



State Council Meeting Summary

September 19, 2023

Ensure that Californians with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all Americans.

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

- The State Council on Developmental Disabilities held its 5th Council meeting of the year. The meeting focused on employment and highlighted National Disability Employment Awareness Month. It is held every October and celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and fostering a more inclusive workforce. Sydney Krebsbach with the Washington State Council, Councilmember Julie Gaona, and Councilmember Alex Reyes provided three different perspectives, and shared their paths to employment.
- **Chair Report:** Chair Witherspoon attended the annual NACDD Conference in Florida alongside Executive Director Carruthers. He announced plans to present at the AUCD 2023 Conference in Washington, DC concerning leadership positions for people with disabilities in non-profit organizations. Additionally, he was selected by the National Association to serve on a search committee for the next CEO, composed of self-advocates, family advocates, Council Executive Directors, and Council Chairs.
- **Executive Director Report:** After only two years into the State Plan, SCDD completed 4 out of the 11 objectives, leading to updated targets. State Plan staff have initiated the Program Performance Report (PPR), detailing last year's achievements. The Service International Employees Union (SEIU) bargaining team ratified a contract featuring a 10% general salary increase (3% for all employees and 7% for Office Technicians) over three years. SCDD staff will modify the budget display adopted by the Council for 2023-24 and bring it to the Executive Committee to pay for the raise. Additionally, he and other community leaders were invited to the White House in October to discuss building a better California.
- **SSAN Report:** SCDD Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Representative Alex Reyes briefed

Councilmembers on SSAN's first in person/hybrid meeting held on September 6th and 7th. They met to discuss ways to be more effective in their work, both individually and collectively as a self-advocacy network.

Policy Updates

- The California Dental Association (CDA) sponsored and won a \$50M appropriation for accessible dental offices. SCDD supported that effort.
- In 2023, the Council prioritized employment, safety, and housing. SCDD supported various bills across categories: Civil Rights, Education, Employment, Access to Quality Supports, Safety, and Housing. Among those, three became two-year bills (SB 483, AB 222, SB 37), three failed (AB 244, SB 246, AB 1568), and two were signed by the Governor (AB 87, AB 946). The following bills are waiting to be signed by the Governor: AB 248 (Mathis), AB 545 (Pellerin), AB 447 (Arambula), AB 624 (Grayson), SB 271 (Dodd), SB 544 (Laird). To see additional updates and more information on the bills, please access <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.
- The 3rd annual "There Should Be a Law Contest!", will run from September 1st through September 30th. The link to the submission form is: <https://bit.ly/BillIdeas>.
- Vice Chair Lee was unfortunately unable to lead the closed session for the Executive Director Evaluation, so it was postponed to November's Council meeting.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Approved the July 2023 Council meeting minutes.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

- The next Council meeting will be on November 28th, 2023.