

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Executive Director Report

July 18, 2023

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Connection is not
an exchange of
information; it is an
exchange of
humanity.

--Sean Stephenson

Overview

- State Plan Update: Adjusting to community needs
- 2023 Council Supported Legislation: Big wins, strong momentum
- Home and Community Based Services: Supporting new rules
- Self-Determination Program: Evaluation
- Climate Change and Energy Reliance: Working with the electric and gas companies

State Plan Update: Adjusting to community needs

- State Plan is SCDD's contract with the federal Administration on Community Living for federal funding
 - The plan reflects the Council's values and how it will bring change in California
- In May, reported SCDD has met almost all the 2023 workplan projected activities and numbers for each objective
 - 4 months early (due September 2023); some 5-year goals met (3 years early)
- State Plan Committee approved adjustments to reflect evolving community needs
 - Some measures already met, so increased Self-Advocacy (Goal 1) & Systems Change (Goal 2),
 - Added activities that had no place to report: SDM-TAP, family advocacy groups/networks, training professionals

2023 Council Supported Legislation: Big wins, strong momentum

- Council supported 18 bills this year. Most of those bills are still moving through the legislative process.
- We won't know the results until the Governor is done signing and vetoing bills mid-October.
- Here is a quick summary of what is happening:
 - 1 bill failed- did not move from its first assigned committee deadline
 - 3 bills that are now 2-year bills (will be considered in January 2024)
 - 2 new bills added to Support
 - 1 bill that we dropped from Support because it became a tax bill
 - = 15 Council-supported bills are waiting for committee hearings (August-Sept)

Home and Community Based Services: Supporting new rules

- Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) are the federal dollars that come from D.C. to California to DDS to regional centers to pay for services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- The federal government proposed a new regulation that would make several changes to HCBS funding, and how providers would operate.
 - At least 80% must be spent on compensation for direct-care workers.
 - Each state would describe how they maintain any waitlist, including the number on the waitlist, and whether people on the waitlist are screened for eligibility. (CA does not have a formal waitlist)
 - Services people receive through HCBS programs must be planned using a person-centered process.
 - States would be required to operate and maintain an electronic incident management system that identifies, reports, and investigates critical incidents.
 - States would be required to create a grievance process for consumers who feel their provider is not meeting their needs as above.
- SCDD submitted comments, thank you Chair Witherspoon, thank you Brian Weisel

Self-Determination Program (SDP): Evaluation

- Self-Determination: a philosophy and a program
- Self-Determination Program (SDP):
 - An alternate way to receive services from regional centers
 - Began June 2018
 - Phase In through June 2021 for 2,500
 - Expansion July 2021 for all regional center consumers
- Law says SCDD shall issue a report to the Legislature
 - How SDP is furthering programs principles: freedom, authority, support, responsibility, confirmation
 - Recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of SDP
- SCDD may report on satisfaction, compare to people in traditional services
- Report due June 30, 2023, thank you to partners DRC, UCLA, UCD, USC

Climate Change and Energy Reliance: Working with the electric and gas companies

- Climate change is resulting in extreme weather
 - Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS)
 - Will likely impact other weather changes
- Possibly life-threatening impacts for people dependent on energy for life, safety, regulation
 - Term used is people with access and functional needs (AFN)
- Began meeting with Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) July 2018, meetings continue
 - PGE, SCE, SDGE
- Current questions:
 - **Can the IOUs can support Californians with AFN in real-time during PSPS events?**
 - **Can IOUs develop a path forward to educate the community about resources people can have to support them before, during, and after an effort?**
- Thank you to Governor's Office of Emergency Services, DRC

THANK YOU!

