión deben comunicarse al 510-286-0439 o enviar un correo electrónico a bayarea@scdd.ca.gov, al menos 5 (cinco) días hábiles antes de la reunión.



### **6:30p Comienza la Reunión**

**Presentaciones / Establecimiento de Quórum**

**Grigsby**



**6:35p Aprobación del Acta de la Asamblea de Noviembre del 2022 Grigsby**



### **6:40p Comentario Publico**

Una invitación para brindar al público la oportunidad de comentar y/o presentar información al Comité sobre **cualquier asunto que no esté en la agenda**. Cada miembro del público tendrá 3 minutos para hablar. Las solicitudes por escrito se considerarán primero. El Comité proporcionará un período de comentario público que no exceda los 5 minutos en total para todos los comentarios públicos antes de la acción sobre cualquier punto de la agenda. Los funcionarios electos o el personal de la oficina legislativa también pueden presentarse o hacer comentarios.



**6:55p 2023 Actualizaciones de prioridades de políticas**

**Garcia & Grigsby**

Escuche un resumen de las prioridades de políticas, proyectos de ley y propuestas para 2023 del Consejo Estatal, Children Now y Disability Rights of CA. Aprenda cómo puede seguir el progreso y participar durante un año productivo en la abogacía.





### **7:40p Comentarios Adicionales de las Oficinas Legislativas**

**Grigsby**

Una invitación para que las oficinas legislativas presentes proporcionen declaraciones breves, comentarios sobre temas emergentes o actualizaciones.



### **7:50p Informes de la Comunidad**

**Grigsby**

- Informes de “Personas Primero”
- Informes del Centro Regional
- Informes de los Consejos de Discapacidades del Desarrollo del Condado



### **8:15p Informes de Miembros: Comité Asesor Regional (RAC) del Area de la Bahía y miembros del Consejo Estatal de Discapacidades del Desarrollo (SCDD)**

**Garcia & Grigsby**

Escuche las actualizaciones de los miembros del RAC y los miembros del Consejo sobre su trabajo regional y estatal, y sus prioridades.



### **8:50p Otros Anuncios Y elementos de la agenda para reuniones futuras**

**Grigsby**

Una oportunidad para que los miembros de la comunidad aporten ideas, necesidades, problemas e inquietudes.



**9:00p Fin de Reunión**

**Grigsby**

**\* Todos los horarios indicados y el orden del día son aproximados y están sujetos a cambios. Cualquier punto de la agenda tiene el potencial de ser sometido a votación.**



**State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)  
Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting  
November 30, 2022 Minutes **DRAFT****

**Main Location:** This meeting was held through Zoom (video call or call-in only)

**Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83595517176?pwd=bXdqMm1KTEtkc2JYNGN2VVNpV3ZJdz09>

**Meeting ID:** 835 9551 7176 **Passcode:** 388093

**Committee Members Attending through Zoom:** Sascha Bittner, Francisco Garcia, Elizabeth Grigsby, John Marble, Regina Woodliff.

**Committee Members Absent:** Jennifer Fung, Marla Silversmith, Florence Wong.

**SCDD Staff:** Sheraden Nicholau, Gabriela Solval, Renee Bauer, Bridget Kolakosky, Scarlett von Thenen, Veronica Bravo, and Valerie Buell.

**Accessibility Assistance:** Interpreter Adriana, Interpreter Arturo, Captioner Sophia, Captioner Carolyn, and Support Staff Eunice.

**Guests Attending in person or through Zoom:** Vi Ibarra, Lisa Kleinbub, Patrick McKay, Sara Desumala, Angel Ng, Ana Acosta, Lorena G., Jim, Paula S., Kecia Weller, Erica Cruz, Neil Jacobson, Sandra Van Scotter, Eric Zigman.

**6:31p** Chair Elizabeth Grigsby called the meeting to order. Valerie Buell reviewed housekeeping: Zoom functions, chat, and interpretation services, and then took roll call of RAC members.

**6:39p** Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 23, 2022:  
Moved: Sasha Bittner Seconded: Elizabeth Grigsby  
Roll Call Vote: All Ayes

**6:41p** Public Comments: No public comments were made.

**6:55p** Sheraden Nicholau and Bridget Kolakosky gave a recap of the Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee's work in Fiscal Year 2021-2022, highlights and outputs from the State Council, and information on the State Council's policy planning for 2023. Some highlights were:

- Sheraden gave a brief slideshow summary of work done by the Bay Area Regional Office and Regional Advisory Committee, showing pages included in the meeting packet.
- Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director for Policy and Public Affairs, and Veronica Bravo, Policy Analyst, introduced themselves giving brief overviews of their time with SCDD and duties, and then shared a power point on a summary of the policy outputs and work done by the State Council.
  - "There Should Be A Law Contest" encouraged everyone to participate in changing the law and generated several ideas. This online form will now be up year-round to collect community feedback.
    - The 2021 submitted ideas submitted brought three bill ideas that were made into legislation. Two passed and one is being considered for 2023.
    - There were over 100 submitted ideas in 2022 from across the state, with 11 ideas submitted in Spanish.
  - In February 2023, SCDD will identify policy priorities with the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC).
  - Many experts are predicting a slowing of the economy, and a potential recession, so there is an expectation there will be less money available for new initiatives. Advocates will need to be focused on key priorities.
  - There are also many new legislators in office in CA, which impact votes and priorities.
- Questions & Answers Highlights:
  - Once new legislative members are sworn in, how does SCDD get to know them and their priorities?

- We look at what they said while running for office and we arrange to meet with them, community advocates meet with them, and we invite them to attend RAC meetings to hear from their constituents.
- Electeds need to hear from the community early and often, and this helps them prioritize their constituents.
- Is there a need for a bill that authorizes funds to upgrade regional centers' information and technology (IT) systems and to better integrate practices and procedures? And who does that cost benefits analysis?
  - This is a hot topic for both Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and regional centers. DDS has plans to update IT systems that will impact regional centers and people served. It will take years; the target is by 2025. It should include client-centered functions with data that is consistent between regional centers.
  - Updates like these often do not need legislation to push forward a fix, but sometimes legislation can help force change. Usually budget allocations are set for large projects like these.
- Ideas from attendees and reminder that ideas can be submitted any time to SCDD through a [Qualtrics form](#).
  - Asset restrictions (for benefits programs like SSI, SSDI, and Medi-Cal) are an issue. We should look at the issues that come with that and what we can do.
  - Advocate for the decoupling of SSI/SSDI from Medicare/Medicaid (Medi-Cal).
  - Expand the Lanterman Act to be more inclusive for those who need it.
  - Involve our young adults in more legislation and change.

### **7:51p Community Partner Reports:**

- **People First Highlights:**

- Patrick McKay, President Bay Area People First (BAPF) and of the Northern Alameda People First (NAPF) Chapter:

- BAPF met on Monday November 28 and continue to have Zoom chapter meetings. The group is working on the calendar for 2023 meeting dates and will share that when it is done. They will have a meeting to discuss new goals for 2023 and are inviting people to these meetings in the upcoming year.
  - Regina Woodliff, Bay Area People First (BAPF):
    - We have invited Sheraden Nicholau to our December 12 meeting, and we will discuss good planning practices during meetings.
- **Regional Center Report Highlights.**
  - Eric Zigman gave the report for Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC):
    - The social/recreation program information will be up on the GGRC website soon; these services are important to people's health and it is important that the community know about them.
    - October 18<sup>th</sup>, the GGRC Board of Directors passed a new strategic plan. Many members of the community gave input. Many of the goals from the previous plan have been included and are expanding, including investing in staff.
  - Lisa Kleinbub gave the report for Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB):
    - More on social recreation program info: There is funding for community-based organizations for programs for youth and young adults. Getting social and recreational programs back has been a challenge and we need more inclusive programs.
    - The most recent directive from DDS involves continuing some availability of remote services for people who have day services during the next year, due to workforce shortages.
      - We are asking providers to focus on those community members who want to be back in person for services.

- When looking at expanding services, California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal ([CalAIM](#)) will be able to provide services to more people.
- **Developmental Disabilities (DD) Councils Report Highlights:**
  - Vi Ibarra gave the report for the Contra Costa Developmental Disabilities Council:
    - Back in spring, Contra Costa Health Services was awarded a grant from DSS to expand the Health Ambassador Program. Over the summer, health ambassadors were hired and there are currently four working part-time who are regional center clients and are working with the larger team doing outreach in our county to improve health outcomes for community members.
    - There will be no meeting in December.

**8:25p Member Reports:** RAC Members and Councilmembers reported on their regional and statewide advocacy work and priorities. Highlights were:

- Sascha Bittner: Working on many of the things we talked about today on a federal level. She has been approached by Speaker Pelosi, and will be advising Congress, the President, and working on federal policy on behalf of all Americans with disabilities as a Councilmember with the National Council on Disability.
- Francisco Garcia: Working with agencies that speak Spanish and that serve the Spanish-language community, so we are ready for next year for support groups and events. We are focusing on fair hearings, conservatorship, affordable housing, and we need to be ready for the year ahead.
- Elizabeth Grigsby: Partnered with the State Council Bay Area Regional Office in providing a two-part training to the ACLU Northern California Chapter on access, equity, and inclusion issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- Regina Woodliff: Kecia Weller and she are working to form a youth group to help get more youth involved in community advocacy.
- Florence Wong: The San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities celebrated Disability Awareness Month in October by displaying

artwork from artists with disabilities in our community. On October 4th the Commission on Disabilities' president presented the commission's work throughout the year to the Board of Supervisors and this can be seen on [YouTube](#). The Abuse Roundtable met on October 27<sup>th</sup> and heard an update on the community wellness pilot program at San Mateo Police Department (SMPD).

**8:47p Other Announcements:**

- Sara Desumala inquired if there will be any hybrid meetings in the future.
  - It is something we will look into, and it will also depend on COVID numbers and the state's emergency orders.
- Valerie Buell shared: The next RAC meeting will be February 22, 2023.

**8:52p Meeting Adjourned.**



# Advocacy and Legislative Process

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Overview for 2023



# The Legislative Process

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- ▶ The State Legislature has 80 Assembly Members and 40 Senate Members.
- ▶ There are four steps in the Legislative Process:
  - Step 1: **The idea**
  - Step 2: **Assigning a bill number**
  - Step 3: **Amendments**
  - Step 4: **Governor Signature**

## Step 1: **The idea.**

Ideas for legislation come from different sources, but a member of the State Legislature is who champions the idea as a bill.

## Step 2: **Assigning a bill number.**

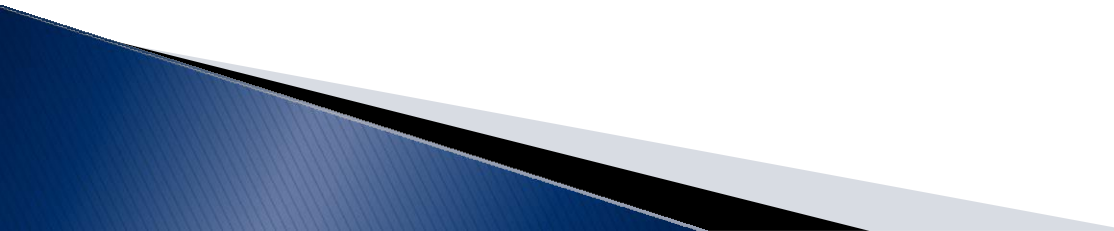
The idea is written into a bill and the Legislator introduces the bill to the public, this is when it is given a bill number.

## Step 3: **Amendments.**

The bill then goes to policy committees to be reviewed, improved with amendments and then voted on in a committee hearing.

## Step 4: **Governor Signature.**

If the bill passes all of the needed votes in the Senate and Assembly, it will go to the Governor to sign or veto. If he signs the bill it becomes law, if he vetoes the bill then the bill fails.



# How does SCDD Track State Legislation?

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The State Council's Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) staff reviews all bills that are introduced; there are about 1,500 introduced each year.

We add bills that are most important to the following lists:

- ▶ Support
- ▶ Watch
- ▶ Oppose
- ▶ No Position

If you see a bill that you think might be important please let us know.



# Important Dates & What to Expect This Year

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## **February 17<sup>th</sup>**

Bill introduction deadline

## **June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Budget deadline

## **March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 10<sup>th</sup>**

Spring recess

## **July 14<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup>**

Summer recess

## **Mid-March – 1st week in May**

Committee season

## **September 14<sup>h</sup>**

Last day of 2023 Legislative session

## **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

House of origin deadline



# HOW DO I FIND MY STATE LEGISLATOR? (1 / 2)

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- ▶ California State Legislature:

<http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

(to track bills)

- ▶ California State Senate:

<https://www.senate.ca.gov/>

- ▶ California State Assembly:

<https://www.assembly.ca.gov/>

- ▶ Find Your California Legislator here:

[http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/legislators\\_and\\_districts.htm](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators_and_districts.htm)

# HOW DO I FIND MY FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE? (2 / 2)

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- ▶ U.S. Congress Official Website  
<https://www.congress.gov/>  
(to track bills and know daily activity)
- ▶ U.S. House of Representative's Directory:  
<https://www.house.gov/representatives>
- ▶ U.S. Senate Directory:  
[https://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)



## Policy Priorities 2023-24

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### **PROTECTING AND ENHANCING CIVIL RIGHTS**

Every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) has the right to self-determination, equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency no matter their disability.

*The Council will work to ensure civil rights, including identification and reduction of racial and ethnic inequalities and disparities, are protected and enhanced and full implementation of state/federal policies including but not limited to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule, Every Student Succeeds Act and Achieving Better Life Experience Act.*

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### **GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

Every student with I/DD has the right to a quality inclusive education with their peers that prepares them for post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment (CIE). Students with disabilities must be provided the same opportunities for learning, in the classroom and online, as students without disabilities.

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to be employed in CIE. Individuals must have access to information, benefits counseling, transition planning, job training, career exploration and information and support for inclusive post-secondary education. New or expanded pathways to CIE must be developed and supported, including apprenticeships and internships.

*The Council will work to ensure the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Every Student Succeeds Act and other federal and state policies to ensure that students with disabilities are provided the services and supports needed to receive quality inclusive education.*

*The Council will work to ensure the full and robust implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and California's Employment First Law, that policies and practices improve opportunities for and incentivize CIE, to create hiring incentives and supports for all employers and contractors and make the state a model employer.*

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### **IDENTIFYING & PRIORITIZING EMERGING ISSUES IN THE I/DD COMMUNITY**

Every person with a developmental disability should not have to deal with problems of that arise due to the emergence of inequality issues in the community. Events in our every day lives, both due to policy changes and unforeseen events, have the ability to cause unintended consequences for the I/DD community. These issues must be identified and acted upon swiftly to ensure as little harm as possible is inflicted.



*The Council will work to ensure any and all emerging issues including but not limited to dealing with disparity across all I/DD issues, barriers to participating in a community setting, and roadblocks to access for people with I/DD are dealt with through policy changes. The Council will work to ensure the Self Determination Ombudsperson program at the Department of Developmental Services uses its authority to ensure people with I/DD become successful participants in the Self Determination Program.*

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## **PROMOTING ACCESS TO QUALITY SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY**

Every person with I/DD should have the ability to fully participate in their communities. Receiving quality, individualized services is the cornerstone for people with I/DD to be safe, healthy and to promote self-determination, interdependence and inclusion. Community-based services/supports require adequate wages for providers; therefore, the state must restore rates. Disparities in access, outcomes and quality for services and supports must be addressed. Complexities in the service delivery systems must be reduced.

*The Council will work to continue to restore the Department of Developmental Services programs cut in 2009, to make meaningful improvements to the service delivery system to reduce disparities, increase transparency and accountability and increase quality outcomes, support efforts to provide adequate wages to providers for inclusive and quality supports, and work to ensure successful implementation of the Self-Determination Program.*

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## **ENSURING SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY**

Every person with I/DD has a right to be safe and must be provided emergency preparedness training and training in personal safety. Law enforcement personnel, first responders, emergency medical professionals and the judicial system must be trained in how to work with people with I/DD (including those who are suspects, victims or witnesses of crimes) during the course of their duties.

*The Council will work to ensure people with I/DD are safe, free from abuse and neglect and have access to services and supports in their communities during all types of disasters or emergencies and an adequate safety net for people in crisis and access to adequate crisis intervention services.*

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## **IMPROVING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY LIVING**

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to live in the community. Permanent, affordable, accessible, safe and sustained housing options must be continually developed. Statewide inclusive living options for individuals with I/DD must be increased and enhanced through access to housing and subsidies that are paired in a timely manner with needed services and supports.

*The Council will work to implement the policy recommendations in the Statewide Strategic Framework for Housing and create a dedicated housing fund to support integrated community housing for people with I/DD.*

**For more information, contact: [scdd@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:scdd@scdd.ca.gov) | 916-263-7919**

# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

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## 2023 Legislative and Policy Priorities



Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director of  
Policy and Public Affairs

Veronica Bravo, Policy Analyst

# 2023 Policy Priorities

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Priorities this year are defined by previous years work; bills in 2022 and 2021

Our Policy Focus in 2023 is:

- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Safety

# 2022 Bills *Returning* in 2023

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- ▶ AB 2920 (2022) comes back as **AB 447** in **2023** (**Arambula**):
  - Creates trial or “pilot” programs in Cal State or University of CA colleges.
  - Purpose is to increase inclusion in colleges and to create college opportunities after high school
- ▶ AB 2547 (2022) comes back as **SB 37** in **2023** (**Caballero**):
  - Rental cash assistance for those at risk of losing their housing
  - Purpose is to prevent homelessness

# SB 639 (2021) Becomes an Employment Priority in 2023

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- ▶ **The 2021 Bill:** Ends below minimum wage pay for persons with disabilities by 2025.
- ▶ **So far in 2023:** SCDD submitted report with recommendations on how to end below minimum wage program and transition persons with disabilities into competitive integrated employment (CIE).
- ▶ **Next in 2023:** Finding an author and create a bill containing the report recommendations.

# Safety via LPPC

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SCDD's Legislative Public Policy Committee (LPPC) will spend time at each of their 2023 meetings exploring systemic public safety, abuse and neglect issues.

Our goal, by the end of 2023, is to build a diverse coalition to advocate for improved safety & identify safety bill ideas for 2024.

Community Partners include:

- ❖ CA Dept of Aging
- ❖ Silence = Violence Network

# 2023 POLITICS AND MONEY

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- ▶ Due to several factors, the economy is not as strong this year as it was last year.
- ▶ Many experts predict a recession. This means there may be less money available.
  - Less money impacts what the state will pass in the legislature and in the state budget process.
- ▶ There are also many new legislators, which impacts votes and priorities.

# Ideas Welcome!

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Remember to add your bill idea to our “*There Should be a Law Contest*”

- You can submit ideas year-round!
- Link found on rotating top banner on home page: <https://scdd.ca.gov/>



## Children Now 2023-24 Health Policy Agenda

### **Legislation requiring health plans to deliver on their promise of access to mental health services.**

Health plans are denying lifesaving care to children. Currently, the statewide [Independent Medical Review \(IMR\) process](#) is available to health plan enrollees if their plan denies, modifies or delays a request for a service as not medically necessary or as experimental or investigational. A consumer must first [file a grievance/complaint with their health plan](#) and participate in a 30-day process with that plan. If the issue is not resolved, consumers may [file an IMR/complaint with the Department of Managed Health Care \(DMHC\)](#). While the IMR process allows for greater oversight of health plans, it places the burden on the consumer and delays or prevents children and youth in California from accessing critical, timely mental health treatment. Language barriers, health literacy, and demanding jobs may prevent some parents from filing IMRs, furthering mental health access inequities. Children Now will sponsor legislation requiring *all* mental health treatment denials for children and youth in California automatically be referred to the IMR process.

**Legislation requiring schools to help students who are abusing drugs.** Education Code §48900 allows school officials discretion in deciding whether to suspend or expel a pupil that unlawfully possessed, used, furnished, or been under the influence of a controlled substance, alcoholic beverage, or intoxicant (48900(c)) or possessed or used tobacco or tobacco products (48900(h)). However, this discretion has not been evenly applied. Over 60 percent of drug related suspensions are of boys, over 75 percent are of socioeconomically disadvantaged students and 59 percent are of youth of color. Children Now is co-sponsoring legislation that would limit the ability for educators to suspend or expel due to illicit drug infractions at school. This bill would require a school district, county office of education, or charter school to establish a public health framework for identifying and referring youth with substance use needs to community-based services including mechanisms or screening/ referral, education on overdose risk and training of school staff.

**Continuing the Medi-Cal Excellence in Early Childhood Outcomes Collaborative or MEECOC Learning Community**, which was launched in February 2022 with the support (and by request) of the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) as a statewide network of stakeholders committed to increasing infant well-visits and closing disparities in infant and perinatal access to care. At its core, our goal is to increase the rates of infant well-visits and preventive services in Medi-Cal, in line with the [Bold Goals: 50x2025](#) and [specific strategies](#) laid out by DHCS. MEECOC has an intentional focus to “decrease the rate of disparities for at least one racial/ethnic group by 10 percent from the 2021 baseline.” The [state recently announced](#) that 2021 health plan performance on children’s domain measures were behind that of other domains (women’s care and chronic conditions), indicating the need for a specific focus on quality improvement for children’s health. The statewide MEECOC Learning Community already has nearly 200 individual members and is made up of a variety of health plans, providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders and advocates from across the state, as well as representatives from DHCS and other state departments. Children Now is excited to continue convening the MEECOC Learning Community in 2023 where participants can share learnings, make connections, and align strengths to test and improve quality of care for infants.



**Supporting implementation of the California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal initiative, or “CalAIM” reforms** that support improvement and transformation of care for Medi-Cal enrollees. Children Now will support and promote the development and implementation of many CalAIM policies and programs, including: new population health management programs that Medi-Cal managed care plans will use to improve systems of care; a new, more intensive level of care coordination, called Enhanced Care Management (ECM), that will launch for children and youth this July; and asthma preventive services and in-home visits by non-licensed professionals and asthma remediation services (Community Supports) benefits which began last year.

**Convening and providing technical assistance** for a workgroup of youth & caregiver representatives who will keep pushing the state to do better for children’s health.

In addition to leading stakeholders to engage with the **Child, Health and Disability Prevention program transition plan**, Children Now will continue work to **monitor the implementation of the Community Health Worker benefit** that went into effect in July 2022. Children Now has helped raise awareness specifically among oral health stakeholders to share comments with the Department of Health Care Services and to meet with Medi-Cal managed care plans that are in charge of educating provider networks and Medi-Cal members about the benefit and how it will be implemented. We will also continue our work to **expand the Medical Dental Referral and Navigation (MDRAN) system to support the work of care coordinators to facilitate access to dental appointments for children enrolled in Medi-Cal**. Lastly, we will continue providing technical assistance and support to several local oral health programs throughout the state that are implementing their community-informed county oral health strategic plans to improve oral health outcomes for children.

**Collaborating with environmental partners on critical issues impacting children** such as lead in drinking water, pesticide spraying notifications, and wildfire air quality. Children Now is co-sponsoring a bill requiring testing of faucets in schools to ensure students are safe from lead in drinking water, in collaboration with the Environmental Working Group.





# 2023 Disability Rights California I/DD Policy Priorities

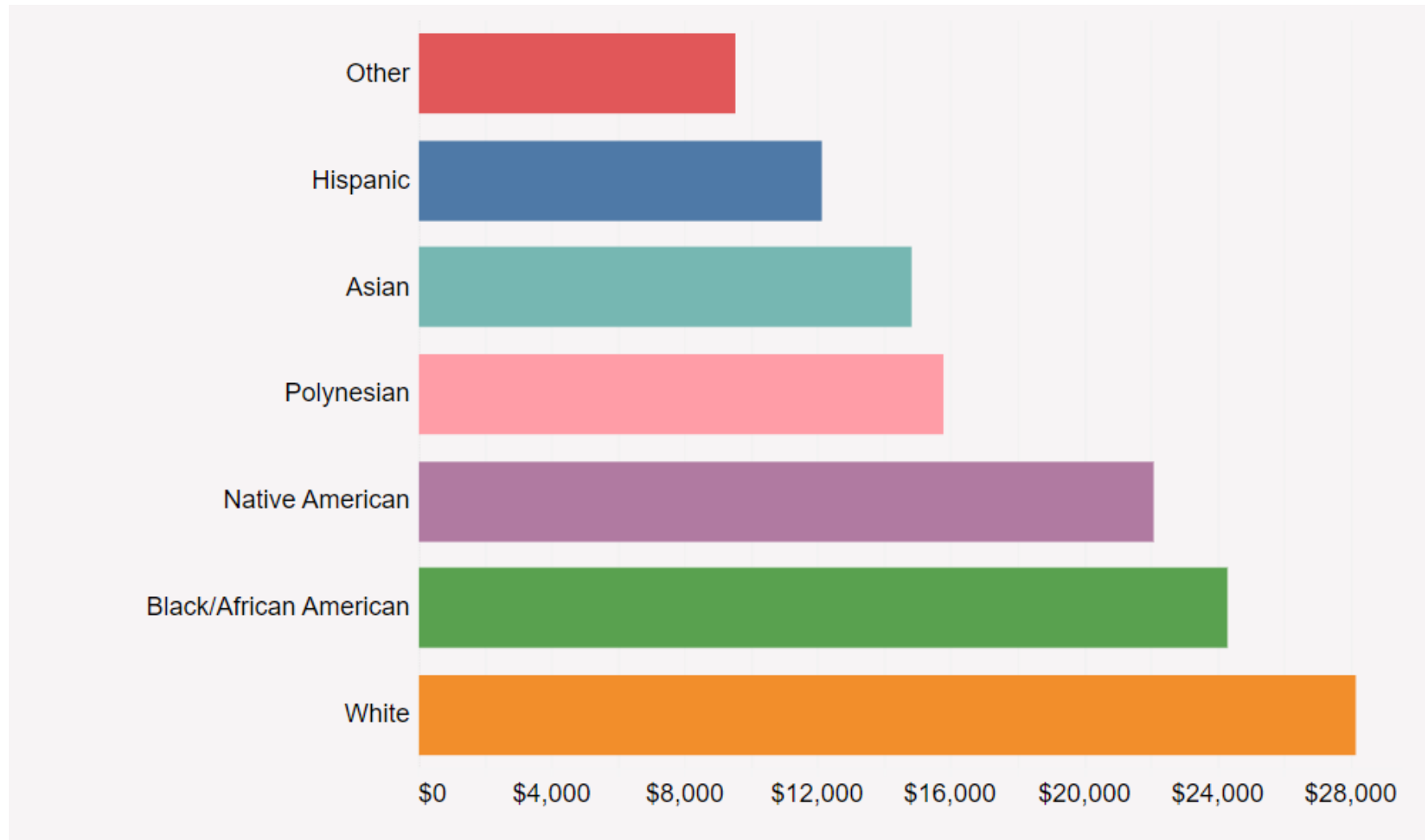
Sabrina Epstein, Policy Analyst

February 22, 2023

# Our priorities this year:

1. Racial and ethnic disparities in regional center services
2. Safety net services
3. Employment First

# *FY 2020-2021 per capita purchase of service data for all regional centers*



# What would change look like to make the regional centers more equitable?

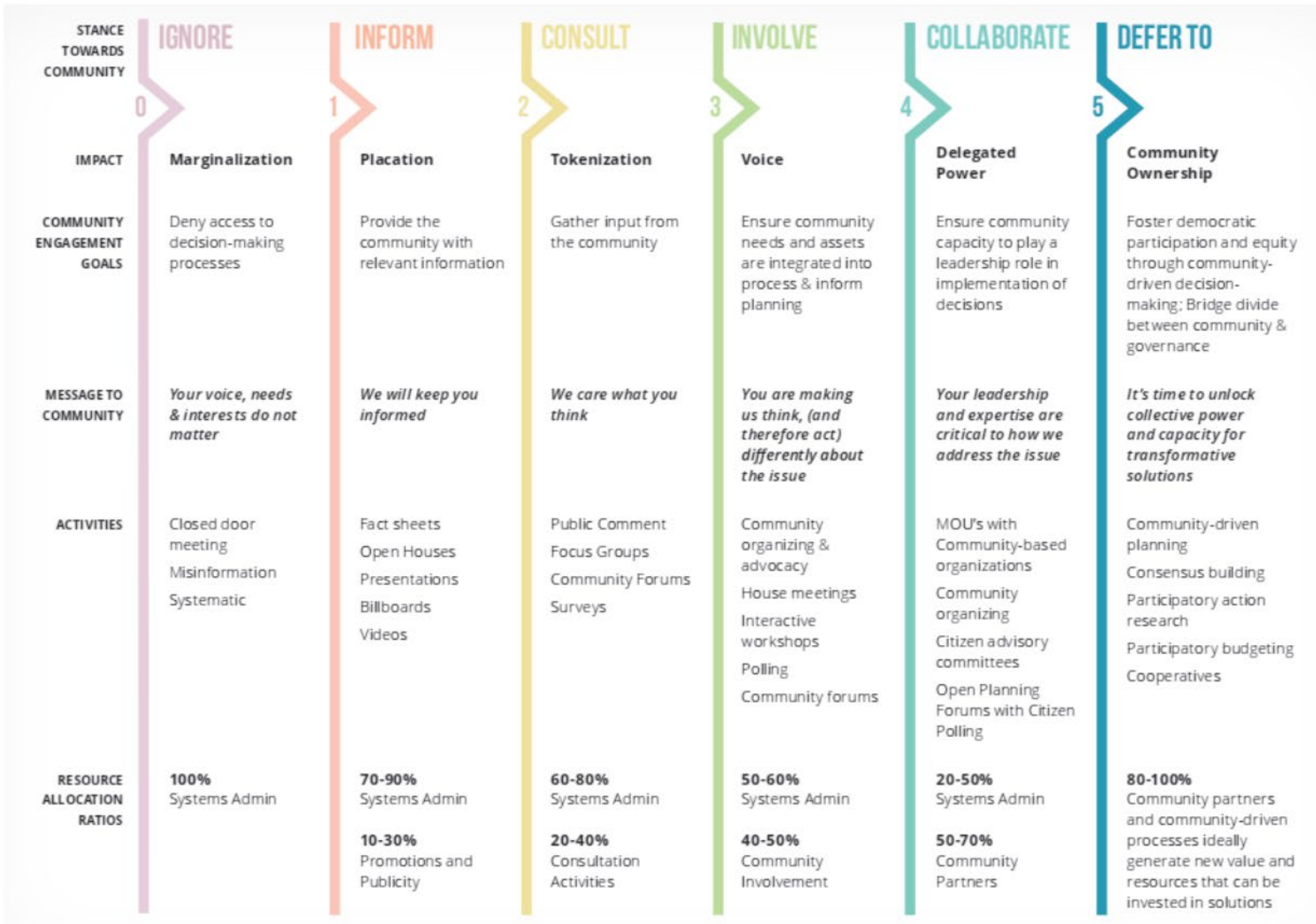
Shifting our focus from navigating the system to transforming it.



Full partnership with those most affected at every level.

<b>Navigation</b>	<b>Transformation</b>
“It’s not us, it’s you”	Changing the system to make it work for everyone
Providing cultural navigators	Incorporating cultural competency and equity into program design from the start
Blaming POC for mistrusting the system	Creating a system that people have a reason to trust
Giving small grants to communities of color to help their own communities	Hiring experts in their own communities to identify and replicate best practices and funding those practices
Holding town halls to inform people of changes to the system	Involving the community in decision-making
Explaining the generic resources system so people understand it better	Removing barriers to shift administrative burden off disabled people and their families







# Community-based participatory research (CBPR)

- Our ask: for the state to fund a **new kind of study** that would include people of color with I/DD as co-leaders in the study design and implementation alongside research experts.
  - CBPR is new to California's I/DD system; not new to California or to I/DD equity work
- This study would look at the **root causes** of disparities in the system.
- This study will be **community-led**, which is missing from current reform attempts. Policies suggested by the study will already have **community buy-in**.

Traditional research	CBPR
Researcher defines the problem	Community identifies problem or works with researcher to identify problem
Academic researcher holds expertise	Expertise includes lived experience
People as subjects	People as participants and collaborators
Community organizations may assist	Community organizations are equal partners with researchers
Researchers control process, data, and interpretation	Researcher and community share control equally
Researchers own data, control use and dissemination	Data is shared, researchers and community decide its use and dissemination
Policy implications are abstract	Policy implications involve input and action from community members

Adapted from Duke Center for Community and Population Health Improvement

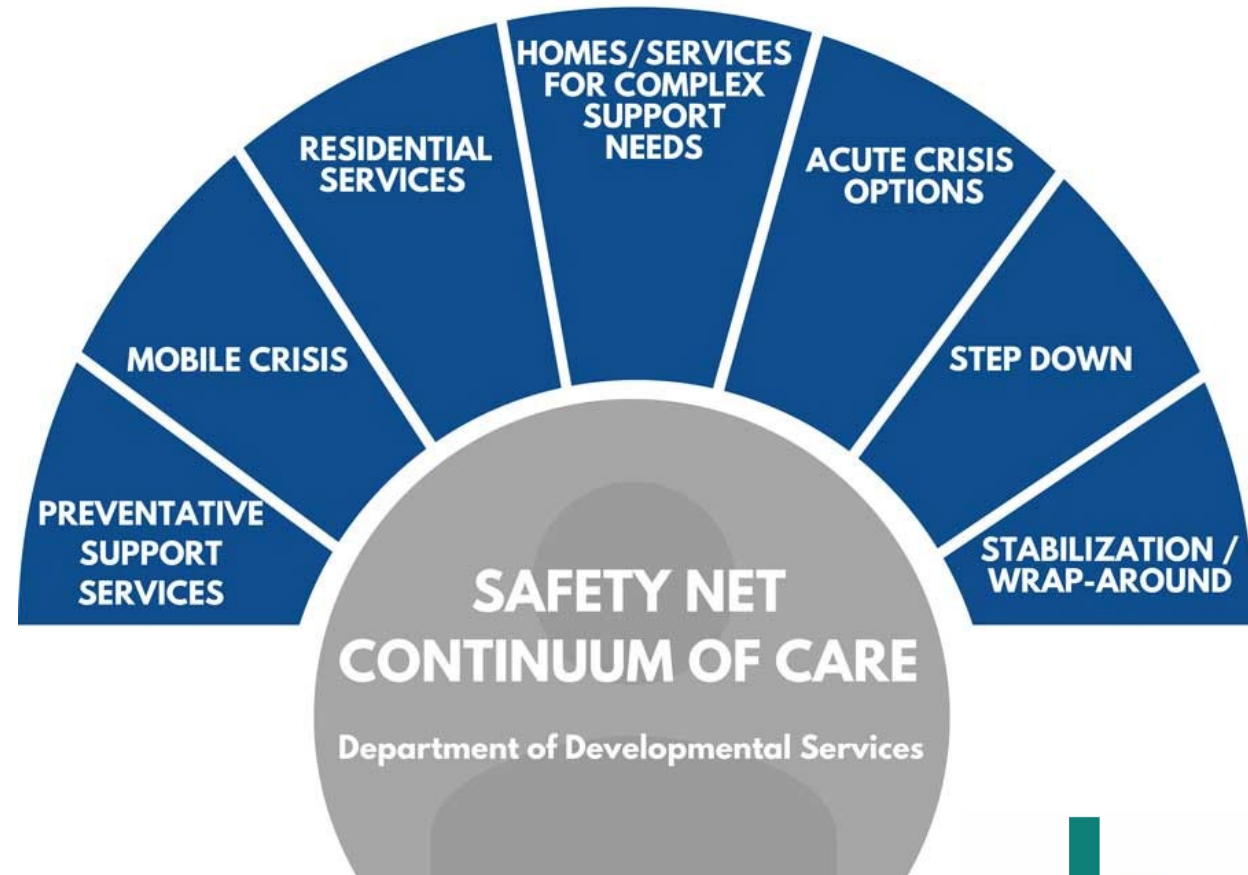
# Some of the issues would include:

- Gatekeeping policies that place the burden on disabled people to seek services from all other possible public systems before regional centers will consider funding them;
- Policies requiring family members to provide unpaid support to disabled loved ones who live with them, regardless of their individual circumstances;
- The broad discretion regional centers have to determine their own guidelines for when, how and for whom services are authorized; and
- The design and implementation of new and restored services.

# Safety Net Services

*The safety net service continuum is broken.*

Our goal is to make the “default” supporting people in the community with adequate services and crisis options to prevent people from entering and getting stuck in restrictive congregate settings.



# Employment First

Our goal is to make competitive integrated employment (CIE) available to all Californians with IDD.

Asking the legislature for:

- An Employment First “Master Plan” to coordinate the work across DDS, DOR, and other state agencies
- A Chief Employment First Officer to oversee the master plan



# Get involved with Disability Rights California

[Sabrina.Epstein@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:Sabrina.Epstein@disabilityrightsca.org)







State Council on Developmental Disabilities



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Gavin Newsom, Governor

• website • [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

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Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 286-0439

**To:** Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Members & Interested Parties  
**From:** State Council on Developmental Disabilities' Bay Area Regional Office  
**Date:** July 22, 2022

**Re:** **2022-2023 Schedule of State Council Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Meetings**

Members of the public are welcomed and encouraged to participate in these Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings telephonically or by Zoom from any location.

Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found at least 10 days prior to the meeting at: [www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/).

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 email us at [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov) or call us at **510.286.0439**, a least five (5) business days before the meeting.

**For all meetings: Networking from 6:15 PM to 6:30 PM, RAC Meeting from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM.**

- September 28, 2022**      Community Outreach Meeting
- November 30, 2022**      Community Outreach Meeting
- February 22, 2023**      Community Outreach Meeting
- April 26, 2023**      Community Outreach Meeting
- June 28, 2023**      Community Outreach Meeting

No Meetings in July or August 2023

*"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."*



**Para:** Miembros del Comité Asesor Regional (RAC) y partes interesadas  
**De:** Oficina Regional del Área de la Bahía  
**Re:** Calendario 2022-2023 de las reuniones del Comité Asesor Regional del Área de la Bahía

**Fecha:** 6 de Julio de 2022

Los miembros del público son bienvenidos y alentados a participar en estas reuniones del Comité Asesor Regional del Área de la Bahía por teléfono o por Zoom desde cualquier lugar.

Los formatos accesibles de todos los programas y materiales se pueden encontrar al menos 10 días antes de la reunión en el siguiente enlace: [www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/](http://www.scdd.ca.gov/bayarea/).

En cumplimiento de las secciones 11123.1 y 11125(f) del Código de Gobierno, las personas con discapacidades que requieran formatos alternativos accesibles de la agenda y materiales relacionados de la reunión y / o ayudas / servicios auxiliares para participar en esta reunión deben comunicarse al 510-286-0439 o [bayarea@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:bayarea@scdd.ca.gov) al menos 5 días hábiles antes de la reunión.

[Todas las reuniones del comité están abiertas al público.](#)

**Oportunidad de red 6:15 pm a 6:30 pm y las reuniones del RAC son de 6:30 pm a 9:00 pm.**

**28 de Septiembre de 2022** Reunión de Alcance Comunitario

**30 de Noviembre de 2022** Reunión de Alcance Comunitario

**22 de Febrero de 2023** Reunión de Alcance Comunitario

**26 de Abril de 2023** Reunión de Alcance Comunitario

**28 de Junio de 2023** Reunión de Alcance Comunitario

No hay reuniones en **Julio y Agosto de 2023**

Revisado: 7/22/2022

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