



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

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

MEETING DETAILS:

PHYSICAL LOCATION

SCDD HQ OFFICE
3831 North Freeway Blvd., #125
Sacramento, CA 95834

TELECONFERENCE:

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

MEETING ID: 816 3357 3211

ZOOM LINK:

<https://bit.ly/SCDDCouncilSept2023>

MEETING ID: 816 3357 3211

PASSCODE: 691106

DATE: September 19, 2023

TIME: 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Wesley Witherspoon

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Page 4

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.

Item 5. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Page 5

Wesley Witherspoon, Council Chair

A. Executive Committee

B. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Item 6. APPROVAL OF JULY 2023 MINUTES



Page 7

All

Item 7. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

Page 17

SCDD SSAN Representative Alex Reyes

Item 8. SCDD POLICY UPDATE

Page 18

A. *Update on End of Legislative Session and SCDD Priorities*

Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

B. *Accessible Dental Offices*

California Dental Association (Invited)

Item 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Page 21

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

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

**Item 10. NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
OCTOBER 2023 STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

Page 34

Sydney Krebsbach, WADDC Councilmember

Julie Gaona, SCDD Councilmember

Alex Reyes, SCDD Councilmember

Item 11. CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

Page 35

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.

Item 12. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Page 36

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

Item 13. NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT

Page 37

The next Council meeting will be on November 28, 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 yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov. 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.

There are members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable modification per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To protect their health and/or safety, they are participating remotely for this proceeding without providing their physical location.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 4.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public Comment

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.

SEPTEMBER 19, 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

Executive Committee meeting summary for 08/22/23

Handout

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 09/18/23. The meeting summary will be provided as a handout.

AGENDA ITEM 5A.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

August 22, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on August 22, 2023. The meeting's focus centered on two sponsorship requests, one conflict of interest waiver request, an SCDD budget update, feedback on July's in person Council meeting, and a closed session to discuss the Executive Director's annual evaluation.

Executive Director Carruthers provided Committee members with a report sharing updates on the annual National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference that he attended with Chair Witherspoon, the SCDD staff climate survey, and the Self-Determination Program (SDP) evaluation status. He also welcomed Hannah Dunham and Hilary Baird as the Supported Decision-Making Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) team. Lastly, he announced that Doug Sale would be returning as an Annuitant Project Manager.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the June 2023 meeting minutes.
- Sponsorship request from the Exceptional Family Center and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at the MIND Institute at the University of California, Davis.
- Conflict of interest waiver request from Harbor Regional Center Board Member Gordon Cardona.

Future Meeting Date

October 24, 2023

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 6.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of July 2023 Minutes

The draft minutes from the July 18, 2023 Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment

July Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the July 2023 minutes.



DRAFT
Council Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2023

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.)
Kara Ponton (S.A.)
Kilolo Brodie-Crumsey (F.A.)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Michael Ellis (F.A.)
Michael Thomas (DOR)
Nestor Nieves (S.A.)
Nicole Adler (S.A.)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)
Sonia Jones (S.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)
Yasmin Bolourian (UCEDD)

Members Absent

Mark Beckley (CDA)
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Julie Gaona (S.A.)
Julie Neward (F.A.)
Julio Garnica (S.A.)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Andrea Lynch
Ananda W.
Anne De Medeiros
Beth Hurn
Brian Weisel
Bridget Kolakosky
Charles Ngyuen
Chris Arroyo
Daisy Barry
David Grady
Debra Adler
Debra Ponton
DeLois McGriff
Dena Hernandez

Others Attending
(cont.)

Elsa Casper
Holly Bins
Jazmin Oun
Julie Eby-McKenzie
Ken DaRosa
Kristie Allensworth
Lynn Villoria
Martha Liu
Mary Ellen Stives
Michelle Mahler
Nicole Patterson
Nikita W.
Renee Bauer
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben
Rondale Holloway
Scarlett VonThenen
Sheraden Nicholau
Tania Morawiec
Tina Reszler
William Leiner
Yaritza Sanchez
Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:46 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 1

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

SCDD North Valley Hills Regional Office Manager Dena Hernandez provided a public comment. She thanked the State Council for the \$1,500 sponsorship for the CHOICES Institute Conference which took place in Stockton on April 14, 2023. The sponsorship enabled the hiring of keynote speakers and the offset of various costs, including a themed T-shirt contest. Funds were also utilized to hire Futures Explored for event coverage and The Advocates for lunchtime entertainment. The event marked their first in-person hybrid meeting, attended by 300 individuals in person and 220 via Zoom. A sizzle reel of the event can be accessed at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wkX5Ov4Mrr4wJlqEzIXJAjwI2nJ0JGdl/view?usp=sharing>.

5. **CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Chair announced various national observances for July, including American Artist Appreciation Month and Family Fun Month. He emphasized staying hydrated during the summer celebrations and highlighted the upcoming anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additionally, he shared photos from his attendance at Summerfest in Illinois, one of the largest U.S. music festivals, which celebrated its 55th anniversary. He provided updates on official comments submitted by the Council in support of new HCBS rules and his upcoming participation at the Annual National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference. Lastly, he reminded Councilmembers to fill out the Executive Director evaluation before turning it over to Councilmember Eric Ybarra.

Councilmember Ybarra provided a report on the Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference that he attended in person in May. The full report can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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 <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 2

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Carruthers emphasized the value of in-person interactions for a more holistic exchange of ideas and humanity. He moved on to discuss the State Plan, which is the State Council's agreement with the Administration for Community Living (ACL) for a \$8 million grant aimed at community betterment. Progress on the State Plan is ahead of schedule, with most 2023 goals already met and five-year goals nearly complete. Considering this, adjustments were made to the State Plan to align better with emerging community needs, including increasing objectives around Self-Advocacy and system change, refining metrics that were previously overstated, and incorporating new initiatives such as the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program.

Led by Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) Chair Harold Ashe and Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky, the Council supported 18 legislative bills. One bill failed and did not meet its committee deadline, while three shifted to a two-year legislative cycle. The Council also extended support to two additional bills and rescinded support for a bill that transitioned into a tax measure. 15 bills are still progressing through the legislative process, with decisions by the governor expected to be finalized by mid-October.

The Executive Director discussed the Chair's comments to the federal government concerning Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). HCBS is a federal funding source for services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and it operates under certain rules that periodically undergo revisions. The Chair supported the latest proposed rules, which aim to allocate 80% of funding to direct healthcare worker compensation, require states to detail waitlist management, insist on person-centered service planning, mandate electronic systems for reporting critical incidents, and establish grievance processes for consumers. The Executive Director commended the Chair for amplifying California's supportive stance on these improved measures.

Additionally, Executive Director Carruthers relayed that an in-depth presentation on the Self-Determination Program (SDP) will be provided later in the day, including its evaluation and findings. He briefly explained that the Self-Determination Program (SDP) serves as both a philosophy and a specific program within California's regional centers. It was initiated in June 2018, and became available to all regional center consumers by

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 3

June 2021. SDP is an alternative service delivery model that currently has about 2,600 participants, compared to the traditional system's 400,000. The federally supported program aims to promote principles like freedom, authority, and responsibility. A recently submitted report analyzed SDP's effectiveness and user satisfaction in comparison to traditional services. The Executive Director thanked the partners involved, including DRC, UCD, UCLA Tarjan Center, and Children's Hospital.

Lastly, the Executive Director addressed the challenges posed by climate change, particularly concerning the increased risks of aging utility systems to extreme weather events that could trigger wildfires. To lower this risk, Public Safety Power Shutoffs were implemented in 2018. SCDD has met with major utility providers like Pacific Gas & Electric, Edison, and San Diego Gas and Electric since 2018 to minimize the impact of these shutoffs on individuals with disabilities. Ongoing discussions aim to address the specific needs of Californians with disabilities during these shutoffs and educate communities on preparedness. The Executive Director acknowledged the collaborative work with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and DRC in tackling these issues.

7. APPROVAL OF MAY 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Action 1

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

8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

SCDD SSAN representative Alex Reyes provided Councilmembers with an update from the most recent SSAN meeting on June 7th and 8th, 2023. The next SSAN meeting will be held in person in September.

9. CYCLE 46 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The State Plan Committee convened in February and March to define focus areas, create scoring criteria, and finalize project descriptions. The Council approved these recommendations at the March Council meeting, leading to the release of the Cycle 46 Request for Proposals (RFP) on March 27. The deadline for submissions was May 22, with administrative review completed on May 26 and scoring in June. The Council's approval

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 4

will trigger a protest period, with award notifications set for July 31 and project commencement on October 1.

Out of \$300,000 in available funds, the Council received 17 grant proposals across four focus areas: education, employment, health and safety, and self-advocacy. Contract Analyst Kristie Allensworth performed an initial review, resulting in the disqualification of five proposals due to incompleteness or technical errors. Eligible proposals required a minimum score of 75% of the available 150 points to be considered for an award. The scoring panel recommended three projects for funding, two under employment and one under self-advocacy.

This year marked the first use of the Grant Vantage electronic portal, which received positive feedback. A follow-up survey will be conducted to gather additional feedback and make improvements to the platform.

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

Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Ybarra [S.A]/ Reyes [S.A.]) and carried to approve the State Plan Committee's Cycle 46 Grant funding recommendations and direct the Executive Director to administer the contract process. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present).

10. EMPLOYMENT FIRST OFFICE

Deputy Director Kolakosky highlighted the Council's ongoing efforts to improve employment opportunities for the disability community, who face underemployment rates below 20%. She emphasized the positive impact of ending subminimum wages through SB 639 in 2021, and the need to better connect job seekers with suitable employment. A significant focus was on the Limited Exam Appointments Process State Internship Program (LEAP SIP), which transitioned from a temporary to a permanent program. Despite initial legislative resistance, making the program permanent allows for increased reliability and the potential for program expansion to benefit a greater number of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 5

In addition to making the LEAP SIP program permanent, the Council's second priority for 2023 was the creation of an Employment First Office. While California has been an Employment First state since 2013, underemployment rates among those with intellectual and developmental disabilities have not substantially improved. This new office, officially approved in late stages of this year's state budget process and launching in July 2024, is designed to work across state employment programs. It will focus on improving state-level programs to better interpret and implement Employment First policies, making job-seeking more equitable for all, regardless of disability.

The Executive Director provided further insights into the implications of establishing the Employment First Office through the budget process, via AB 121. He mentioned that AB 121 also dissolved the current Employment First Committee, merging its responsibilities under the new office to reduce policy fragmentation. A more streamlined committee will take its place. The office's tasks will involve data collection, inter-departmental coordination, and actualizing the intended employment first policy. The success was a collaborative effort involving various stakeholders, including Disability Rights California and legislative members. Special recognition was given to Will Leiner from Disability Rights California and Councilmember Michael Ellis for their instrumental roles.

11. **SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The Executive Director recognized the UCLA Tarjan Center, University of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities, Disability Rights California, UC Davis MIND Institute, Councilmember Aubyn Stahmer, and Councilmember Larry Yin for their contributions to the self-determination program evaluation.

Dr. Bolourian with the UCLA Tarjan Center elaborated on the methodology, stating that the self-determination program evaluation had three phases: a quantitative survey, focus groups, and a qualitative survey. They engaged with 604 stakeholders, most of which were current SDP enrollees, had a good representation of caregivers, and were self-reporting regional center consumers. She also presented demographic data of the participants in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) study. The largest participant groups were individuals with autism and young adults. In terms of racial and ethnic composition, 39% were white, 18%

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 6

Black, 18% Hispanic, 10% Asian, and 15% identified as other. All regional centers were represented, with South Central Los Angeles, Frank D. Lanterman, and Alta California having the highest participation.

Key findings showed that the SDP received strong support for enabling participants to pursue individualized goals and better quality of life. However, participants consistently expressed administrative burdens as a drawback, including complexities in accessing information, inadequately trained service coordinators, and operational issues like high staff turnover, and poor customer service. The study also revealed existing inequalities within the Self-Determination Program, particularly racial disparities, and uneven implementation across regional centers. Participants noted that the program's complexity and administrative burdens significantly hindered accessibility for individuals with developmental disabilities, non-native English speakers, and those with educational or economic challenges. Statistical analyses supported these observations, with BIPOC individuals being less likely to meet with service coordinators and less likely to feel satisfied with the program compared to white participants. However, BIPOC participants reported higher successful outcomes. Younger participants and those with autism also faced greater challenges, leading to a lower likelihood of recommending the program. Overall, 70% of participants expressed positive agreement with their experience in SDP, while 20% disagreed, and 10% remained neutral. A significant 77% said they would recommend the program.

Focus groups identified key themes surrounding the Self-Determination Program (SDP) that revolved around the benefits of the program and its challenges. Positive themes included the program's support for self-determination principles, the freedom to choose services, and overall program satisfaction. Participants found valuable resources outside of regional centers through other families, social media, and advocacy groups like Disability Voices United. On the other hand, participants also mentioned several challenges, including administrative hurdles, a lack of program information, inequalities in access and service, and issues with staff capacity and training. Specific program flaws included restrictive Financial Management Services (FMS) policies concerning advanced payment, unclear enrollment processes, and delays in enrollment and payment. Additionally, some participants reported that regional centers discouraged enrollment in the SDP, either implicitly or explicitly.

Will Leiner from DRC outlined a comprehensive set of recommendations aimed at optimizing the Self-Determination Program. The main recommendations included enhancing public knowledge of the program, creating uniform guidelines for enrollment and budgeting, and recognizing the value of independent facilitators. Will emphasized that the responsibility of promoting the program should lie with the system and not solely on existing participants. He stressed the need for standardization across the program's various regional centers and called for stronger investment in the compensation and training of independent facilitators, particularly those from underserved areas. Executive Director Carruthers presented the two final recommendations. The first is using self-determination as a model to improve workforce diversity and retention by allowing participants to hire from their communities. The final recommendation is to create a more equitable system to mitigate disparities by applying an equity lens to all recommendations to address disparities in program benefits, particularly affecting Black, Indigenous, and people of color.

12. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council meeting will be held on September 19, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 Cycle 46
Adler, Nicole	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	For
Billingsley, Joseph	For	Abstain
Bolourian, Yasmin	For	For
Brodie-Crumsey, Kilolo	For	For
Brown, Jessica	For	For
Ellis, Michael	For	For
Fujita, Harold	For	For
Imparato, Andy	For	For
Jones, Sonia	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For
Nieves, Nestor	For	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For
Reyes, Alex	For	For
Ryan, Rosanna	For	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For
Thomas, Michael	For	For
Wavrin, Nick	For	For
Winfield, Brian	For	NP
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For
Ybarra, Eric	For	For
Yin, Larry	For	For

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

Page 9

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
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.

Handout

September 2023 SSAN Update Report

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCDD Policy Update

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky will provide Councilmembers with policy updates on several items including: the status of 2023 Council-sponsored/supported legislation and information on the 3rd annual “There Should Be a Law Contest!”, which runs from September 1st through September 30th. The link to the submission form is:

<https://bit.ly/BillIdeas>.

The California Dental Association (CDA) sponsored and won a \$50M appropriation for accessible dental offices. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities supported that effort. The CDA was invited to present on last year’s budget item and the CA Health Facilities Financial Authority’s (CHFFA) grant process.

Attachment

2023 Bill Status Report

Handout(s)

May be additional handout(s) day of meeting.

SCDD LEGISLATION 2023- List of “Support” Bills

Bills by Policy Category

Civil Rights

1. [AB 248](#) (Mathis) – Removes offensive/outdated language from law.
2. [AB 545](#) (Pellerin) – Voting- Accessibility
3. [AB 280](#) (Holden) – Prohibits solitary confinement of persons with I/DD in jails.
4. [SB 483](#) (Cortese) – prohibits prone restraints in schools - **now a 2-year bill**.
5. [SB 544](#) (Laird) - Bagley-Keene Meetings. Accessibility.

Education

1. [AB 447](#) (Arambula) – Creates inclusive college opportunities.
2. [AB 87](#) (Quirk-Silva) - Authorizes recordings of meetings for 504 plans. **Passed**
3. [AB 624](#) (Grayson) - Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments.

Employment

1. [AB 222](#) (Arambula) - Creates employment workgroup- **now a 2-year bill**

Access to Quality Supports

1. [SB 271](#) (Dodd) - Wheelchair Repair
2. [AB 1568](#) (Wood) - Developmental services: independent living skills services: rates. **Failed Deadline.**
3. [AB 244](#) (Wilson)– Inclusivity training for childcare staff. **Failed Deadline**
4. [AB 1147](#) (Addis/Garcia) - Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023. Increases oversight of regional center operations and performance.

Safety

1. [AB1567](#) (Authors: Eduardo Garcia, Wendy Carrillo, Connolly, Friedman, and Papan) - The Office of Emergency Services and CalFire Department – provides technical assistance to I/DD during emergencies.
2. [AB 946](#) (Nguyen) – Public Safety -Endangered Missing Advisory- includes I/DD. **Passed.**

Housing

1. [SB 246](#) (Ochoa-Bogh) - Interagency Council on Homelessness- adds SCDD to Council. **Failed deadline.**
2. [SB 37](#) (Caballero) Co-Sponsor – Housing assistance to prevent homelessness- **now a 2-year bill**
3. [AB 1097](#) (Rivas) – Became tax bill – dropped from Support.

Quick Review:

From the bills we supported this year, to date:

- 1 bill failed- did not move from its first assigned committee deadline (AB 244)
- 3 bills that are now 2-year bills (SB 483, AB 222, SB 37).
- 2 new bills added to Support (SB 544, AB 624)
- 1 bill that we dropped from Support because it became a tax bill (AB 1097)
- 2 bills that failed (in Suspense and can come back in Jan 2024) (SB 246, AB 1568)
- 2 bills that have passed and signed by Governor (AB 87, AB 946)
- All other bills are going to the floor to be voted on before going to Governor.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 9.
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 Policy and Public Affairs Report
Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report

Handouts

Executive Director Report
QA Project Update Report

Chief Deputy Director's Report: September 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.

- Successfully recruited for, and filled, two of three limited-term positions for the SDM-TAP Grants Program. The staff began July and August respectively. Recruitment efforts continue for the third position, and interviews are anticipated for mid-September.
- Participated in, and facilitated a breakout session, with the SDM-TAP Coalition to seek input on the program's planned grant and contract supports.
- Reviewed program and administrative contracts for approval.
- Reviewed and approved numerous invoices for program, administrative, and operational services.

- Worked with the budget manager on numerous year end, as well as budget-year projects and drills from control agencies such as the Department of Finance. This included year-end reconciliation (a.k.a., Month 13) and reporting on final expenditures.
- Collaborated with SCDD's Vaccine Project Manager, Mirna Leal, on final projects and events funded by our grant from the Centers for Disease Control, and attended several meetings and planning sessions with our UCEDD partners in support of our work with them on healthcare access and equity issues for people with I/DD.
- 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.
- Participated in a series of workshops led by the Department of Aging regarding long-term care facilities and developing recommendations for visitation, access, and support for those in long-term care facilities during public health emergencies when the ability to visit may be curbed given public health guidance.

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POLICY UPDATE

Employment First Office

Having successfully established the Office through this summer's budget process, we continue to advocate across the state with stakeholders on how best to inform both the Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), the Office and the new Employment First Committee (EFC) as realized under the Office. We continue to present on the issue at Regional Advisory Committee (RAC's) across the state and meeting with subject matter experts locally, statewide, and nationally. Over the last two months we have met with at least 30 individuals or orgs with lived experience and professional expertise. This included conducting outreach in Spanish to Spanish-speaking organizations such as Colaboración Latina of UC Davis about the Employment 1st office.

Our goal is to work with HHS in an advisory capacity by sharing recommendations from self-advocates, family advocates, subject matter experts, employers, providers, regional centers, and administration staff.

Limited Exam Appointment Process Statewide Internship Program (LEAP SIP)

As a closely related issue, we are also raising awareness on the LEAP SIP program in the above presentations (as described in the last Council meeting) and encouraging applications.

Deaf Steering Committee: made recommendations to Committee regarding how to access how deaf persons need to communicate. Factors such as severity of hearing loss and age will determine what types of communication will work best with deaf clients. Hiring professionals that understand nuances of being deaf and training of staff will be needed.

Update on SCDD Supported Legislation

Here is a list of the bills and their status as of 6/29/23,

1. SB 271 (Dodd) - Wheelchair Repair
In Assembly committee process
2. AB 1568 (Wood) - Developmental services: independent living skills services: rates
In Senate committee process
3. AB1567 (Principal Authors: Eduardo Garcia, Wendy Carrillo, Connolly, Friedman, and Papan) - The Office of Emergency Services and the Department

of Forestry and Fire Protection – provides technical assistance to I/DD during emergencies.

In Senate committee process

4. AB 248 (Mathis) – Removes offensive/outdated language from law
In Senate committee process
5. SB 246 (Ochoa-Bogh) - Interagency Council on Homelessness- adds SCDD to Council
In Assembly committee process
6. AB 222 (Arambula) - Creates Employment Workgroup
This bill is on pause and may resume moving in 2024
7. AB 447 (Arambula) – Creates inclusive college opportunities
In Senate committee process
8. AB 87 (Quirk-Silva) - Education- Authorizes recordings of meetings
In Senate committee process
9. AB 545 (Pellerin) – Voting- Accessibility
In Senate committee process
10. SB 37 (Caballero)– Housing assistance to prevent homelessness
This bill is on pause, it may resume moving in 2024
11. AB 946 (Nguyen) – Public Safety, Endangered Missing Advisory
In Senate committee process
12. AB 280 (Holden) – Civil Rights - Prohibits solitary confinement of persons with I/DD.
In Senate committee process
13. AB 244 (Wilson) Inclusivity Training for Childcare Staff
This bill failed
14. SB 544 (Laird) - Bagley-Keene Meetings
In Assembly committee process
15. SB 483 (Cortese) – Education – prohibits restraints

This bill is on pause, it may resume in 2024

16. AB 1147 (Addis/Garcia) - Disability Equity and Accountability Act of 2023 – Regional Centers
In Senate committee process
17. AB 624 (Grayson) - Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments
In Senate committee process
18. AB 1097 (Rivas) – this bill was drastically amended into a tax bill, SCDD is no longer supporting bill due to it no longer being relevant

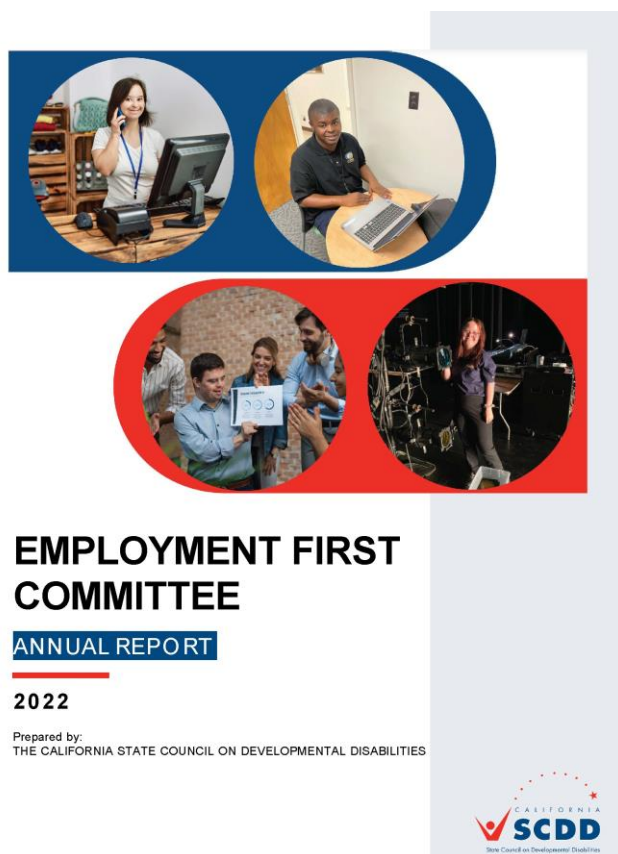
COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

OUTREACH

- ✓ JULY NEWS & EVENTS: Included messaging that highlighted Disability Pride Month and a synopsis about the importance of the anniversary and why the commemoration is held in July. Messaging also included details about the ongoing California NEON Community of Practice Sessions and statewide Self-Determination Program Orientations. Messaging was disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ Orange County Local Partnership Agreement (OCLPA): Comms developed an email blast in English and Spanish promoting the statewide survey to collect situations experienced by people with intellectual or developmental disabilities related to issues with Social Security benefits and employment. Messaging was disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages:
- ✓ AUGUST NEWS & EVENTS: Email blast included a brief overview about Women's Equality Day (August 26) and commemorate the 1920 adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Messaging also included details about the ongoing California NEON Community of Practice Sessions and statewide Self-Determination Program Orientations. Messaging was disseminated to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and posted to the Council's primary social media pages:
- ✓ Comms developed a flyer to help promote the final English only NEON Community of Practice Session. The flyer was delivered via email to the Regional Office Managers to share with their networks and disseminate via their email communications.
- To aid in SCDD staff recruitment efforts, Comms created a flyer to promote the following positions: [Business Operation & Logistics Analyst](#) and [Grants Management Analyst](#). Both

positions were advertised via SCDD social media platforms: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn to a collective social media audience over 8,700 followers.

- ✓ 2nd Annual Back-to-School Resources Guide an email blast disseminated to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature, and social media [Facebook](#), ([X](#) formerly Twitter), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).
- ✓ Launched the 3rd Annual There Should Be A Law Contest. Promoted via a call-to-action on the homepage of the SCDD website, [Facebook](#), Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram, and shared via the September News & Events email blast to over 11,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature in English and Spanish.
- ✓ Hurricane Hilary Watch Messaging, with disaster related resources email blast disseminated via an email blast <https://conta.cc/3E1kf9V> to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature and via SCDD social media platforms: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn to a collective social media audience over 8,700 followers.
- ✓ Creative design of the cover of the *Employment First Committee (EFC) 2022 Annual Report* <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/08/Final-EFC-Report-2022-Accessible.pdf> disseminated the report via SCDD social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [X](#) (formerly Twitter), and [LinkedIn](#) to a collective social media audience over 7,000 followers



- ✓ Created the News Release <https://scdd.ca.gov/newsroom/> for the announcement of the release of the report *Voices of Self-Determination: An Evaluation of Participant Experience in California's Self-Determination Program*. Other distribution tactics included an email blast

<https://conta.cc/3R7T9Wr> disseminated to over 17,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn.

- ✓ Participated in legislative outreach planning meetings and assisted regional offices, SCDD committees, and partners with disseminating information about existing and upcoming initiatives (including webinars and live in-person events) via statewide email or social media.

BRANDING

- ✓ In Progress: SCDD Personal Stories Campaign and story archive.
- ✓ Paused: Suite of SCDD branded design elements for staff wide use.

REPORT FROM: TANIA MORAWIEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS REPORT RANGE 7/7/23-9/1/23

Employer Engagement

SCDD's San Bernardino Office collaborated with DOR and DDS to hold an Inland Empire Employer Round Table on the business bottom line benefits of hiring people who have disabilities. The focus of this meeting was to highlight resources and programs like the DOR Demand Side Initiative and the DDS Paid Internship Program that support employment and inclusion of people who have I/DD.

SCDD is walking the talk as we participate in a PIP based at our San Bernardino office. Brandi, started her work with SCCD in August as an Outreach Coordinator Intern. Brandi will help engage self-advocates and develop success stories and lived experience testimonials tied to Council goal areas.

Diversity & Equity

SCDD staff member Patricia Herrera, San Bernardino, is participating in the DDS Service Access and Equity Grant scoring panel. This is an excellent opportunity for SCDD to help secure grant opportunities that address the service access and equity issues being observed by our regional teams, Council, and RAC members.

SB1663, SDM TAP

2 new staff members have joined the SCDD team to support design and implementation work for Supported Decision Making and alternatives to conservatorship. Our team is working with Disability Rights California and the Mind Institute on outreach and design elements for \$3 million dollars in grants to support technical assistance and curriculum development for target populations that may include families, educational, medical and judicial sectors.

Extensive community engagement will be taking place to ensure that diverse stakeholders can contribute ideas. Community input is currently being sought via SCDD's web portal : [SDM-TAP Community Input | SCDD \(ca.gov\)](https://www.scdhhs.org/SDM-TAP-Community-Input)

Self Determination-SCDD provides on-demand, self-paced training.

Goal-address statewide need for more skilled Independent Facilitators

Self Determination Program Independent Facilitator Self-Paced Training August 2023 - In the month of August, 104 people participated in the SDP Independent Facilitator Self-Paced training in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese (89 English, 1 VN, and 14 Spanish) and of these 4 individuals completed the series this month and taken the post survey (remaining are in progress). The 4 individuals who completed the series and completed the question identified as being from Arcadia. All time statistics for this self-paced IF training through August: 1,473 people viewed a portion of the English training, taken part in some segment of it, and 239 have completed it in its entirety. Additionally, 307 Spanish speakers viewed a portion of the Spanish training, taken part in some segment of it, and of these 19 finished the series in its entirety.

The VN series was launched in May 2023 and so far, 6 people watched the VN recording, and 1 person completed the training. This seven-module training covers the following aspects of SDP: Overview of SDP, Budget and Spending Plan, Role of IF, Knowledge and Skills, Person Centered Planning, and the Business of Facilitation. This training is web-based, includes audio, transcription for those with hearing impairments, and handouts available on a Google Drive. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for this self-paced training, as it can be completed at the person's leisure, the activities require engagement and assesses comprehension of the materials, and upon completion, a "certificate" of recognition is provided.

Transition Aged Youth

SCDD began working with young adults through the Youth Voice Youth Choice(YVYC) Initiative from the National Institute for Community Inclusion. SCDD participated in the application process for this opportunity and after being selected as a core state, is now working with a team of young adults to develop plans to educate CA youth with disabilities on alternatives to conservatorship.

[Home - Center on Youth Voice, Youth Choice \(youth-voice.org\)](https://youth-voice.org)

To expand reach and engagement with transition aged youth, SCDD staff attended the California Transition Alliance meeting. [CA Transition Alliance | Connecting Professionals Serving Youth in Transition](#)

SCDD staff shared information on the new Employment First Office to be funded in January of 2024 and the YVYC project. SCDD staff are eager to gather recommendations for the E1 Office and the Transition Alliance, which includes California Department of Education, are essential stakeholders with influence on Local Partnership Agreements that often create best practices in successful transition into adulthood by focusing on employment, post- secondary education, and community inclusion.

CDE shared SFY 22-23 data at this meeting which included:

- Total Number of students aged 16-21 served by DOR 46,008
- Total Number of students aged 16-21 served by DOR who participated in a work experience 11,953.

We Can Work (WCW) and Transition Partnership Program

- Total Number of students aged 16-21 served through a TPP or WCW 23,591
- Total Number of students aged 16-21 served through a TPP or WCW who participated in a work experience 7, 288.

Commitment to Community Inclusion, SCDD Trains Yolo County Library Staff

SCDD Community Program Specialist, the Chairperson of the SCDD Sacramento Self-determination Advisory Committee and a family advocate who is also a member of the city of Sacramento Disability Advisory Commission were invited to present at the Yolo County Library System Staff meeting. The purpose of the presentation was to provide technical assistance to Yolo County Library staff to support the organization goal of creating a truly inclusive experience for people with disabilities/ IDD when accessing Library programs and services.

The topics covered included:

- Why make your library and your community activities accessible to all people including people with disabilities?
- Who are your users with disabilities?
- How is disability defined?
- What is accessibility?
- How do you welcome patrons with different types of disabilities?
- What shapes or influences our attitudes toward disability?

- Invisible Disabilities: Learning Disabilities, Autism, Emotional Disabilities Hearing and Vision Impairment, Mental Health Disorders, Sensory Processing, & Intellectual Disability
- Accessible Language & Communication Strategies
- People First Language
- Stereotypes of Disabilities
- Communication tips for people with Disabilities
- Considering people with physical Disabilities
- Considering people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Serving People with Autism
- Considering People Who are Blind or Have Low Vision
- Planning for the Future
- Using Universal Design Planning for Accessible events
- Best practices in serving people with Speech Disabilities
- State and Federal Law governing Service Animals
- Social model vs the Medical model of disability
- Why make your Library and your community activities and events accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities?
- An overview of Federal State Laws and Policy that impact public entities. Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990: Telecommunications Act of 1996
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) of 1994
- Attendees were given the opportunity to ask any questions they had relating to Disabilities that were perhaps afraid to ask.

The Self-advocate presenter did an excellent job answering a number of questions about their personal experience with disability and broader questions about disability. SCDD received very positive feedback from the attendees. The Yolo County staff expressed interest in collaborating with SCDD on future training.

CRA/VAS

SCDD AT WORK INSIDE CALIFORNIA DDS STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES

CENSUS as of September 1, 2023: 226

(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 on-site STAR units for another five year cycle to June 2027. Covid continues to impact both facilities. Single digit number of infections arise that require changes in programming.



Program Activity for July and August 2023

Canyon Springs Community Facility and Desert STAR Unit

Covid outbreaks happened twice at CS. Units quarantined as needed. CRA reached out to local colleges and trade schools to gather information on alternative programs/educations for clients. CRA attended 7 client meetings, conducted 11 rights training for staff and 2 self-advocacy trainings via client council, reviewed 2 denial of rights, filed 2 Writs of Habeas Corpus, 5 court appearances and participated in an advocacy training for San Bernadino Valley College. VAS is serving 42 clients at CS and STAR and in the community this period. VAS participated in 36 client meetings and conducted 4 self-advocacy trainings. VAS facilitated the creation of a People First of Coachella Valley chapter to serve individuals at CS.



Census
Canyon Springs: 31

Desert STAR: 8

Porterville Developmental Center

The CRA facilitated a system for PDC client access to court officials. CRA attended 18 client meetings, reviewed 7 denial of rights, and 19 human right/behavior management committees. VAS facilitated food and transportation services for individuals in SLS who were isolated and low on food. VAS facilitated emergency team meeting and advocated for med change when community-based client was admitted to hospital. VAS continues to witness slow transition from PDC due to staffing shortages in community homes and vocational sites.



Census
Porterville: 187

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 10.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

National Disability Employment Awareness Month October 2023 Stories and Lessons Learned

Councilmembers will hear from Sydney Krebsbach with the Washington State Council, Councilmember Julie Gaona, and Councilmember Alex Reyes on their experiences with seeking employment as self-advocates, effective employment strategies, lessons learned, and best practices.

Handout(s)

May be handout(s) the day of the meeting.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Closed Session: Personnel

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 12.
INFORMATION ITEM**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Reconvene Open Session

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 13.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The Council's next meeting date is scheduled for November 28, 2023.