

NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

Members of the public may participate in person, or telephonically. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at <u>www.scdd.ca.gov.</u>

MEETING DETAILS:

PHYSICAL LOCATION: Holiday Inn, 300 J St., Sacramento CA 95814

TELECONFERENCE (CALL IN NUMBER): (888)-475-4499 or (877)-853-5257

MEETING ID: 832 4806 5476

PASSCODE: 758409

DATE: July 18, 2023

INFORMAL SOCIALIZING: 9:30 AM - 10 AM

TEAM BUILDING: 10 AM - 10:45 AM

TIME: 10:45 AM – 3:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAIR:

Wesley Witherspoon

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

- Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM
- Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

ltem 5.	CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS Wesley Witherspoon, Council Chair	Page 5
	 A. Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) B. Employment First Committee (EFC) C. Executive Committee D. State Plan Committee (SPC) E. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) 	
ltem 6.	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director	Page 10
	 A. Executive Director Report B. Chief Deputy Director C. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report D. Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report E. CRA/VAS Report F. QA Project Update Report 	
ltem 7.	APPROVAL OF MAY 2023 MINUTES VMTE All	Page 27
ltem 8.	STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT SCDD SSAN Representative Alex Reyes	Page 36
	ONE HOUR LUNCH BREAK	
ltem 9.	CYCLE 46 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS VMTE Kilolo Brodie, State Plan Chair & SCDD Staff	Page 39
Item 10.	EMPLOYMENT FIRST OFFICE	Page 65

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director & Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report

TEN MINUTE BREAK

Item 11. SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM EVALUATION

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director UCLA Tarjan Center & Disability Rights California

Item 12. NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be on September 19, 2023.

Accessibility:

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 contact Yaritza Sanchez at (916)-207-2856 or <u>yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov</u>. Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

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STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public Comment

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JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 5. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chair Report and Committee Reports

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon will provide Councilmembers with an oral report about his recent activities and current priorities for the Council.

SCDD Committee reports have been provided for informational purposes.

Attachments

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) meeting summary for 06/14/23 Employment First Committee (EFC) meeting summary for 06/19/23 Executive Committee meeting summary for 06/20/23 State Plan Committee (SPC) meeting summary for 06/22/23

Handout

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 07/17/23. The meeting summary will be provided as a handout.

AGENDA ITEM 5A.

STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 14, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) met on June 14th via Zoom. Co-Chair Rick Wood reported on the work of the SSDAC Workgroup since the last meeting. Members discussed the desire for more collaboration between local SDACs, self-governance, Bagley Keene training, and ways local SDACs were using implementation funds. Co-Chair Wood reported a vacancy on the SSDAC Workgroup and encouraged members to email him if they were interested in joining.

Co-Chair Rick Wood presented a new reporting tool for members to provide updates to the SSDAC on the status of SDP implementation at their Regional Center. Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on the SDP-related activities the Council is engaging in, including information about the status of the SDP Evaluation Report, a collaborative effort between UCLA, SCDD, and its federal partners. Staff from DDS provided members with an update on SDP-related activities, including relevant updates on directives, the Office of the Ombudsperson, the FMS crisis, and upcoming areas of focus.

Co-Chairs Rick Wood and Viviana Barnwell provided an update on the SSDAC Best Practices Platform and Submission Survey. Members were provided with a demonstration on how to submit a best or promising practice. Additionally, members discussed strategies to address the SSDAC's priority to reduce disparities in participation in the SDP. The Committee moved to delegate the SSDAC Workgroup to determine if a Disparities Workgroup should be formed and define the parameters for how it should operate.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the February 2023 Minutes
- Delegated the formation of a Disparities Workgroup to the SSDAC Workgroup

AGENDA ITEM 5B.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 19, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on June 19thth. The focus of the meeting was to review and approve the EFC Annual Report.

The Employment First Committee reviewed the draft 2022 EFC Annual Report at their May 4th meeting. However, changes/edits from members came in after the packet was posted. These changes were not reflected in the presentation. Therefore, committee members requested that the changes be incorporated into the report and brought back to the Committee for consideration at a new meeting.

The meeting concluded with members voting to postpone the vote to approve the EFC Annual Report until all requested edits were finalized and included in the report. Committee members will vote to approve the finalized report at the next EFC meeting on July 13th.

Future Meeting Dates

July 13^{th,} and October 12th.

AGENDA ITEM 5C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 20, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on June 20, 2023. The meeting's focus centered on one sponsorship request, four conflict of interest waiver requests, an SCDD budget update, an update on the Executive Director evaluation process, and a presentation on the 2022 Employment First Committee annual report.

Executive Director Carruthers provided Committee members with a report sharing updates on Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) new regulations, an update to Bagley Keene rules after the pandemic, information on the Self-Determination Program Evaluation, and SCDD's collaborative work with electric and gas companies on climate change. He also welcomed SCDD's new budget officer Lynn Villoria and announced that he was nominated for President of the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the February 2023 meeting minutes.
- Sponsorship request from the Special Needs Resource Foundation of San Diego.
- Conflict of interest waiver requests from Regional Center Board Members Elizabeth Espinosa, Lilian Martinez, Patrick McCarthy, and Nicole Turofsky.
- Approved the 2022 Employee First Committee (EFC) Annual Report.

Future Meeting Date

August 22, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 5D.

STATE PLAN COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 22, 2023

Meeting's Focus

Program Development Grants

Members met on June 22, 2023, to review scoring team recommendations for funding Cycle 46 Program Development Grants. SCDD received a total of 17 grant applications. The scoring team recommended funding three project proposals, two under the focus area of employment and one under self-advocacy, with a total combined funding amount of \$248,087. Members adopted the scoring team's funding recommendations and sent them to the Council for approval at the July 18, 2023 Council meeting.

Members reviewed and provided input on potential survey questions to collect feedback on SCDD's new GrantVantage platform and the Cycle 46 grant process. SCDD will survey those who used the new platform to make improvements to the process for future grant cycles.

2022-2026 State Plan Update

Committee members were provided with an update on SCDD's progress toward meeting the 5-year goals set forth in the 2022-2026 State Plan. Staff have made minor updates to the State Plan objectives in order to reflect work being done in the areas of systems monitoring, professional capacity building, and supporting family advocacy groups. Due to SCDD's excellent progress toward 5-year goals, targeted numbers for activities and people reached have been increased for a number of State Plan Objectives.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the March 2023 Meeting Minutes
- The Committee recommended adoption of the scoring team's funding recommendations and to send them to the Council for approval at the July 18, 2023 Council meeting.

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 6. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Director Report and Staff Reports

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide Councilmembers with an oral report regarding recent Council activities. Additionally, SCDD Staff reports have been included in the packet for informational purposes.

Attachments

Chief Deputy Director Report Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report QA Project Update Report

Handouts

Executive Director Report Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report

Chief Deputy Director's Report: July 2023

The Chief Deputy Director (CDD) continues overseeing operational matters, in concert with staff, and identifying organizational tools to assist the team. Time also has been spent meeting with staff, management, and external partners on various programs, program policy, and implementation, including the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM TAP). Other projects include collaborative conversations with DDS partners regarding the CRA/VAS and QA programs, and other opportunities/project ideas regarding employment and quality assessment surveys. Conversations address funding and contracting matters as well as program efficiencies such as digital surveying strategies.

The Chief Deputy Director continues to facilitate and oversee SCDD's administrative functions such as budget management, contracts, and day-to-day operations.

- Conducted a recruitment for three personnel to support and operate the SDM-TAP program. Interviews are in process for both the two grants analyst positions and a supervisor. One hire has begun, two other positions are pending.
- Reviewed program and administrative contracts for approval.
- Reviewed and approved numerous invoices for program, administrative, and operational services.
- Resolved several state data system access and utilization problems on behalf of staff and management and worked closely with state-level information security personnel to manage against increasing cybersecurity threats.

- Completed on-boarding and transition of our new budget office and operations manager, Lynn Villoria. Lynn has already demonstrated an incredible aptitude for the role and is effectively managing our fiscal year-end budget, as well as identifying budget tools and techniques that will be helpful for staff and mangers as we begin the new fiscal year. Moreover, Lynn has developed effective working relationships with our colleagues at the Department of Social Services for regular budget and expenditure reporting and management.
- Our new Vaccine Project Manager, Mirna Leal, has begun community outreach and engagement to maximize the remaining balance of this grant. Mirna brings a unique skill and experiential set of healthcare, I/DD, and management experience that will facilitate the close of our CDC vaccine grant as well as effectively utilize our Public Health worker grant.

Upcoming events include a monthly swap meet in Oxnard that brings community together for public health, legal aid, and other social services supports. Mirna also has begun working closely with our partners at Children's Hospital Los Angeles as part of a contact with them to identify and develop recommendations around public health access issues and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recruitment efforts have begun, led by Robin Maitino as the SSDAC and HQ
 Operations manager, to backfill our committee coordinator position and our
 business services analyst position.

REPORT FROM: TANIA MORAWIEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS REPORT RANGE 5/6/23-7/6/23

SCDD continues to create engaging training and innovative ways to reach new stakeholders and support self advocates

The LA Regional Office's New Curriculum/Pilot:

Leadership and Systemic Advocacy Academy for Spanish speaking family members. Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacia Sistemica –ALAS, which also means "wings" in Spanish

We hope to create a new cadre of community leaders through this curriculum anc cohort that seeks to reframe, change dynamics, and empower. Systemic advocacy is simplified through a strategic "gaming" lens as "Understand the Game", "Understand the Rules of the Game", and "Change the Rules of the Game", with training to support each of those stages/modules.

Curriculum Outline:

Understanding the Game – Why Do We Need to Do Systemic Advocacy?

- o Introduction to Course using Zoom, Zoom chat, Google Drive
 - Get to Know Each Other
- Social Justice and Intersectionality
- What is Systemic Advocacy and Leadership
 - Individual Advocacy Rights, Appeals, Complaints
 - Shifting Perspective from Individual Rights to Policies
- The Goal of the Game: Self-Advocacy & Independence
 - An Overview of Self-Advocacy Groups

Learning How to Play the Game - What are the Rules about How Society Functions?

- Civics 3 Branches of Government, State Departments, State Budget, and Legislative Processes
- Overview of 14th Amendment, Section 504 of the Rehab Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
 - o Universal Design
 - Facilitation as a Reasonable Accommodation
- Principles of the Lanterman Act, Self-Determination Program (SDP), Special Education, IHSS, etc.
- o Regional Center/Healthcare Disparities, Mental Health Parity

- IDD Systems Overview
- Non-IDD Systems Overview

Changing the Rules of the Game – What Are Tools and Strategies to Change the Game?

- o Critical Thinking, Problem-Solving, and Conflict Resolution
- Advocacy Opportunities tools and strategies to gather information, recruit allies, and make systemic change
 - Policies and Strategies
- Professionalizing: The Game of Systemic Change, Personal Growth, and Accessing Income
 - Building Collaborative Relationships (Advocacy Strategies, Asking Questions, FETA)
- LLCs as a Tool for Generating Income
- o Grants, Scholarships, Stipends, Private Pay, Vendorization
- Basics of Grant Writing and Income Generation
- o Business of facilitation
 - Getting to Yes, Negotiation Stuff
- How to Organize Communities
 - Action and Work Plans
- o Group Development, Dynamics, and Leadership
 - How to Train Others
- How to Provide Public Testimony
- o How to Be an Effective Board Member
 - Open Meetings/Public Records/Parliamentary Procedure

Outreach to underserved communities/Cultural Humility: Tribal, Hmong, & Rural communities in N. CA

North State Regional Office staff set up a resource table at the Greenville Rancheria Resource fair and educated underserved Native Americans on topics of role of SCDD, IEP, RAC, Self-Determination and local committee along with Covid and vaccine information.

Regional Manager and CPS II met with Director of Hmong Cultural Center to discuss SCDD Statewide and Regionally. Desire to better understand cultural beliefs surrounding people within the Hmong Culture w/ I/DD and supports. Team discussed -various support groups and cultural activities within the center. SCDD will participate in an upcoming event: 9th Annual Family Fun Day. The Hmong Cultural Center Director would like SCDD to provide resource table and is welcoming of SCDD staff attending "Raising the Child-Family Circle" as a starting point to engage with Hmong Families that bring their young children, 0-5 with disabilities to the center for support.

Rural Community Outreach

The N State Regional Manager traveled to Quincy which is in rural Plumas County. Day program A.L.I.V.E, which stands for: Adults for Learning and growing, Integration in the Community, Vocations of choice, Enthusiasm for life

#1: What is SCDD (history and overview) #2 What is RAC? (History, overview and how to become involved). Regional Manager allowed time and space for SA and Professionals to ask questions and share their own experiences with RC service system. A resource table was set up post training and additional Q&A occurred. Discussion re-regional activities such as SA Peer Support Group. Focus throughout trainings on importance of identifying and asking for supports needed and how to develop strong leadership skills. Plain language discussion re-Competitive Integrated Employment and sharing of personal lived experience by day program participants. Regional Manager discussed various ways that staff can reach out to SCDD North State and best practice in getting information to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their supports/family members.

New Possibilities: Exploring national best practice in housing:

SCDD's Community Program Specialist attended the monthly Future for our Kids Lunch and Learn meeting. Future for our Kids Lunch and Learns have been focused on succession planning with an emphasis on looking at different types of housing models with the goal of finding solutions to alleviate the lack of affordable, accessible housing for people with IDD. SCDD staff in partnership with Alta California Regional Center has been providing support and technical assistance in the area of housing and other succession planning topics. On the agenda was a presentation from Treasure House located in Phoenix, Arizona which supports people with IDD with housing. They are focused on helping each individual gain independence, residents enjoy their own furnished one-bedroom apartment with access to family style amenities such as a kitchen, lounge, game room, patio and outdoor activities. The living environment that Treasure House provides supports residents as they develop, grow and thrive. Potential Treasure House residents are young adults with IDD, who seek to build productive, meaningful and fulfilling lives in a unique residential setting. Programming reflects Treasure House's dedication to fostering independence, a sense of community, and personal fulfillment

Helping to connect stakeholders with social rec opportunities and healthcare interventions via Special Olympics

Staff was invited by NorCal Special Olympics to present at the Family Health Forum. This was a new event targeting families with children under 10 years old (leading up to the Summer Games later in the month) for the purpose of bringing together families of children with IDD to discuss shared experiences and learn about a variety of resources available from healthcare providers, social service agencies and more.

SCDD Staff serve on committee to help identify new behavioral day service providers

The Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC) is seeking two Behavioral Day Program service provider to support persons with I/DD in the Marin & San Mateo counties. The intent of the Behavioral Day Program providers is to provide assistance with employment, and other life activities that create work-life balance. GGRC put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) with instructions and requirements for the application and RFP Committee to review. The RFP Committee is made up of 1 Family Advocate (FA), and 5 professionals.

The RFP Committee individually reviewed each application submitted and scored the applications based on the following: Expertise, Stability and Sustainability, Collaboration, Proposal and RFP Correspond, Person Center Practices, Realistic Timetable, and Fiscal Planning. The RFP Committee gathered to interview applicants chosen based on their applications on two separate dates (06/13 and 06/14). As a result, each RFP Committee member had an open discussion on the interviews and made a fair decision on choosing two appropriate Behavioral Day Program provider applicants to award the projects. As a result, the two Behavioral Day Program service providers would be providing additional supports and services to the Intellectual and Developmental Disability community in the GGRC catchment area

CRA/VAS SCDD AT WORK INSIDE CALIFORNIA DDS STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES

CENSUS as of July 1, 2023: 209

(Porterville DC, Canyon Springs CF, and Desert STAR)

SCDD and DDS renewed the interagency agreement providing CRA/VAS services to individuals residing in and transitioning from the DDS state operated facilities and onsite STAR units for another five year cycle. VAS services were extended from twelve to twenty-four months post placement. SCDD and DDS originally collaborated to provide CRA/VAS services for individuals in five developmental centers and two community facilities beginning in 1998.



Program Activity for May and June 2023

Canyon Springs Community Facility and Desert STAR Unit

Covid outbreaks continued to arise at the facility in June. Two units were put on quarantine including STAR. CS will be contracting with outside agencies for community-based work opportunities. CRA attended 9 client meetings, conducted 12 rights training for staff and 2 self-advocacy trainings via client council, reviewed 2 denial of rights, filed 3 Writs of Habeas Corpus, 6 court appearances and published the Advocacy Avenues newsletter with the clients to showcase current issues at the facilities. VAS is serving. 42 clients at CS and STAR and in the community this period. VAS participated in 19 client meetings and conducted 2 self-advocacy trainings. VAS advocating for individual through delayed transition obstacles. VAS notes increased transition activity from Regional Centers for CS residents.

Porterville Developmental Center

The CRA continued to facilitate end of life discussions for interested individuals and their decision makers. CRA attended 18 client meetings, conducted 2 rights training for staff and 1 self-advocacy training through People First, reviewed 7 denial of rights, and 16 human right/behavior management committees. VAS facilitated a dental appt for community-based individual who's MediCal did not transfer to county of residence. VAS developed a check-in system for a community individual who sought more independence. VAS advocated for recently incarcerated individual who was living in the community. VAS will continue to 17



Census Canyon Springs: 32

Desert STAR: 10









Quality Assessment Project (QAP) Report

Cycle: In-Person Survey (IPS)

The targets for each of the twenty-one (21) Regional Centers have been met with **8,842** individuals and/or their proxies surveyed statewide by over 200 independent contractors. The target for all 21 regional centers remained at 400 each, for a statewide goal of 8400 surveys. The IPS cycle was open for approximately 8 months, starting October 27, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023. **See Figure 1 and Table 1** for Regional Center breakdown of completed surveys.

Surveys continued to be conducted with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or proxies who have been identified as knowing the individual well. Proxies can include family members, friends, and service providers. Those eligible to participate in the survey are adults who receive at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management. Participation in these surveys remain voluntary.

Surveys were conducted in **English, Spanish, Mandarin, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Hmong, Russian and various other languages**. To see the breakdown by language, see **Table 3.**

Throughout this cycle, SCDD offered the choice to have the surveys completed by video conference or face to face at the location preferred by the respondent. Statewide, 60% of respondents preferred to have surveys completed by video conference, while 40% chose the option of face to face. To view survey mode breakdown by regional center, see **Figure 5** and **Table 2**.

Progress by Race/Ethnicity:

For the 2022-2023 cycle, DDS chose to enhance data collection with a focus on obtaining a sample from each regional center that has proportionate representation from five ethnoracial groups (i.e., African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic, White, and Other).

To ensure balanced representation of individuals who are receiving services from all 21 regional centers is obtained, the regional center sample of 400 was divided among the five ethnoracial categories based on the percentage of the regional center population that is identified as a member of that group. See **Figures 2, 3 and 4** for regional center progress by Race/Ethnicity.

Figure 1: Completed Surveys by Regional Center

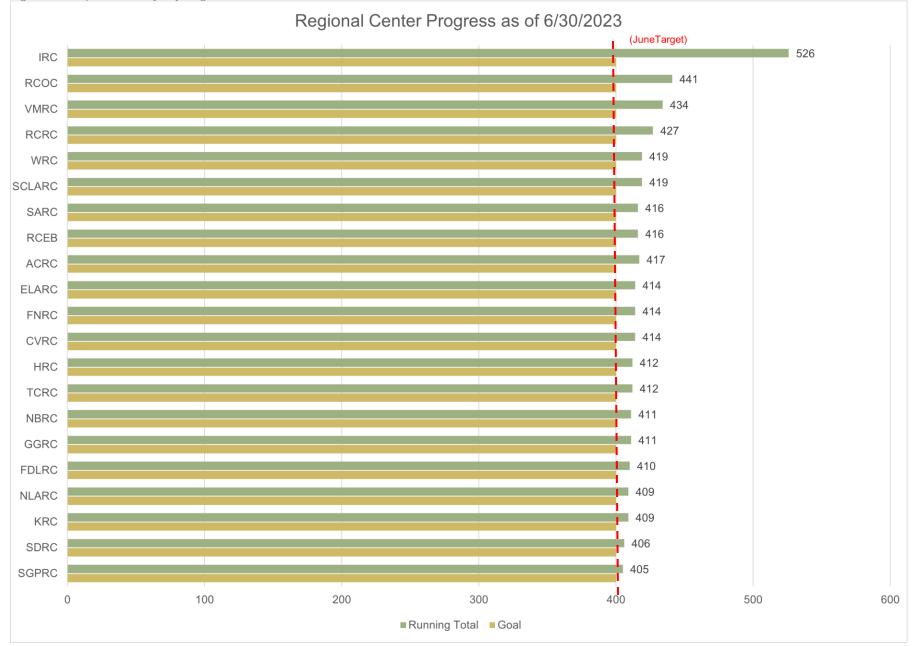


Table 1: Progress by Regional Center (as of 6/30/2023)

Regional Center	Goal	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	YTD Complete
ACRC	400	33	60	57	67	80	35	76	9	417
CVRC	400	64	36	67	54	72	29	92	0	414
ELARC	400	69	75	153	84	32	1	0	0	414
FDLRC	400	32	50	71	51	126	79	1	0	410
FNRC	400	13	37	43	71	108	117	25	0	414
GGRC	400	33	67	63	54	77	36	63	18	411
HRC	400	12	100	81	87	92	39	1	0	412
IRC	400	45	55	143	112	94	73	2	2	526
KRC	400	31	25	59	73	30	65	81	45	409
NBRC	400	3	16	34	92	80	115	71	0	411
NLACRC	400	51	50	68	161	75	4	0	0	409
RCEB	400	51	50	53	48	104	61	49	0	416
RCOC	400	38	73	59	76	93	80	22	0	441
RCRC	400	4	9	10	23	81	177	119	4	427
SARC	400	38	77	54	93	81	39	34	0	416
SCLARC	400	32	45	69	59	171	42	1	0	419
SDRC	400	27	55	80	60	71	68	43	2	406
SGPRC	400	40	108	132	101	22	2	0	0	405
TCRC	400	11	11	45	62	62	81	128	12	412
VMRC	400	30	59	68	62	38	81	84	12	434
WRC	400	32	31	65	90	72	128	1	0	419
Total	8400	689	1089	1474	1580	1661	1352	893	104	8842

For Statewide and Regional Center Reports regarding past completed survey cycles, please go to: <u>https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/</u>

Figure 2: Progress by RC and Race Ethnicity as of 6/30/2023

	Goal	Complete	% Goal
Alta California	399	416	
Asian	29	35	121%
Black	48	57	119%
Hispanic	54	54	100%
Other	38	39	103%
White	230	231	100%
Central Valley	400	414	
Asian	24	24	100%
Black	30	33	110%
Hispanic	186		105%
Other	20		100%
White	140	142	101%
East Bay	399	416	
Asian	62		102%
Black	84	88	105%
Hispanic	65		112%
Other	40	44	110%
White	148	148	100%
Eastern LA	399	414	
Asian	51		102%
Black	7	_	114%
Hispanic	274		101%
Other	14		121%
White	53		111%
Far Northern	399	414	
Asian	9		111%
Black	10		110%
Hispanic	32		128%
Other	26		104%
White	322	325	101%
Frank D. Lanterman	401	410	
Asian	53		106%
Black	37		105%
Hispanic	161		101%
Other	12		108%
White	138		101%
Golden Gate	401	411	
Asian	96		101%
Black	41		112%
Hispanic	66		102%
Other	36		100%
White	162	165	102%

Continued on next page

Figure 3: Progress by RC and Race/Ethnicity as of 6/30/2023 (Continued)

Harbor	399	412	
Asian	53		104%
Black	53		104%
Hispanic	143		104%
Other	34		103%
White	116		102%
Inland	400	526	102.70
Asian	400		153%
Black	53		100%
Hispanic	175		143%
Other	18		106%
White	137		129%
Kern	400	409	12070
Asian	400		100%
Black	43		100%
Hispanic	45		102%
Other	25		102%
White	167		103%
	400	411	10376
North Bay Asian	25		104%
Black	43		102%
	43		100%
Hispanic Other	38		108%
White	222		103%
			10570
North LA County	401	409	
Asian	26		100%
Black	46	46	100%
Hispanic	153		103%
Other	17	18	106%
White	159	162	102%
Orange County	400	441	
Asian	60	60	100%
Black	9	12	133%
Hispanic	111	111	100%
Other	38	39	103%
White	182	219	120%
Redwood Coast	401	427	
Asian	5	7	140%
Black	8	11	138%
Hispanic	37	47	127%
Other	32	34	106%
White	319	328	103%

Continued on next page

Figure 4: Progress by RC and Race/Ethnicity as of 6/30/2023 (continued)

San Andreas	401	416	
Asian	401		100%
Black	13		100%
Hispanic	123		107%
Other	33		100%
White	155		105%
	399	406	103%
San Diego			107%
Asian	29		107%
Black	31 137		103%
Hispanic	36		101%
Other			
White San	166	167	101%
Gabriel/Pomona	400	405	
Asian	47	49	104%
Black	31		106%
Hispanic	203		100%
Other	23		100%
White	96		100%
South Central			10070
LA	401	419	
Asian	5	7	140%
Black	128	133	104%
Hispanic	240	249	104%
Other	10	12	120%
White	18	18	100%
Tri-Counties	400	412	
Asian	14	15	107%
Black	11	12	109%
Hispanic	134	139	104%
Other	28	30	107%
White	213	216	101%
Valley Mountain	401	434	
Asian	30	33	110%
Black	40	43	108%
Hispanic	116	127	109%
Other	30		117%
White	185		106%
Westside	400	419	
Asian	19		105%
Black	112		104%
Hispanic	121		102%
Other	37		111%
White	111		106%
	Goal	Complete	
Report Totals	8399	8841	105%
Asian	741		105%
Black	877		106%
Hispanic	2759		106%
Other	585		106%
White	3437		104%
AAUUC	5457	5507	

Figure 5: Survey Mode by Regional Center (Face to Face vs Videoconference)

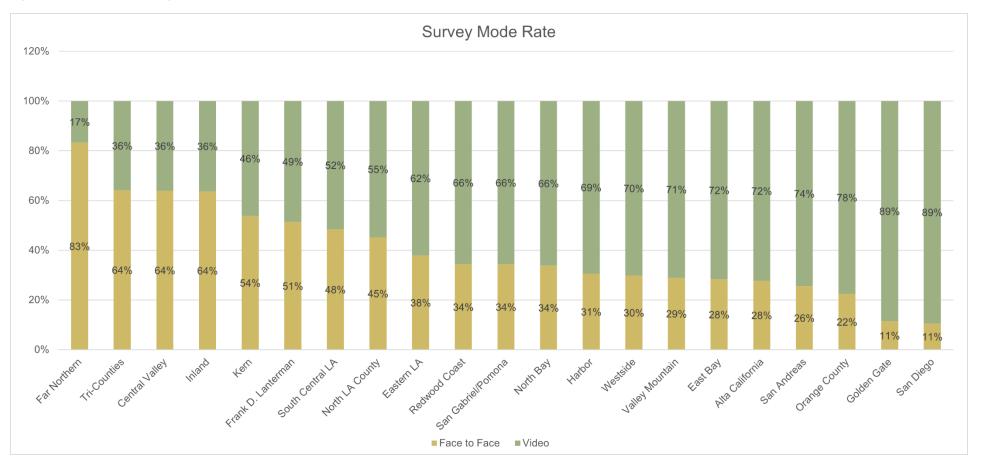


Table 2: Survey Mode by Regional Center (Face to Face vs Videoconference)

Regional Center	Face to Face	Videoconference
Alta California	28%	72%
Central Valley	64%	36%
East Bay	28%	72%
Eastern LA	38%	62%
Far Northern	83%	17%
Frank D. Lanterman	51%	49%
Golden Gate	11%	89%
Harbor	31%	69%
Inland	64%	36%
Kern	54%	46%
North Bay	34%	66%
North LA County	45%	55%
Orange County	22%	78%
Redwood Coast	34%	66%
San Andreas	26%	74%
San Diego	11%	89%
San Gabriel/Pomona	34%	66%
South Central LA	48%	52%
Tri-Counties	64%	36%
Valley Mountain	29%	71%
Westside	30%	70%

Table 3: Surveys Completed by Language

Language	Count		
English	7027		
Spanish	1595		
Vietnamese	90		
Chinese (Mandarin/Cantonese)	37		
Tagalog	18		
Korean	9		
Hmong	1		
Russian	1		
Other	25		
Not Identified	39		

About National Core Indicators

National Core Indicators[™](NCI) strives to provide states with valid and reliable tools to help improve system performance and better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Through a contract with Department of Developmental Services (DDS), State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), using the NCI Survey tools, collects quantitative data on consumer satisfaction, provision of services, and personal outcomes. Data collection is completed through face to face interviews with consumers as well as mail-in surveys from families.

This data collection effort will enable DDS to evaluate the quality and performance of California's developmental disability service delivery system and among all the 21 regional centers over time.

For results of past surveys go to: https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/reports/

To view the DDS NCI Dashboard go to:

https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/

For more information about the NCI go to:

https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/

Scan QR code below to go to QA Project Webpage scdd.ca.gov/qap





QAC Regional Center Assignments

QAC: Vacant Support Staff: Sarah Wirrig Far Northern North Bay Redwood Coast

Ron Usac Support Staff: Valerie Buell East Bay San Andreas

George Lewis Support Staff: Marigene Tacan-Regan Alta California Central Valley Valley Mountain

Lia Cervantes-Lerma • Brianna Reynoso • Jenny Villanueva Support Staff: Austin Murphy and Marina Bchtikian

> East Los Angeles Frank D. Lanterman Harbor North Los Angeles San Gabriel Pomona South Central Los Angeles Westside

Angel Wiley Jennifer Melendez, SSA AGPA: Vacant Staff Support: Vacant Golden Gate Orange County San Diego

Matoya Terrell Support Staff: Vacant Inland Kern Tri-Counties

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 7. ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of May 2023 Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 23, 2023 Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment May Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended Approve the May 2023 minutes.



Members Attending

Alex Reyes (S.A.) Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD) Brian Winfield (DDS) Cathay Liu (F.A.) Eric Ybarra (S.A.) Harold Ashe (F.A.) Harold Fujita (F.A.) Jessica Brown (F.A) Joseph Billingsley (DHCS) Joyce McNair (F.A.) Julie Neward (F.A.) Julie Gaona (S.A) Julio Garnica (S.A.) Kara Ponton (S.A.) Kilolo Brodie-Crumsey (F.A.) Larry Yin (UCEDD) Lee Bycel (F.A) Liz Laugeson (UCEDD) Michael Ellis (F.A.) Michael Thomas (DOR) Nestor Nieves (S.A) Nicole Adler (S.A.) Nick Wavrin (CDE) Rosanna Ryan (S.A.) Sandra Smith (DRC) Sonia Jones (S.A) Viviana Barnwell (F.A.) Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes May 23, 2023

Members Absent

Mark Beckley (CDA) Marko Mijic (CHHS)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers Aminah Abdul-Hakim Anne De Medeiros Beth Hurn **Brian Weisel** Bridget Kolakosky Charles Ngyuen Christine Tolbert David Grady Debra Adler Dena Hernandez Hilary Baird Holly Bins Julie Eby-McKenzie Julie Hillstead Ken DaRosa Lisa Hooks Lynn Villoria Mary Ellen Stives Michelle Cave Mirna Leal Nicole Patterson **Renee Bauer** Riana Hardin

Others Attending

(cont.) Robbin Puccio Rondale Holloway Ryan Duncanwood Scarlett VonThenen Shar'on Williams Sheraden Nicholau Sidney Jackson Swathi Veronica Bravo Yaritza Sanchez Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:34 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBERS

Executive Director Carruthers swore in new Councilmembers Sonia Jones, Nestor Nieves, and Jessica Brown.

4. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Executive Director Carruthers welcomed the North Carolina Council on Developmental Disabilities' staff, who were visiting various state Councils nationwide to gain insights into their operations and enhance their own Council.

Shar'ron Williams and David Ingram from the North Carolina Council provided a public comment. They expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to observe California's State Council. Unfortunately, their Executive Director, Talley Wells, was unable to join.

6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Chair Witherspoon presented photos from his visit to the Festival of Books at the University of Southern California, which took place on April 22-23. This event was the largest free book fair in the United States and included various activities such as panels, author readings, musical performances, a poetry stage, and a food court. Additionally, there were more than 250 vendors and exhibitors present.

The Chair also discussed his meeting with the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and other advocates to address the Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) requirements. He shared a personal story about a friend with cancer who was placed in a facility, where he faced restrictions and lost contact with his friends. Former Councilmember Kecia Weller also spoke about person-centered planning.

Additionally, he shared that he had spoken three times at the 27th Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference on May 12th and 13th. He delivered a keynote presentation and discussed topics such as how to succeed independently in California and his perspective on health during the COVID-19 pandemic. During his keynote speech, he emphasized the

importance of individuals with disabilities having the autonomy to make decisions about their own lives. He recounted his personal journey from special education to college and beyond, highlighting the challenges he faced in finding employment and forming relationships. He encouraged attendees not to give up in their job search and shared his pride in working at USC UCEDD since 2006. The Chair also mentioned his involvement with the Council since 2008, getting re-elected in 2022. He highlighted his past speaking engagements at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) in 2018 and 2019, as well as his presentation on health inequities for people with disabilities in 2022. The Chair further discussed the significance of the Lanterman Act, which provides important regulations for people with disabilities.

The Chair emphasized the need for individuals to embrace their uniqueness and make decisions about their own lives. He urged attendees not to limit themselves and encouraged them to persevere in their pursuit of employment and personal happiness.

SCDD committee reports were provided in the meeting packet. Chair Witherspoon asked that members read through these reports when they are able. The committee reports can be accessed online at <u>https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/</u>.

7. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2023 MEETING MINUTES Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Ellis [F.A]/ Ybarra [S.A.]) and carried to approve the March 2023 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

8. SCDD 2023-24 BUDGET

Councilmember Brian Winfield from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided a comprehensive update on the Governor's May revision to the proposed 23-24 budget. He highlighted various aspects, including the numbers of individuals served, expenditure data, and new policy items. Regional centers expect to serve over 396,000 individuals in the current year and nearly 421,000 in the 23-24 budget year. Stateoperated services are anticipated to support a total of 312 individuals, which includes those served in the Porterville Developmental Center, Canyon Springs Community Facility, and Acute Crisis Star Homes.

The May revision allocates \$14.1 billion in total funds, representing a significant net increase of \$1.8 billion over the current year's budget. One of the notable policy changes is the introduction of Coordinated Family Support Services, a new service developed in collaboration with stakeholders to support families in caring for their loved ones in the family home. Initially funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, the Governor's budget projects ongoing funding for coordinated family support services through regional centers, although the funding will end in December 2023.

Additionally, the budget allocates \$15 million for updating rate models, as well as funding for regional center service coordination and supervisors to align them with the state equivalent. Other provisions include \$330,000 for START Teams certification, a \$10.8 million reappropriation for the community placement plan, and an extension of provisional eligibility under the Lanterman Act for children ages 0 through 2. The budget also addresses compliance with home and community-based services, with additional positions for monitoring and oversight.

The Executive Director presented an overview of the draft budget, which had been previously discussed in detail during the March Council meeting. In March, the proposed budget included an increase of \$20,000 in federal funding from the Administration on Community Living (ACL). The budget aimed to fully fund salaries and benefits, resulting in a cost increase of \$31,000 compared to the previous year. To compensate for these increases, proposed adjustments were made in various spending areas. Communication expenses were reduced by \$30,000, postage by \$6,000, information technology by \$14,000, and out-of-state travel was increased by \$2,000. Additionally, Community Development Grants were increased by \$40,000. These adjustments reflected actual spending and future projections. Executive Director Carruthers reminded Councilmembers that a cash reserve of \$1,750,000 was still available and planned for, while prior year unexpended funds of \$345,000 could be allocated for any additional items beyond the proposed budget.

Regarding changes since March, Executive Director Carruthers shared that a new column for the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) had been added to the Council's budget. Last year, the legislature allocated \$5 million to create this program as part of the Council's reform work on conservatorships. SDM-TAP serves as a resource for individuals who may not require full conservatorship but

need guidance on supported decision making. The budget summary included the Basic State Grant of \$8,034,000, Quality Assessment (QA) contract of \$3,672,000, Client's Rights Advocates Volunteer Advocacy Services (CRA/VAS) contract of \$1,661,000, and the newly added SDM-TAP with a one-time amount of \$5 million from the state's general fund. The Executive Director proposed a budget of \$18,365,000 for the Council's consideration.

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

Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [S.A]/ Ybarra [S.A.]) and carried to adopt the 2023-2024 SCDD Budget as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Carruthers emphasized the Council's collaborative spirit and commitment to person-centered planning. He also highlighted the Council's successful Program and Performance Report (PPR) for the previous year, which received praise from the Administration on Community Living (ACL). The ACL commended the Council for addressing the needs of individuals with disabilities and their families, mentioning their translation efforts and various accomplishments. The State Plan Team reported positive progress on the current work plan, with a few areas identified for improvement. The Executive Director provided updates on advocacy efforts to phase out subminimum wage and initiatives for alternatives to conservatorship, including the formation of a Community of Practice and the allocation of five million dollars from the Department of Finance for a supported decision-making program. Additionally, Councilmember Ellis and the Executive Director met with Assembly Budget Subcommittee Chair Arambula to discuss priorities, including the Employment First Office.

Furthermore, Executive Director Carruthers highlighted the Council's efforts in promoting community voices at an international level through the "There Should Be a Law" contest. Under the leadership of Dr. Liz Laugeson at UCLA, the Council transformed the data into an academic analysis. The analysis was accepted by the International Society for Autism Research. Councilmember Laugeson shared some key findings from the analysis, including a significant focus on health and human

services (40% of responses) and education (19% of responses). Other areas such as employment, public safety, and housing were also represented, with participants offering creative solutions.

Deputy Director Kolakosky shared that all the submissions from the contest were also included into a comprehensive report that had been circulated to legislative offices. The report was met with positive feedback from legislators who found it valuable in understanding the concerns raised by their constituents along with clever solutions.

10. PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING DEMONSTRATION

Vaccine and Public Health Access Program Manager Mirna Leal, and self-advocate Sylvia Delgado highlighted the significance of personcentered thinking and planning. This approach focuses on the individual and tailoring support around their needs and preferences. Mirna shared insights from her experience supervising regional center workers in implementing person-centered planning, and Sylvia shared her personal experience and perspective with obtaining a person-centered plan.

Person centered thinking involves reflecting on one's own identity, including likes, dislikes, dreams, strengths, goals, and wants. It requires clear and specific communication of individual desires. Mirna and Sylvia emphasized that if individuals feel their needs/wants are not being met, it is crucial for them to elaborate on their preferences and work with their coordinator(s) to find more suitable options. A key aspect of personcentered planning is ensuring individuals have control over their own lives, including decisions about employment, clothing, social interactions, and leisure activities. To provide a clear understanding of who individuals are, a person-centered plan is created. It serves as a comprehensive document capturing essential information. The plan should effectively convey a person's identity to someone who has never met them before. While it is impossible to include every detail, it serves as a starting point and a guide for achieving a fulfilling and joyful life. The person-centered plan is not mandatory and can be a simple or complex document completed by the individual, family, or an external party. It plays a crucial role in guiding the individual program plan, which is a legal contract between individuals and the regional center. By outlining specific goals, timelines, responsibilities, and funding sources, the person-centered plan helps individuals prioritize and focus on their objectives. Individuals are encouraged to proactively inquire about person-centered planning with their service coordinator or regional center staff and collaborate on

creating the plan. Ultimately, the emphasis is on aligning the plan with the individual's values and translating them into reality.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on May 23, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 3:34 P.M.

Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 SCDD Budget
Adler, Nicole	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For
Billingsley, Joseph	For	Abstain
Brodie-Crumsey, Kilolo	For	For
Brown, Jessica	For	Abstain
Bycel, Lee	For	For
Ellis, Michael	For	For
Fujita, Harold	For	For
Jones, Sonia	For	For
Gaona, Julie	For	For
Garnica, Julio	For	For
Laugeson, Liz	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For
Neward, Julie	For	For
Nieves, Nestor	Abstain	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For
Reyes, Alex	For	For
Ryan, Rosanna	For	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For
Smith, Sandra	For	For
Thomas, Michael	For	Abstain
Wavrin, Nick	For	For
Winfield, Brian	Abstain	Abstain
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For
Ybarra, Eric	For	For
Yin, Larry	For	For

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN), which is a project of the Council, will provide a summary of their recent activities. SCDD SSAN Representative Alex Reyes will provide Councilmembers with this report.

Attachment

June 2023 SSAN Update Report

June 13, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATION ITEM





Recent Activity: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) met on June 7th and 8th, 2023 over Zoom.

Focus of Meeting:

The 2-day June 2023 SSAN meeting was held on Zoom. The meeting began with members holding a moment of silence to honor Judith Heumann, a disability rights icon who passed away recently.

Members opened the meeting by sharing their recent advocacy activities and what helps them when they are feeling overwhelmed. Members shared strategies like listening to music, talking to friends, going for walks, writing in journals, and meditating. Members also shared how having a disability has helped them to grow.

The meeting started with a presentation from the SSAN Vice-Chair and Secretary on the purpose of SSAN and the structure of the SSAN Workgroups. Member feedback on what SSAN could do better included recruiting new members and creating guidelines on full meeting and workgroup attendance. Members also agreed that there should be a process for tracking the presentations that SSAN members are providing in their communities.

The SSAN Operations workgroup talked about creating a medical/personal leave process to guide members when they need to miss multiple SSAN meetings. The SSAN Operations workgroup will work on drafting a policy/process for members to consider adopting.

Representatives from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided an overview of the <u>DDS Coordinated Family Service (CFS)</u> program. CFS is tailored to individual and family needs and respects the language and culture of participants. CFS is designed to help participants to age in place with their families and community supports.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Executive Director Aaron Carruthers updated members on SCDD activities since the March SSAN meeting. SCDD has released recommendations to end subminimum wage in California and continues to meet with DDS to discuss plans to phase out subminimum wage practices and promote competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people with I/DD by 2025. SCDD is recommending that a Statewide Employment First Office be created to help facilitate CIE implementation and serve as a connector between agencies advocating for employment of people with disabilities.



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES Summary of June 2023 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Meeting

Day one ended with members discussing problems that people with disabilities face at work, including employers not recognizing their humanity, their value, their resiliency, and their adaptability.

Day 2 of the SSAN meeting started with members sharing their thoughts on what is missing from the Americans with Disabilities Act. Members mentioned the need for accessible bathrooms in all public buildings, agencies, stores, etc., equal marriage rights, and sexual health education for people with disabilities.

SCDD State Plan Analyst, Beth Hurn provided members with an overview of SCDD's Travel Policy. This training covered SCDD agency travel request procedures, current travel policies, and how to request travel reimbursements. Members should submit travel requests and reimbursement claims to <u>travelclaims@scdd.ca.gov</u>.

SCDD Policy Analyst Veronica Bravo provided members with an update on SCDD's legislative activities, including SCDD's policy priorities, current legislative efforts, the current economic impact on the California Legislature and SCDD's efforts toward the implementation of SB 639.

The San Bernardino Regional SSAN Representative Eric Aguilar, provided members with a training on how to plan and prepare a survival kit in the case of an emergency. This training included a list of the types of items to include in your kit. Members wondered if there was a plan in place for how to respond to an emergency at an in-person SSAN meeting. Members expressed interest in a future SSAN emergency preparedness project.

2022 – 2024 SSAN Leadership:

Chair: Charles Nutt, North State Regional Representative **Vice-Chair:** Nicole Patterson, DDS Representative **Secretary:** Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia Regional Representative

Actions Taken:

- Approved the Minutes from the March 2023 SSAN Meeting
- Approved the June 2023 Edition of the SSAN Newsletter

The next SSAN Meeting will be held in-person in Sacramento in September. Be on the lookout for more details and visit the <u>SSAN Page</u> on the SCDD website for more information.

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 9. ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Cycle 46 Program Development Grants

One of the many ways the Council carries out the work of its State Plan is by awarding program development grants, also known as Cycle Grants, to community-based organizations to research, develop and/or implement innovative programs and promising or best practices throughout the state and its local communities.

In March, the Council approved the RFP project descriptions for Cycle 46 Program development Grants. RFPs were released on March 27th with a submission due date of May 22nd. This deadline provided time for the scoring team to read the proposals before they met on June 12th. The State Plan Committee then met on June 22nd and was presented with the scoring team's findings and subsequent recommendations. At this meeting Councilmembers will be presented with the State Plan Committee's Grant Cycle 46 funding recommendations and asked to take action to approve the recommended projects for funding and direct the Executive Director to administer the contract process.

Attachments

Grant Descriptions Cycle 46 PDF Grants PPT

Action Recommended

Approve of the State Plan Committee's Cycle 46 Grant funding recommendations and direct the Executive Director to administer the contract process.

Proposal Number:	App-23-89
Recommended Funding:	\$ 80,962.50
Project Area:	Employment
Number of People to be Served:	500

Proposal Summary:

The grantee will focus on replicable, innovative and/or best practices and develop a blueprint to remove barriers to full participation in employment for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (PwI/DD) from marginalized and diverse populations, including the African-American, Hispanic, Asian, cross-disability, elder and LGBTQIA2S+ (e.g. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and/or questioning, intersex, asexual, two-Spirit, and the other affirmative ways in which people choose to self-identify) communities. The project will build capacity and use an established portal of resources to highlight inclusion, providing accommodations for access needs across multiple business sectors and job types, in partnership with a network of state agency and community-based stakeholders that are committed to inclusive hiring and will assist in producing video/resource material and hold hybrid events in the San Francisco/Bay Area.

Key Activities:

- Establish early relationships with collaborators that have already expressed interest in the project
- Use Salesforce as a 'first employer' to create initial media to share with and attract employers
- Work with the Department of Rehabilitation to create a resource bank to easily share resources with interested employers
- Use the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce to share initial videos
- Utilize a network of more than 100 employers to create other videos/resources
- Work with employers to develop themes and release videos on a monthly/bi-monthly basis

- Hold hybrid (live and recorded) events to be used for later materials in showcasing best practices and to establish a deeper connection between stakeholders and potential, interested employees
- Work closely with all invested parties to understand and clearly document populations reached, hiring and employment retention results, findings (including promising and/or best practices), recommendations
- Develop a blueprint to continue the program and expand its reach

Outcomes:

- Shared best practices and/or services that may be unknown to others
- Internal and organizational changes made by employers and/or service providers and information shared during this project
- An increase in hiring or commitment to hire from organizations that use the provided resources
- Build a better understanding of best inclusion practices by PwI/DD, employers, and other stakeholders
- Build a network that showcases inclusive hiring partners in the Bay Area

Agency Description:

This agency supports inclusive hiring in over 100 Bay Area organizations, some for over 20 years, and has successfully worked with local regional centers and the Department of Rehabilitation for decades. It is part of the nation's oldest and largest network of support service agencies for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (PwI/DD). For over 50 years, the agency has partnered with PwI/DD to improve lives and support them in achieving their short and long-term goals. It works closely with healthcare providers, social workers, employers, teachers, volunteers, mentors, families and others to ensure individual needs are met and with a commitment to ensure that available resources are known and easily accessed through the creation of training tools, speakers' series and councils to support specific needs like advocacy, volunteer and business development supports.

Proposal Number:	App-23-83
Recommended Funding:	\$71,625.00
Project Area:	Self-Advocacy
Number of People to be Served:	90

Proposal Summary:

The grantee will recruit youth and young adult participants from underserved communities within the Los Angeles area. It will offer paid mentorships and in-person and online training (with live webinars, videos, self-paced learning, and downloadable materials), with interactive workshops, guest speakers, and hands-on assistive technology sessions to educate people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (PwI/DD). The agency's self-advocacy training curriculum is designed with three different levels: basic, advanced, and adapted, and integrates self-determination skills, person-centered principles, and tailored learning for participants impacted differently by their disabilities. Additional hands-on activities will include peer discussions, role-playing, one-on-one sessions, group projects and community-based activities, with consideration for the anticipated varying abilities of project participants.

Key Activities:

- Develop curriculum and materials for online and in-person training sessions to equip PwI/DD with self-advocacy and leadership skills and digital literacy
- Create instructional videos on various topics to serve as an ongoing resource/reference material
- Conduct community outreach to recruit participants and forge collaborations with local institutions and advocacy groups
- Conduct in-person and online training sessions, interactive workshops and guest speaker sessions
- Develop a 'Leadership Opportunities Guide' that will outline leadership opportunities available in the program and within the local community

- Develop a 'Technical Assistance Clinics Guide' to detail the process of resource acquisition and risk identification
- Develop a 'Replication Guide' and a 'Sustainability Plan' to ensure the continued growth and success of the program

Outcomes:

- Provide 75 self-advocates with training, resources, and opportunities to improve leadership and self-advocacy skills and increase digital literacy
- Train 15 professionals, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to effectively serve and support individuals with I/DD
- Increase the inclusion and participation of PwI/DD in community events, meetings, and decision-making processes
- Create and support best and promising practices in promoting selfdetermination, independence, productivity, and integration for PwI/DD

Agency Description:

The agency is a non-profit organization that provides youth leadership outreach and self-advocacy training for people with intellectual/ developmental disabilities (PwI/DD). The organization's team is led by an attorney experienced in I/DD advocacy and with a doctorate in education, specializing in curriculum for PwI/DD. The agency collaborates with school districts and charter schools to offer comprehensive services to students with disabilities and conducts outreach programs that include placing social workers in schools, supporting parents at IEP meetings, and working on diverting youth with I/DD from the criminal justice system. The organization has experience with managing cyberbullying cases in public and social media environments and has financed programs to provide assistive technology devices for those who lack other financial means. They are committed to equity and diversity and work to serve youth with I/DD from low-income, urban, rural areas, those in foster care, homeless families, and non-Englishspeaking or bilingual families.

Proposal Number:	App-23-52
Recommended Funding:	\$ 95,499
Project Area:	Employment
Number of People to be Served:	400

Proposal Summary:

The grantee will develop and use print materials, a series of both mediabased and in-person presentations, and social media outreach to educate self-advocates, family members and employers in the Los Angeles region about the benefits of employment and hiring people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (PwI/DD). The project's aim is to: a) build more employment-related collaboration between PwI/DD, service providers, and regional centers; b) inform and engage employers about supported employment benefits and reduce concerns about hiring PwI/DD; c) decrease the amount of time that job-seekers with I/DD spend during initial job searches; and, d) relieve individual and family concerns about public and employment rights and benefits.

Key Activities:

- Engage with PwI/DD and families to develop video and live presentations about what employment means to them and how supported employment has helped them be successful in their jobs
- Create video presentations that will inform PwI/DD and families about employment and how it may impact their benefits
- Conduct a series of customized seminars for employers to provide information about the regional center system, Paid Internship Program, Supported Employment Program, and the benefits of hiring PwI/DD
- Conduct presentations for PwI/DD and their families to inform them about their employment rights, how employment can benefit them without jeopardizing their benefits, and increase their confidence
- Create a social media campaign showcasing employers that will highlight the advantages of employing PwI/DD

Outcomes:

- Increase in the number of PwI/DD who want to explore employment options and are informed about how employment will affect benefits
- Increase the number of PwI/DD who are able to find employment
- Increase the number of employers who are informed about supported employment and the benefits of hiring PwI/DD
- Increase the visibility of PwI/DD within their communities and community awareness about the desire of PwI/DD to work and improve their lives

Agency Description:

The organization is a non-profit agency that is vendored with the regional center and contracts with the Department of Rehabilitation to provide supported employment supports and services to adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. This organization has received CARF's (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) highest accreditation, and its mission is to assist people with intellectual/developmental disabilities (PwI/DD). to achieve their highest potential and enhance their overall quality of life.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) CYCLE 46 PDF GRANTS

Feb. – March '23

- **2/7:** SPC met to determine recommendations for Grant Cycle 46 process, areas of emphasis, and timeline
- 3/2: SPC reviewed scoring criteria & project descriptions
- **3/21:** Council reviews and votes on SPC Cycle 46 recommendations
- 3/27: Cycle 46 RFP Released

<u>May. '23</u>

- 5/22: Proposals Deadline
- 5/26: Admin Review Completed

<u>June '23</u>

- 6/12: Scoring Panel meets
- 6/22: SPC Reviews Scoring Panel Recommendations

<u>Oct. '23</u>

• **10/1:** Cycle 46 Projects begin



<u>July '23</u>

- 7/18: State Council votes on SPC Recommendations for Cycle 46 Recipients
- 7/18 7/28: Protest period
- 7/31: Award notification

Grant Cycle 46 Focus Areas & Allocated Funds

The Council has a total of \$300,000 available to fund Cycle 46 PDG projects in four (4) proposed areas:

- Education
- Employment
- Health and Safety
- Self-Advocacy

Administrative Review

- SCDD received a total of 17 grant proposals
 - 3 Education
 - •9 Employment
 - •2 Health and Safety
 - 3 Self-Advocacy
- Administrative Review 11 proposals failed
 - 3 Education
 - •6 Employment
 - •2 Health and Safety

Total amount of requested funds: \$2,218,194

Proposal Scoring Criteria

51

- Knowledge & Experience
- Project Description
- State Plan
- Target Population
- Diversity/Disparities
- Implementation Plan
- Project Activities

- Project Timeline
- Deliverable(s)/Output(s)
- Outcomes
- Impact
- Evaluation & Reporting
- Innovation & Creativity

Scoring Team reviewed 6 Proposals

- 3 Employment
- 3 Self-Advocacy

Scoring Team is recommending 3 project proposals

- 2 Employment
- 1 Self-Advocacy

Total amount of recommended funds: **\$248,087**

Scoring Team Review

SCORING TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

Cycle 46

EMPLOYMENT

Proposal # APP-23-89

Recommended Funding:

\$80,962.50

Number of People Served:

500

Proposal Highlights:

- •Use collaborative relationships to reduce employment barriers for marginalized populations
- •Create an employment blueprint & resource bank for employers

 Produce video/resource materials & hold hybrid events & meetings throughout San Francisco area

APP-23-89 Project Description

The project will focus on replicable, innovative and/or best practices and develop a blueprint to remove barriers to full participation in employment for PwI/DD.

It will build capacity and provide accommodations for access needs across business sectors and job types, in partnership with committed state agency and community-based stakeholders through:

- Video/resource material
- A portal of resources to highlight inclusive employment
- A blueprint of promising &/or best practices in hiring & retaining employees with I/DD
- A network of 100+ employers
- Hybrid events in the San Francisco/Bay Area

EMPLOYMENT

Proposal # APP-23-52

Recommended Funding:

\$95,499

Number of People Served:

400

Proposal Highlights:

- Create videos & provide presentations featuring PwI/DD that promote supported employment and highlight job successes.
- Provide presentations and create resources to inform PwI/DD and families about employment, rights & potential impacts
- Conduct a social media campaign & seminars to inform employers about services to support PwI/DD in jobs and the benefits of hiring Californians with I/DD

APP-23-52 Project Description

The project will develop and use print materials, a series of both media-based and in-person presentations, and social media outreach to educate self-advocates, family members and employers in the Los Angeles region about the benefits of employment and hiring people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (Pwl/DD).

SELF-ADVOCACY

Proposal # APP-23-83

Recommended Funding:

\$71,625

Number of People Served:

90

Proposal Highlights:

- Develop curriculum & videos, with materials for online & in-person workshops, training & speaker sessions to equip PwI/DD with digital literacy and self-advocacy and leadership skills
- Engage in community outreach to recruit participants & collaborations with local entities & advocacy groups
- Develop guides for Leadership Opportunities, Technical Assistance Clinics, & project replication, with a sustainability plan

APP-23-83 Project Description

The project will recruit youth and young adult participants from underserved communities within the Los Angeles area and offer paid mentorships, in-person and online training, with interactive workshops, guest speakers, and hands-on assistive technology sessions to educate PwI/DD about self-advocacy. The project's curriculum is designed with 3 different levels: basic, advanced, and adapted, integrating self-determination skills, person-centered principles, and tailored learning. This Project will:

- Provide training, resources, and opportunities for 75 selfadvocates
- Equip 15 professionals with knowledge/skills to effectively serve and support PwI/DD
- Create and support best and promising practices in promoting self-determination, independence, productivity, and integration for PwI/DD



QUESTIONS

PROPOSED MOTION

"Approve of the State Plan Committee's Cycle 46 Grant funding recommendations and direct the Executive Director to administer the contract process."



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Employment First Office

This year the Council prioritized employment as one of its Legislative Priorities. In January 2023, SCDD released an implementation report to phase-out subminimum wage. The number one priority in the report was to create a Statewide Employment First Office that would maximize California's over 60 employment efforts. The Employment First Office became the Council's top priority, and it was included in the 2023-2024 state budget.

At this meeting, the Council will be given highlights on what the Employment First Office will do.

Attachments None

Handout(s)

May be additional handout(s) day of meeting.

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 11. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Self-Determination Program Evaluation

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide Councilmembers with an overview of the Self-Determination Program (SDP) evaluation that was submitted to the legislature on June 30th.

Beginning June 2018, the SDP became available at every regional center, offering an alternative approach to receive services. This program grants clients and their families increased flexibility, choice, and control over decisions, resources, services, and supports. By embracing the SDP, participants are empowered to experience greater freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation in implementing their Individual Program Plan (IPP). The SDP statute requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), in collaboration with Disability Rights California (DRC) and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) at the University of Southern California (USC), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and University of California Davis (UCD), to issue a comprehensive report in June 2023 regarding the SDP's progress. The Executive Director will be sharing highlights of the evaluation including its findings, and recommendations.

Attachments

SDP Evaluation PPT SDP Evaluation Summary

Handout(s)

May be additional handout(s) day of meeting.

Self-Determination Program (SDP) Evaluation

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director



Self-Determination Program (SDP) Evaluation June 2023

Report:

SDP statutes requires this report, shall include:

- whether SDP is furthering the principles of the program
- recommendations to enhance the program's effectiveness
- Report may include participant satisfaction and other factors

Partners

- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (lead)
- UCLA Tarjan Center University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (data)
- Disability Rights California (collaborator)

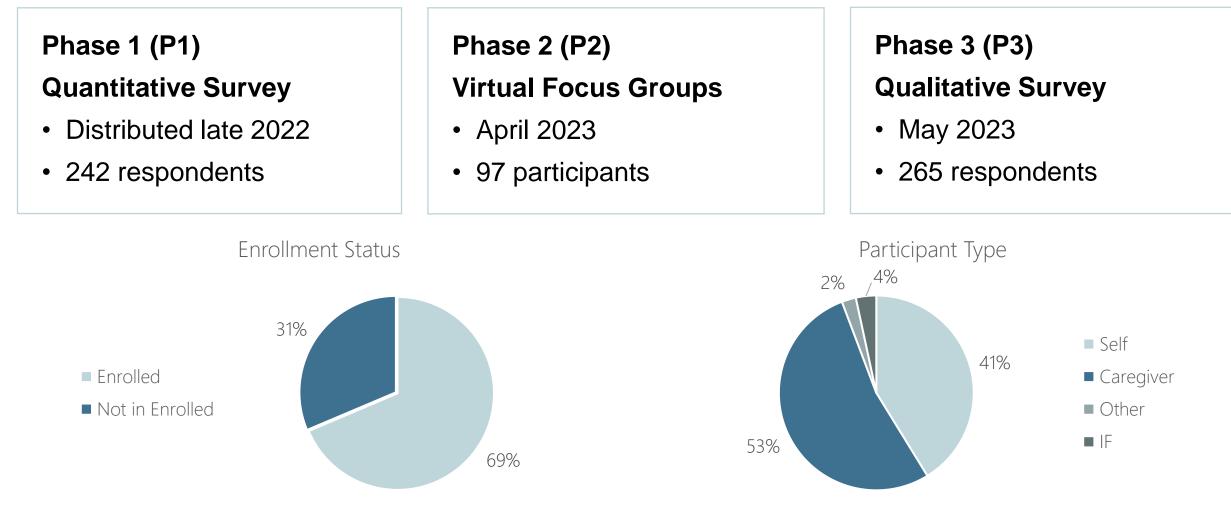
Findings Statement

- SDP furthers SDP principles
- People experienced with SDP largely view the program favorably and would recommend it to others, even with the barriers they describe
- Participants believe in SDP's concept and principles, but identify administrative burdens



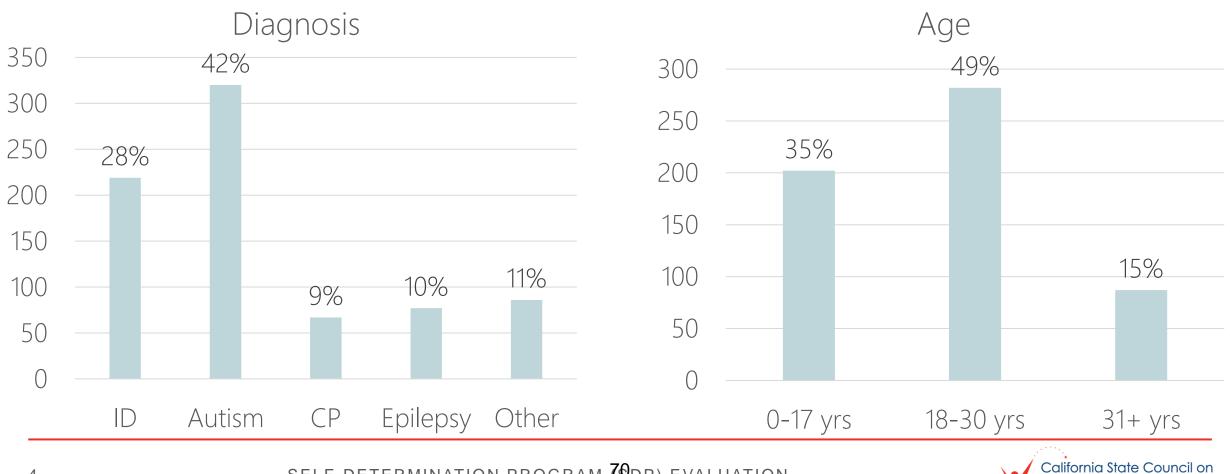
Program Evaluation Phases

N = 604





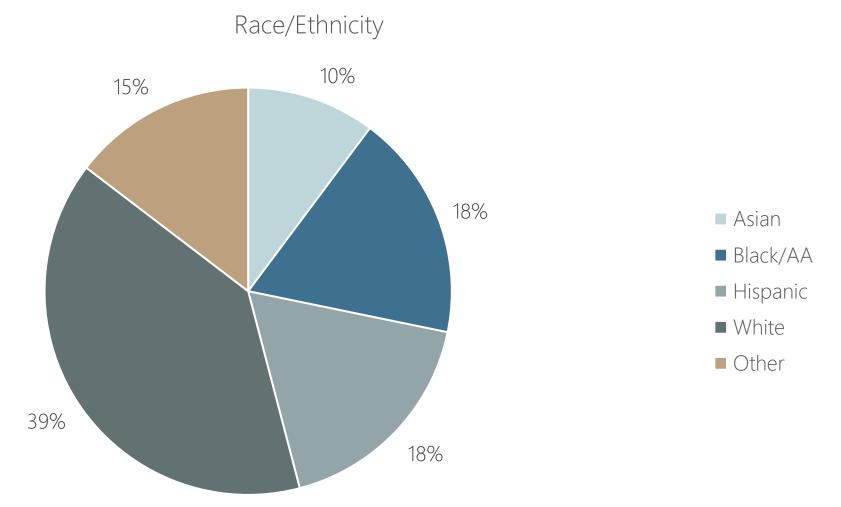
Participant Diagnosis and Age



Developmental Disabilities

Self-determination program 79 dp) evaluation

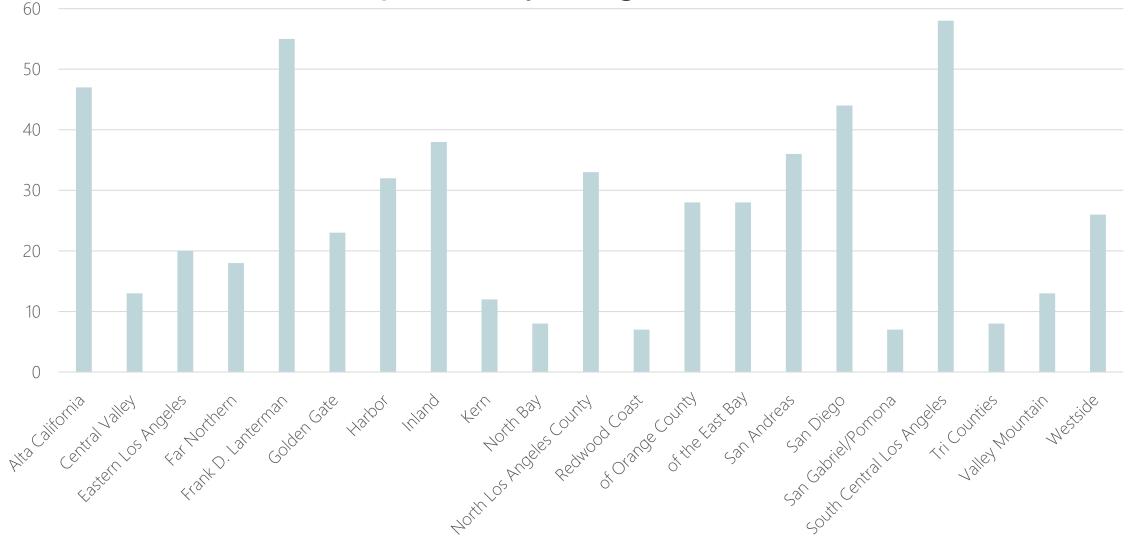
Participant Race/Ethnicity





SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM (SDP) EVALUATION

Participants by Regional Center





Important Findings: Overall

- Support for the Concept of SDP (P2, P3)
 - Many agreed with the idea that people with disabilities and their families should have more freedom to design and pursue their life paths, and with supports of their choosing
 - The concept of the SDP inspired hope, and participants wanted the program to succeed to fulfill its potential

• SDP Furthers the Principles of Self-Determination (P1, P2, P3)

- SDP enhances participants' quality of life
- SDP furthers freedom, authority, support, responsibility, confirmation in a variety of ways



Important Findings: Overall

• Participants Endorse the SDP (P1, P2, P3)

- A majority were satisfied and would recommend the program
- Grateful to be in the Self-Determination Program; find it "life-changing"
- Believed it was the right choice for them

• Participants Wish SDP was Easier, with More Support (P2, P3)

- Need to reduce the administrative burden, complexity, and demands on participant's time
- Call for enhanced supports for participants and families through information availability, staff training, and capacity



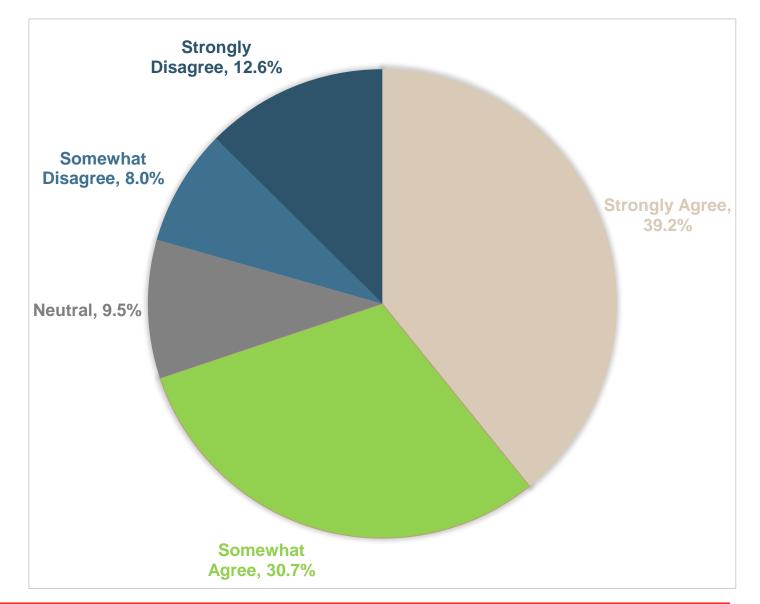
Important Findings: Overall

- Inequities Exist in the SDP (P1, P2, P3)
 - Participants described inequities on the basis of race, Regional Center, disability, socioeconomic/education, native language, and urbanicity (P2, P3)
 - Less Support, Lower Satisfaction, yet Higher Positive Outcomes for BIPOC Participants (P1, P3)
 - SDP is Harder to Navigate for Younger Participants (P1, P3)
 - SDP is Harder to Navigate for Autistic Participants (P1, P3)



Most SDP participants expressed some level of positive agreement with the statement:

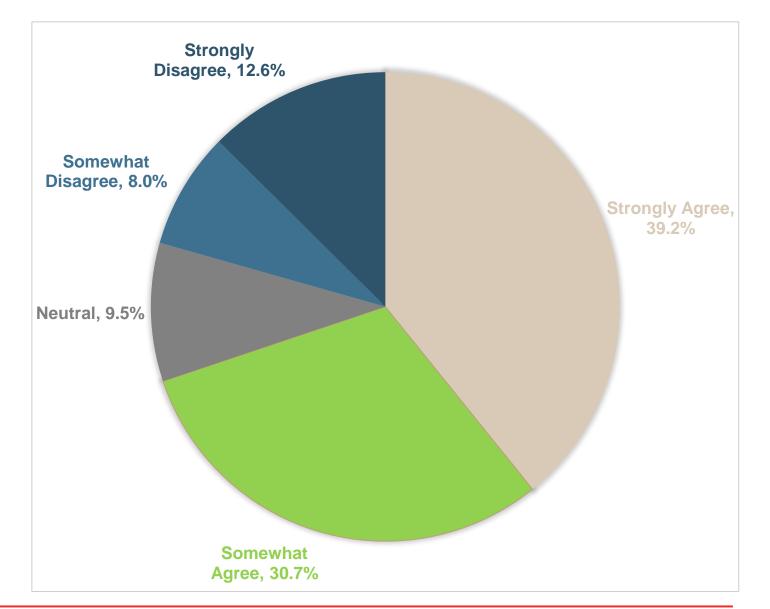
I am pleased with my overall experience in Self-Determination Program.





Most SDP participants would recommend the **Self-Determination Program through** endorsement of the statement:

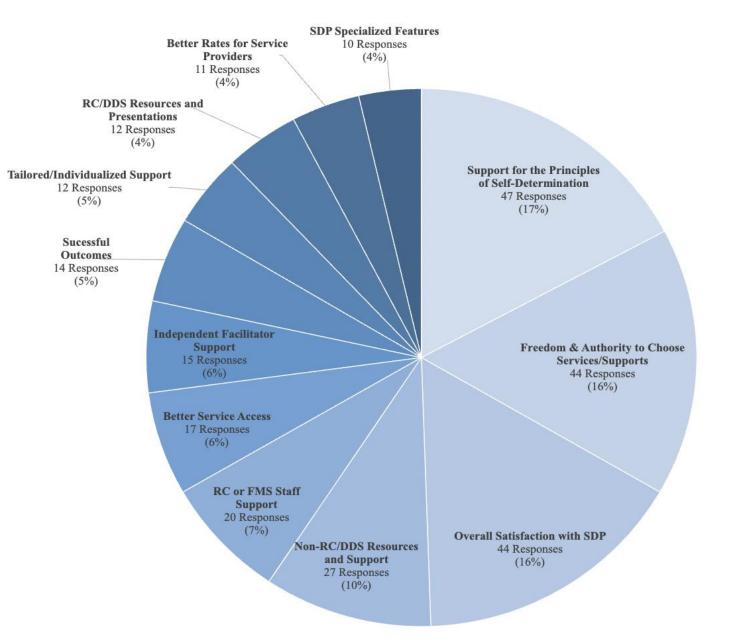
I would recommend the Self-Determination Program.





Important Findings:

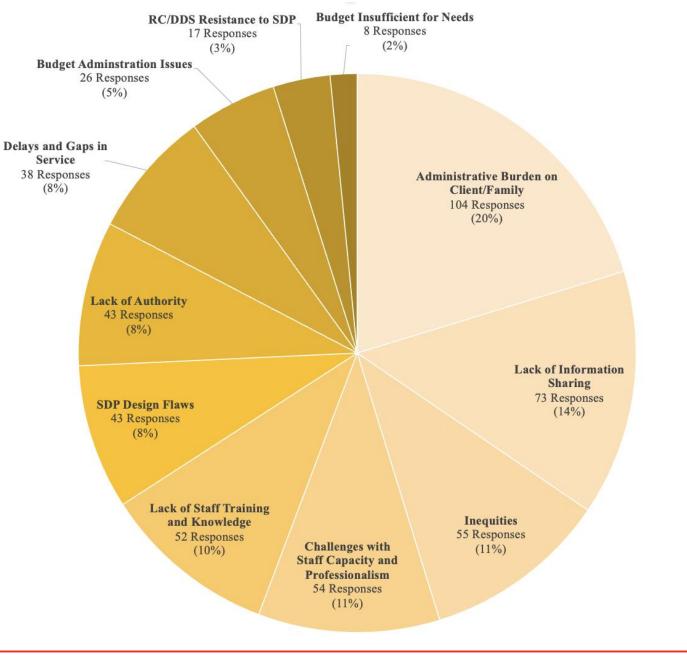
What people like about SDP





Important Findings:

Current Barriers and Challenges





- Improve Access to Information about SDP
- Streamline the Enrollment Process
- Streamline the Budgeting Process

Recommendations · Reduce Administrative Burden

- Improve Compensation and Capacity of Independent Facilitators
- Leverage SDP as a Model to Improve Workforce Hiring and Retention
- Create a More Equitable System to Mitigate Disparities



Thank you!

Questions and discussion



Voices of Self Determination

An Evaluation of Participant Experience in California's Self-Determination Program June 30, 2023

Prepared by:









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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In October 2013, Governor Brown signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 468 (Emmerson) to create the Self-Determination Program (SDP) (Welfare and Institutions Code ([WIC] § 4685.8 et seq.). The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) implements the program, which included 2,688 participants as of April 2023. Beginning June 2018, the SDP became available at every regional center as an alternative way to receive services. The SDP provides clients and their families increased flexibility and choice, and greater control over decisions, resources, services, and supports. Through the SDP, participants are to experience more freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation in implementing their Individual Program Plan (IPP).

The SDP statute requires the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), in collaboration with Disability Rights California (DRC), and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs) at the University of Southern California (USC), University of California Los Angeles (UCLA), and University of California Davis (UCD), to issue a report in June 2023 on the status of the SDP. The report must include information about how the SDP is furthering the principles of the program and recommendations to enhance its effectiveness.

This report is different from prior reports on the SDP, as it is the most comprehensive engagement of SDP participants about the program utilizing research methods to-date. It emphasizes the voices, experiences, and recommendations of SDP participants and those closely involved in the program. It is driven by their insights, proving a valuable perspective that informs the findings and recommendations contained in this report.

Statement of Findings

People experienced with the SDP largely view the program favorably and would recommend it to others, even with the barriers they describe. The SDP is furthering the core principles of self-determination, and these principles and concepts of the program itself are what participants viewed most positively. The challenges described by participants largely fall into the administrative burdens that come along with the program. *In short, participants felt that the problem with SDP is not the concept or its principles, but the administrative burden in obtaining and keeping SDP enrollment.*

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Methods

UCLA Tarjan Center UCEDD conducted the data collection between December 2022 and June 2023 and completed the data analysis in June 2023. In total, the program evaluation included 244 consumers, 314 parents/caregivers, 20 independent facilitators, and 14 other respondents (e.g., siblings, conservators) regarding their experiences with the SDP in California. The program evaluation was conducted in three phases. The first phase consisted of an online quantitative survey (completed by 242 people) administered through UCLA Qualtrics, that included items from the National Core Indicators[®] survey. The second phase consisted of virtual focus groups conducted on Zoom with various stakeholders (completed by 97 people). The third phase of the program evaluation invited stakeholders who were not selected for the focus groups to respond to the open-ended questions asked in the focus groups via a written, online qualitative survey (completed by 265 people).

Highlights of Results

- Participants Support the Concept of the SDP: The idea that people with disabilities and their families should have the freedom and design to pursue their life paths, along with the supports of their choosing, received widespread agreement from participants in the focus groups and qualitative survey. The concept of the SDP inspired hope in them, and they expressed desire for the program to succeed to fully realize its potential.
- 2. The SDP Furthers the Principles of Self-Determination: Across all three program evaluation phases, evidence demonstrated that the SDP furthered the principles of self-determination: freedom, authority, support, responsibility, and confirmation. Among the most frequently cited benefits of the SDP was the participants' newfound freedom and authority in choosing their own service providers and accessing personalized services beyond that of the traditional system. Qualitative results indicated that current SDP participants were more likely than those who were not enrolled to report on greater freedom, better service access, and being able to pay their providers better rates.

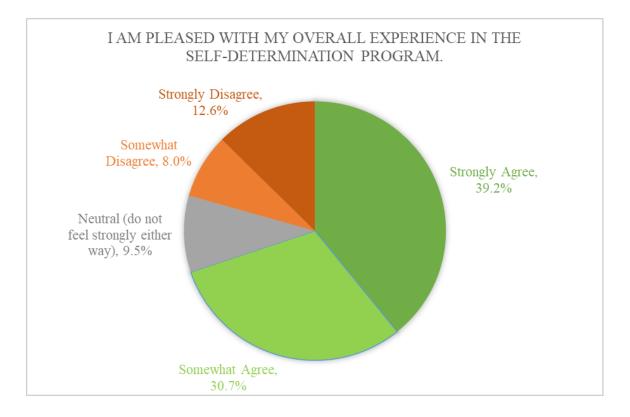
In the quantitative survey, the majority of SDP participants expressed satisfaction with their living arrangements and their ability to engage in enjoyable activities, indicating a strong sense of freedom. Further, over 90% of SDP participants reported involvement in the development of their IPP, further reinforcing the principle of confirmation. Results also highlighted advantages of the SDP over traditional services, as SDP participants were more likely to report adequate assistance in planning their services and budgets, as well as feeling that their services contribute to a good life, in comparison to participants in the traditional regional center system. These findings further exemplify the principles of self-determination.

Many participants connected these advancements in self-determination to positive growth and progress in areas like self-awareness, responsibility, mental health, community integration, independence, employment, and quality of life.

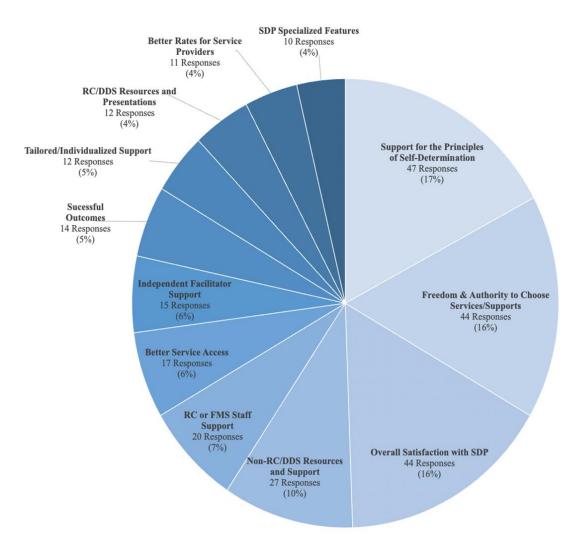
An Evaluation of Participant Experience in California's Self-Determination Program

3. *Participants Endorse the SDP*: Many participants endorsed the SDP, expressing their satisfaction and willingness to recommend the program to others. 70% of respondents were pleased with their experience in the program, while an even higher percentage (77%) would recommend the SDP to others. The open-ended responses highlighted that participants were glad to be in the Self-Determination Program and believed it was the right choice for them. Several participants described the program as "life-changing," conveying an overall sense of satisfaction with the program and the benefits it has given them. For specific results related to satisfaction, helpful components, and positive outcomes of the SDP, please see Figures 1 and 2 from phases 1 and 2, respectively.

Executive Summary Figure 1. Satisfaction in the Self-Determination Program among Currently Enrolled Participants and Caregivers



Executive Summary Figure 2. Emergent Themes of Helpful Components and Positive Outcomes in the Self-Determination Program from Virtual Focus Groups



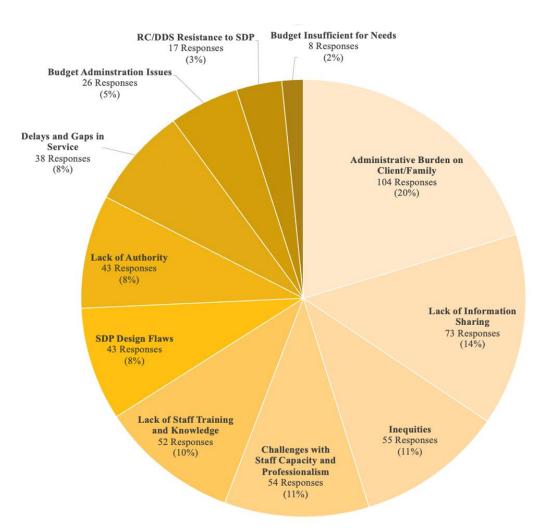
4. Participants Wish the SDP was Easier, with More Support: Despite numerous positive aspects, participants identified significant barriers and challenges with the SDP. Most prominently, participants thought the SDP could be improved by reducing complexity and administrative burden on the participant. Individuals and families perceived the enrollment process and ongoing navigation of the program as time-consuming, labor-intensive, and demanding. This was seen as an issue of inequity, as some individuals may not have the time or capacity to manage such requirements.

Additionally, participants expressed a lack of sufficient support throughout various stages of the SDP. Results suggested that information about and within the program is not readily available, with regional center staff often lacking comprehensive knowledge of the SDP. Findings show that individuals not currently enrolled in the SDP were more likely to express that they encountered difficulties enrolling and accessing sufficient information about the program, suggesting that a lack of accessible information about the SDP may be hindering

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enrollment. The quantitative survey revealed participants' uncertainty in decision-making processes, relying heavily on others to make decisions about support networks and resource utilization. A sizeable minority of participants expressed a need for additional assistance in deciding how to utilize their individual budget and services. Qualitatively, individuals and families also described struggles with issues such as service coordinator turnover, waitlists and customer service related to Financial Management Services, and limited availability of Independent Facilitators. See Figure 3 for barriers and challenges that emerged in Phase 2.

Executive Summary Figure 3. Emergent Themes of Barriers and Challenges in the Self-Determination Program from Virtual Focus Groups



- **5.** *Inequities Within the SDP:* Focus group and qualitative survey participants reported concerns about various forms of inequities within the program. These included racial disparities and disparities in how the SDP is being implemented across regional centers (e.g., differences in what services are approved, differences in budget). Participants also noted that the high level of complexity and administrative burden in the program made the SDP less accessible to individuals with developmental disabilities, participants for whom English is not their first language, and families with diverse socioeconomic and educational backgrounds. Further, statistical analyses revealed significant differences on the following dimensions for specific demographic groups:
 - a. Less Support, Lower Satisfaction, yet Higher Positive Outcomes for BIPOC *participants:* Across both the quantitative and qualitative results, data suggests racial disparities. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) participants were less likely to report meeting with their service coordinator and were less likely to describe receiving support from regional center staff. Furthermore, BIPOC participants reported significantly lower levels of control over their person-centered plan and lower levels of satisfaction with the program than White participants. One positive finding was that BIPOC participants were marginally more likely to describe achieving progress, growth, and positive outcomes through the SDP. These findings suggest that although a lack of support throughout the process may contribute to lower levels of satisfaction, those who persevered in the program experienced successful outcomes.
 - b. The SDP is Harder to Navigate for Younger Participants: Family members representing minor aged clients were significantly more likely to encounter challenges in the SDP, with such themes occurring at a rate more than twice as often as adults. Higher rates of challenges may help explain the finding that respondents who were associated with participants under 21 were less likely to recommend the program.
 - c. *The SDP is Harder to Navigate for Autistic Participants*: In both the quantitative and qualitative surveys, autistic participants and their family members reported more challenges navigating the SDP, including difficulties accessing information, challenges with staff, lower perceived levels of involvement in planning, and slightly lower satisfaction.

Recommendations

Based on the data above, people experienced with the SDP largely view the program favorably and would recommend it to others, even with the barriers to access they describe. The areas that were most positively viewed by participants are the principles and concept of the program itself. The challenges described by participants largely fall into the administrative burdens that come along with the program. *In short, participants felt that the problem with the SDP is not the concept or its principles, but the administrative burden.* To build on the promise of the SDP, we propose the following recommendations for changes in the administrative process to better facilitate the statutory goals of SDP for current and future participants.

- *Improve Access to Information about the SDP* by requiring regional centers to share information about the SDP with people who are new to the regional center system, and to offer SDP as a choice during the IPP planning process. We recommend enhancing outreach and awareness among informal networks, improving the capacity for peer-to-peer counseling about the SDP, and developing clear and accessible guidance materials.
- Streamline the Enrollment Process by eliminating steps that are not statutorily required, developing clear timelines and deadlines for each stage of the enrollment process, increasing Fiscal Management Services (FMS) provider rates, and strengthening the oversight of the role of DDS to ensure consistent application of rules and processes across regional centers to promote equity and fairness.
- Streamline the Budgeting Process by standardizing the process for determining individualized budget amounts to prevent discrepancies and remove subjective judgment of regional center staff.
- Reduce Administrative Burden among SDP participants by shifting obligations that are currently
 placed on individual participants, Independent Facilitators, and/or service coordinators and to
 systemwide functions by establishing clear guidance regarding spending plan expenditures,
 establishing a publicly available service provider directory, expanding the affordability and
 accessibility of Independent Facilitators, and enabling the SDP Ombudsperson office to provide
 more dedicated problem-solving support.
- Improve Compensation and Capacity of Independent Facilitators by establishing core competencies for Independent Facilitators (IF), investing in building an adequate network of Independent Facilitators with a focus on recruiting IFs from underrepresented communities, and modifying the SDP statute to allow Independent Facilitators' pay to be allocated as a specific line item when forming the SDP Budget.
- Leverage SDP as a Model to Improve Workforce Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention by using hiring and rate setting flexibilities found in the SDP to gather data on and develop pilot projects related to new or innovative service types or service code bundles, which may be more effective at increasing the number of providers available to serve traditionally underserved groups.

An Evaluation of Participant Experience in California's Self-Determination Program

• Create a More Equitable System and Mitigate Disparities by tailoring supports to underserved communities by expanding the pool of providers who can meet the unique cultural and linguistic needs of these communities, by implementing measures to ensure equitable distribution of resources and services(such as increased funding or incentives for providers serving historically underserved areas) and by conducting targeted outreach campaigns and identifying how DDS and regional centers can build capacity to support underserved communities in the SDP.

Areas for Additional Research

This program evaluation also points to areas for additional research and policy development that were outside the original scope of the study, including:

- Perspectives of regional center service coordinators.
- Differences in barriers by demographic group, including differences for BIPOC, younger, and Autistic participants.
- Outcomes of people in SDP compared to people in traditional services.
- How certain systemic issues specifically affect SDP.

APPENDIX 1.

Virtual Focus Groups and Qualitative Survey Questions

Note: The questions below were asked of currently enrolled participants. Wording was adjusted depending on the participant type (e.g., participant, family member, independent facilitator) and current enrollment status.

- 1. What has been your experience with the Self-Determination Program?
 - a. This includes:
 - i. Making decisions in your own life
 - ii. Creating and managing your Individual Program Plan (also called your IPP)
 - iii. And overall thoughts about the program that you want to share.
- 2. What obstacles have you experienced at any time during the Self-Determination Program?
 - a. This includes:
 - i. The amount of control you have in how your funds are spent
 - ii. The choice you have in the services and supports you receive
 - iii. And anything else you want to share about the obstacles you experience in the Self-Determination Program.
- 3. What has been helpful about the Self-Determination Program? What have you been able to do within the Self-Determination Program that you were not able to do in traditional services?
 - a. This includes:
 - i. The amount of control you have in how your funds are spent
 - ii. The choice you have in the services and supports you receive
 - iii. And anything else you want to share about what has been helpful with the Self-Determination Program.
- 4. Do you feel like you have received enough support within the Self-Determination Program? What supports have been helpful? If your supports have not been helpful, what could be done differently to support you?
 - a. This includes your experience and who helped you:
 - i. Enroll in the program
 - ii. Develop the spending plan
 - iii. Identify services
 - iv. Create life goals
 - v. And anything else you want to share about the supports you received in the Self-Determination Program.
- 5. What suggestions would you make to improve the Self-Determination Program? What would you like to change and what would you like to keep?
 - a. This includes ways to improve:
 - i. The freedom to choose
 - ii. The authority to control how money is spent
 - iii. The supports received
 - iv. The ability to take responsibility for decisions about services and supports
 - v. The role of participants and families to make decisions
 - vi. Any other improvements you recommend for the Self-Determination Program.
- 6. Any additional comments you want to make about Self-Determination Program?

JULY 18, 2023 AGENDA ITEM 12. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The Council's next meeting date is scheduled for September 19, 2023.