

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Executive Director Report

November 28, 2023

Aaron Carruthers



Peace is not the
absence of conflict
but the presence of
creative alternatives
for responding to
conflict.

Dorothy Thompson

meetville.com

Council's trainings positively impact lives, helping people repair relationships with service agencies and access more services because of what they learned through SCDD

--From SCDD 2023 Program Performance Report

Overview

- 2023 Program Performance Review Highlights: Wrapping Up the Year
- 2023 Policy Advocacy Roundup: The Council's Continued Impact
- 2023 Accomplishments: 3 for 2023 (...only 3?)

2023 Program Performance Review Highlights: Wrapping Up the Year

- The State Plan is SCDD's contract with the federal Administration on Community Living (ACL) for federal funding
 - The plan reflects the Council's values and how it will bring change in California
- The State Plan is a 5-year plan (2022-2026)
 - Each year begins October 1 and ends September 30 (same as a federal year)
- Writing the Program Performance Review (PPR), report on last year's work
- State Plan Committee reviewed, will submit to ACL by December 31, 2023

2023 Program Performance Review

Highlights: Wrapping Up the Year

- Meeting or Exceeding 2-year measures
 - 4 out of the 11 exceeded 5-year measures
- SCDD reach, coordination, and value grows
 - Pandemic era: 500 collaborative partners
 - 2022: 750 collaborative partners
 - 2023: 850 collaborative partners
- Increased outreach to underserved communities
- SCDD's work impacted over 4 million Californians last year
- Will bring report to Council's January 2024 Meeting

2023 Policy Advocacy Roundup: The Council's Positions Impact Over 4 Million

- 6 bills supported by Council enacted into law
- Civil Rights
 - AB 248 (Mathis) Dignity for All Act (no r-word)
 - AB 545 (Pellerin) Access for Voters with Disabilities (curbside voting)
 - AB 544 (Laird) Bagley-Keene (make meeting laws work for people with disabilities)

2023 Policy Advocacy Roundup: The Council's Positions Impact Over 4 million

- 6 bills supported by Council enacted into law (continued)
- Education
 - AB 477 (Arambula) Inclusive Higher Ed Act (more at UC & CSU)
 - AB 87 (Quirk-Silva) 504 Plans (can record)
- Safety
 - AB 946 (Nguyen) Emergency Services (Endangered Missing Advisory for people with IDD)

2023 Accomplishments: 3 for 2023 (...only 3?)

- **Employment**

- “We said this is the year of employment and we delivered”

- **SDM-TAP** (Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program)

- “We are building a less restrictive alternative to losing your rights in conservatorship”

- **Reaching those Underserved**

- “We reach people who are often left out”

2023 Accomplishments: 3 for 2023

Employment

- 2023 SCDD “Year of Employment”
 - Issued implementation plan to phase-out subminimum wage
 - Secured Statewide Employment First Office
 - Brought national employment expertise to CA in NEON Grant
 - Issued grants to create networks of 100 employers in both LA and SF who change their policies to actively employ people with disabilities
 - Made permanent internship program for people with IDD who want to be a CA State employee
 - Why it matters: Employment is the #1 issue people with IDD want SCDD working on; people deserve more than historical low, flat employment rates!

2023 Accomplishments: 3 for 2023

SDM-TAP

- Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP)
- \$5 million to SCDD to create SDM-TAP
 - First significant state general fund allocation to SCDD
- Part of efforts to reform conservatorship
 - AB 1663 (Maienshein): Deflect, Divert, Dissolve, Decide
- SDM-TAP deflects people out of conservatorship w/ a less restrictive option
 - An individualized process of supporting and accommodating an adult with a disability to enable the adult to make life decisions without impeding their self-determination
 - Why it matters: With few fully formed and supported options to conservatorship, California families turn to an option that may not fit their needs, resulting in more people losing legal rights than needed through overuse of conservatorships. SDM-TAP improves civil rights!

2023 Accomplishments: 3 for 2023

Reaching those Underserved

- Immense activity serving California's diverse needs:
 - 422 cross-disability 562 Hispanic/Spanish 94 Asian
 - 215 mental illness 98 Native/Tribal 71 Aging/Elders
 - 171 Rural/Frontier 48 LGBTQIA2S+ 86 Homeless/Unhoused
 - 13 Veterans 105 Black/African-Am 25 Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Increase of 20% in disparity activities over 2022
- Spanish translations have doubled since 2022
- Why it matters: reach deeper into IDD communities statewide to reduce existing racial, language, and geographic inequities in service delivery, thus realizing the promise of the Lanterman Act that individuals with IDD have an entitlement to services

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Visiting Councilmembers





THANK YOU!

Questions or
Discussion?