



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code section [11123.2](#). Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

MEETING DETAILS:

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:

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

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

CALL IN NUMBER: (888)-475-4499 or
(877) 853-5257
MEETING ID: 878 5772 3451

JOIN BY ZOOM:

<https://bit.ly/SCDDCouncilNov2023>

MEETING ID: 878 5772 3451

PASSCODE: 691106

DATE: November 28, 2023

MEETING TIME: 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAIR:

Wesley Witherspoon

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCIL DELEGATE Page 4

Item 5. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2023 MINUTES  Page 5
All

Item 6. PUBLIC COMMENTS Page 13

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 7. CHAIR REPORT AND 2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS Page 14

Wesley Witherspoon, Council Chair

- A. Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)
- B. Employment First Committee (EFC)
- C. Executive Committee
- D. Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC)
- E. Membership Committee
- F. State Plan Committee (SPC)
- G. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)

Item 8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS Page 22

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 9. 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 10. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION Page 36

Pursuant to Government Code Section 1126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

Item 11. 2024 POLICY PLANNING

Page 37

- A. Legislative Process
- B. 2023 Bill Idea Contest
- C. Adopt 2024 Policy Priorities



**Item 12. 2024 COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETING DATES AND
ADJOURNMENT**

Page 38

The next Council meeting will be in January 23, 2024.

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.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 4.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Swearing in of New Council Delegate

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will swear in new Council Delegate Debra Cooper with the California Health and Human Services Agency.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of September 2023 Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 19, 2023 Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment

September Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the September 2023 Council meeting minutes.



DRAFT
Council Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2023

Members Attending

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

Members Absent

Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Beth Hurn
Brian Weisel
Bridget Kolakosky
David Grady
Dena Hernandez
Gilda Giron
Hilary Baird
Holly Bins
Ken DaRosa
Lisa Hooks
Lourdes Gomez
Lynn
Maria Arredondo
Mary Ellen Stives

Others Attending
(cont.)

Maureen Fitzgerald
Michelle Cave
Miguel Lugo
Mirna Leal
Nicole For Love
Nicole Patterson
Renee Bauer
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad
Ryan Duncanwood
Rondale Holloway
Scarlett VonThenen
Sheraden Nicholau
SJackson
Tania Morawiec
Veronica Bravo
Yaritza Sanchez

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

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3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Witherspoon shared that he attended the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Conference in Florida alongside Executive Director Carruthers. He trained Council Chairs on how to run a good Council. He also announced plans to present at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities' (AUCD) 2023 Conference in Washington, DC in early November on leadership roles for people with disabilities in non-profit organizations. Furthermore, he was invited 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.

The Chair announced various national observances for September, including Rosh Hashanah, Mexican Independence Day, National Voter Registration Day, and Yom Kippur. For October he highlighted Hoshana Rabbah, World Cerebral Palsy Day, National Coming Out Day, his birthday on the 30th, and Halloween. He also invited Councilmembers to his birthday party on October 21st.

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/>.

6. **APPROVAL OF JULY 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Action 1

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

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

SCDD SSAN representative Alex Reyes provided Councilmembers with an update from SSAN's in person hybrid meeting on September 7th, 2023. The next SSAN meeting will be held in December.

Legend:

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SCDD POLICY UPDATE

Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky announced the 3rd annual “There Should Be a Law Contest!” from September 1st through September 30th. In 2023, the Council prioritized employment, safety, and housing. Employment was their number one priority. Deputy Director Kolakosky highlighted the success of the Employment First policy which led to the creation of the Employment First Office and the permanence of the LEAP SIP program. She relayed that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee has consistently dedicated time during their meetings to address concerns and engage in discussions on policies related to safety for people with disabilities. Additionally, the ongoing advocacy for housing, specifically through the co-sponsoring of SB 37, aimed to address rental subsidies for those in need.

She provided a comprehensive overview on the legislative process of the bills supported by the Council. She noted that given the two-year legislative session, bills that did not pass in 2023 may still progress. AB 244 failed to meet its committee deadline, while SB 483, AB 222, and SB 37 shifted to a two-year cycle. The Council extended its support to SB 544 and AB 624, while withdrawing support from AB 1097 due to its transition into a tax measure. Two bills, SB 246 and AB 1568, failed in the Appropriations Committee but may be reconsidered. The Governor signed AB 87 and AB 946 into law. AB 1567 remains in committee with hopes for advancement next year. Bills awaiting the Governor’s signature include AB 248 (Mathis), AB 545 (Pellerin), AB 447 (Arambula), AB 624 (Grayson), SB 271 (Dodd), and SB 544 (Laird).

The Council does not often take positions on federal bills, as they defer to the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities on federal legislation. However, they received information about the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, a bill designed to enhance security income benefits and raise asset limits to \$10,000 for individuals and \$20,000 for couples. Staff will monitor the Act as it is in motion and subject to amendments.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Carruthers began his report with a quote from Dr. Victor Pineda, a Social Development Scholar and Disability Rights Advocate. He highlighted the need to celebrate diversity within the Latino community and among individuals with disabilities.

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The State Plan serves as the Council's contract with the federal Administration on Community Living (ACL) for federal funding. This 5-year plan (2022-2026) reflects the Council's values and commitment to bringing positive change to California for individuals with disabilities and their families. Notable achievements from the past year included the completion of 4 out of 11 objectives, a revision to increase the goals for those objectives, and significant progress on two more objectives. State Plan staff have initiated the Program Performance Report (PPR), detailing last year's achievements. Furthermore, the ACL approved the Council's workplans for 2024, 2025, and 2026. These internal documents guide the Council's work. As a reminder, Cycle 45 grants end on September 30th, and Cycle 46 grants begin on October 1st.

The Statewide Self-Advocate Network (SSAN), a self-advocacy project overseen by the Council, held their first in-person hybrid meeting on September 7, 2023. They met to discuss ways to be more effective in their work, both individually and collectively as a self-advocacy network. They generated ideas for regional projects in the areas of Self-Advocacy, Systems Change, and Capacity-Building. Additionally, SSAN restructured its workgroups to prioritize four short-term projects related to employment. These projects include hosting an Employment (NDEAM) Webinar on October 30th, creating employment tip-sheets, documenting success stories in employment, and developing Disability Awareness Trainings.

On September 12, 2023, the Service International Employees Union (SEIU) members ratified a contract with the state of California. This agreement included a 3% wage increase for employees starting July 1, 2023, and a 7% increase for Office Technicians. This move ensures that entry-level state jobs will now offer \$25/hr, an essential raise to acknowledge employees' hard work and to address inflation. The next step involves modifying the Council's adopted budget display for 2023-2024 to accommodate the wage increase, which will be presented to the Executive Committee for approval.

The Executive Director shared that he and other community leaders were invited to the White House for "Communities in Action: Building a Better California" on October 5, 2023. He offered to carry forward messages and concerns from Councilmembers regarding issues that matter most to individuals with IDD and their families.

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Councilmember Brodie-Crumsey advocated for removing the R word from federal language. Councilmember Jones discussed the challenges faced by married couples with disabilities due to benefit structures that risk cutting their income. Councilmember Neward discussed the importance of partnering with developers and building owners to address access issues and supporting disability-owned businesses through private-public partnerships. Councilmember Reyes emphasized the importance of including people with disabilities in decision-making. Councilmember McNair advocated for person-centered services from infancy to end of life, emphasizing the need for well-trained, respectful, and well-paid staff. Councilmember Barnwell emphasized the importance of considering the perspective of people with disabilities when crafting laws and policies, keeping in mind their unique challenges, talents, and attributes. Councilmember Ponton raised awareness of rare diseases and the need for accessible healthcare, especially in rural areas. Councilmember Nieves called for equal participation in employment, healthcare, and social opportunities. Councilmember Gaona pointed out the need to reevaluate IHSS benefits to avoid penalizing higher earnings. Councilmember Adler reinforced the significance of eliminating derogatory terms from law and society.

The Executive Director assured Councilmembers that he would convey their concerns to the White House.

9. NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2023 STORIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

National Disability Employment Awareness Month, celebrated every October, highlights the contributions of workers with disabilities and promotes inclusivity in the workforce. Three self-advocates, Sydney Krebsbach from the Washington State Council, Councilmember Julie Gaona, and Councilmember Alex Reyes shared their unique employment journeys.

Sydney, who co-chairs the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, discussed her experiences as an Energy Specialist at Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners (SNAP) and her advocacy work with the ECHO Autism Hub Team at the University of Washington. She recounted her decade-long journey through various jobs, emphasizing the challenges she faced in securing stable full-time employment. Sydney's

inspiring message urged others not to give up in their search for the right job.

Councilmember Julie Gaona recounted her academic journey, highlighting a shift from university aspirations to community college and eventually to a career catalyzed by volunteer work. Julie emphasized the value of volunteering as a pathway to employment and skill development.

Councilmember Alex Reyes noted that he was hired through the SSI Program "Your Ticket to Work" with the Fremont Unified School District in 2015. He currently serves as a substitute campus supervisor, and responsible for campus security. He also revealed that he began his own DJ business in 2001. Alex emphasized the importance of finding the right resources for job opportunities.

10. CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

Vice Chair Lee was unable to attend the September Council meeting to lead the closed session, so it was postponed to November's Council meeting.

11. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

Postponed to November's Council meeting.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on November 28, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 P.M.

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Name	Action 1 Minutes
Adler, Nicole	For
Ashe, Harold	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For
Billingsley, Joseph	For
Brodie-Crumsey, Kilolo	For
Brown, Jessica	For
Ellis, Michael	For
Fujita, Harold	For
Imparato, Andy	For
Jones, Sonia	For
Gaona, Julie	For
Garnica, Julio	NP
Laugeson, Liz	For
McNair, Joyce	For
Neward, Julie	Abstain
Nieves, Nestor	For
Ponton, Kara	For
Reyes, Alex	For
Ryan, Rosanna	For
Thomas, Michael	For
Wavrin, Nick	For
Winfield, Brian	Abstain
Witherspoon, Wesley	For
Ybarra, Eric	For
Yin, Larry	For

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chair Report and 2024 Committee Assignments

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon will provide Councilmembers with an oral report about his recent activities, current priorities for the Council, and an announcement on the 2024 committee assignments.

SCDD Committee reports have been provided for informational purposes.

Attachments

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) meeting summary for 09/28/23

Employment First Committee (EFC) meeting summary for 09/12/23

Executive Committee meeting summary for 10/24/23

Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) meeting summary for 10/26/23

Membership Committee meeting summary for 11/09/23

State Plan Committee (SPC) meeting summary for 11/16/23

Handout

2024 Committee Assignments

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 11/27/23. The meeting summary will be provided as a handout.

AGENDA ITEM 7A.**STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSDAC)
SUMMARY**

Date of Meeting

September 28, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) met on September 28th. The meeting began with Co-Chairs reporting on several Self-Determination Program (SDP) related items, including the SSDAC Workgroup's activities since the last meeting and a summary of the data that was collected in the SSDAC Bi-monthly Reporting Survey, and the release of the SCDD Unprofessional Conduct Policy.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on the SDP-related activities the Council is engaging in, including SDP data collection, the Statewide Orientation, and the SDP evaluation findings .

Staff from DDS then provided members with an update on SDP-related activities, including relevant updates on directives, new data sets that were being collected and more.

During the second half of the meeting, Committee members were provided with an update on the SDP Best Practices Platform. Members also engaged in an activity to help determine the topics that will be discussed at the SSDAC's December meeting. This meeting will be a Town Hall event where members will hear from members of the public on issues related to Financial Management Services (FMS).

Item's Acted Upon

Approval of the June 2023 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will take place in December.

AGENDA ITEM 7B.**EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

Date of Meeting

October 12, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on October 12th. The primary focus of the meeting was to determine how the committee will focus its efforts on informing the newly established Office of Employment First under Department of Health and Human Services. On July 1, 2024, SCDD's Employment First Committee will be inoperative, and the Employment First Office will form an Employment First Committee as part of its mission. Members reviewed and approved the timeline for the 2023 EFC Annual Report and adopted an outline of what will be included in the report. Members have agreed to focus the annual report on providing the Employment First Office with information and recommendations that will assist in moving employment policy forward.

Members received updates from Deputy Director's Tania Morawiec and Bridget Kolakosky. Deputy Director Morawiec provided updates on Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) implementation activities, including the NEON grant. Deputy Director Kolakosky presented an update on CIE related bills the Council is supporting and/or co-sponsoring.

The meeting concluded with updates on standing agenda items such as the implementation status of data sharing legislation, the CIE Blueprint, and more.

Items Acted Upon

- EFC approved the June and July 2023 meeting minutes.
- EFC approved the Timeline and Outline for the 2023 EFC Annual Report

Future Meeting Dates

Tentatively for February 8th, and May 16th.

AGENDA ITEM 7C.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

October 24, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on October 24, 2023. The meeting's focus centered on one sponsorship request, six conflict of interest waiver requests, an SCDD budget update, an out of-state-travel update, and a year-end discussion. SCDD's Self-Advocacy Coordinator Riana Harden was recognized as October's staff spotlight.

Executive Director Carruthers provided members with a report sharing updates related to the U.S. House seeking a Speaker, go-kits, and the 3rd Annual "There Should Be a Law" Contest. He shared that Chair Witherspoon was selected by the National Association to serve on a search committee for the next CEO and was also invited to the White House. He relayed information on the Supported Decision Making-Technical Assistance Program's (SDM-TAP) community conversations from October 23rd- 27th and the Statewide Self Advocate Network's (SSAN) National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) Webinar on October 30th. Furthermore, he shared that the Membership Committee will meet in November to discuss vacancies. Lastly, he welcomed Debra Cooper as the Council Representative from Health and Human Services Agency.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the August 2023 meeting minutes.
- Approval of a sponsorship request from Disability Voices United.
- Approval of conflict-of-interest waiver requests from Board Members Elizabeth Soloway, Andreas Economopoulos, William Moore, Ramon Hooper, Ana Quiles, and Rocio Sigala.

Future Meeting Date

February 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7D.

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

October 26, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee met on October 26th. The meeting's focus was to discuss a priority strategy for the 2024 legislative season, receive updates on the 2023 Bill Ideas Contest, and to review the status of the bills the Council supported this year.

In the afternoon members heard from SCDD Sequoia Regional Office Manager Yolanda Cruz, who provided members with an overview of the work of the Council's Health and Safety Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP). Members were informed about the DEAP's activities, which include monitoring and tracking emerging issues, attending and conducting trainings for professionals such as law enforcement/first responders and for family and self-advocates on topics like online safety and the importance of healthy relationships. The DEAP also develops curriculum and works to build coalitions that promote the health and safety of the I/DD community.

Actions

- The Committee approved the March 2023, Meeting Minutes
- The Committee acted to recommend that the Council focus on legislative priorities that fall under the theme of "Health, Home, Work" during 2024.

Future Meeting Dates

January 16, 2024



November 15, 2023

Membership Committee Report to the Council

SEC 1. Existing Vacancies

Seat	Date Seat Became Vacant	Months Vacant Asterisk (*) indicates vacancy of more than 4 months
Orange County Region	February 2023	*

SEC 2. Expired Appointments

Seat	Date Appointment Expired Number of Months Expired Asterisk (*) indicates eligible for reappointment
None	

SEC 3. Upcoming Terms Set to Expire

Seat	Date Appointment Will Expire Asterisk (*) indicates eligible for reappointment
North Valley Hills Region	12/2/2023

SEC 4. Recommendations Solicited

Has a solicitation for multiple recommendations for Council appointment been distributed?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Agencies Solicited

Date

SCDD Website

Continuous

SEC 5. Councilmember Terms

Appointment Roster Listing Each Members Term Attached?

☐ Yes

☒ No

SEC 6. Nominees

Number of candidates forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration: TBD

Agenda Item**STATE PLAN COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

Date of Meetings

November 16, 2023

Meetings' Focus

The State Plan Committee met on November 16th to review and approve the draft Program Performance Report (PPR) for submission to the Administration on Community Living. The Committee also approved the process and timeline for Cycle 47 Program Development Grants and provided input on the timeline and process for 2027-2031 State Plan Development.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the June 2023 Meeting Minutes
- The Committee approved the 2023 PPR in concept for submission to the Administration on Community Living
- The Committee approved the proposed Cycle 47 Grant Timeline and process.

Next Meeting

February 15, 2024

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 8.
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
QA Project Update Report

Handout

Executive Director Report

Chief Deputy Director's Report: November 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, the last of three limited-term positions for the Supported Decision-making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) Grants Program. The team is fully staffed with one supervisor and two analysts.
- Participated in community conversations regarding the SDM-TAP. This was a series of stakeholder discussion regarding individual and family experience with supported decision making and what was successful and/or challenging for those pursuing or interested in supported decision making. Many participants registered for the conversations to merely learn more about supported decision making.

The conversations explored supported decision making in five distinct settings: healthcare, education, the courts, service systems, and financial interests. Stakeholder input will inform both the program grants and supporting contracts (e.g., program evaluation).

- 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 budget-year projects (i.e., technical budget building) and drills from control agencies such as the Department of Finance.
- 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.
- Continued participation in a workshop series co-led by the Department of Developmental Services and the Department of Aging: the State Alliance Team. The project is funded by a federal grant intended to bridge I/DD and aging and expand reach to serve more Californians with I/DD with cultural and linguistic competency, especially those who represent diverse populations and are older and/or have aging family caregivers. The group has identified several priorities and subsequent will refine these further into action steps. Priorities include, developing resources and training to promote awareness on early signs of cognitive decline for individuals with I/DD, and creating an inventory of tools, best practices, and resources for future planning.

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POLICY UPDATE

- ✓ **Employment 1st Office:** continued the ongoing work of gathering resources and referrals to support the CHHS agency in preparing for, and launching, the Office of Employment 1st. This includes work in the Employment First Committee; regular presentations across the state with various organizations including the housing summit hosted by the California Community Living Network (CCLN), another summit sponsored by the Lanterman Housing Alliance, 8 regional advisory committees (RAC), and the Supportive Life conference.
- ✓ **2024 Legislative Discovery:** ongoing meetings with individuals and advocacy organizations discussing possible bills they plan to prioritize for 2024, these range from addressing challenges in housing subsidies to wage disparities accompanied by the new minimum wages set for fast food workers (\$18/hour) and healthcare workers (\$25).
- ✓ **Colaboración Latina (via UC Davis Health- MIND Institute):** Collaboration group is comprised of different Spanish speaking agency staff. Attended meetings to learn more about concerns affecting the Latino clients, to learn more about inclusiveness of services in response to findings in the Little Hoover Commission Report and the Bill Ideas Report that Latino parents found it difficult to navigate services from regional centers. Gave presentations in Spanish on new policy developments such as Employment 1st office and AB 447.
- ✓ **Deaf Steering Committee:** Attended monthly meetings as a Committee Member. Discussions centered on how to better provide/improve assistance/services to the deaf/hearing impaired clients; this included identifying how deaf clients communicate (as there are different levels of hearing loss and different ways deaf clients communicate) and creating a process to assess (assessments) what is needed to communicate with deaf clients. Training and hiring staff were also discussed to improve communication with deaf clients.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

OUTREACH

- ✓ **OCTOBER NEWS & EVENTS:** Included active links and messaging that highlighted National Disability Employment Awareness Month, Filipino American History Month, Down Syndrome Awareness Month, and National Bullying Prevention Month. Notable mentions included World Cerebral Palsy Day, Indigenous Peoples Day, and the Great California ShakeOut. Also included the initial introduction of the SDM-TAP Grant Input Survey in English and Spanish. Messaging was 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.

- ✓ **SDM-TAP Week of Community Conversations** Dual Language Messaging ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Promoted the week-long series of community conversations to engage the public and gather feedback that will influence the direction of the grants available through SDM-TAP. Messaging was disseminated to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ **October Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientations—Multiple Languages:** [An email blast](#) with messaging promoted the schedule of SDP orientations in Hmong, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, and American Sign Language. Messaging also, included translated flyers and was disseminated to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ **SDM-TAP Statewide Community Input Survey** Dual Language Messaging: Comms created a single sheet Constant Contact survey in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) as an alternative to the multi-page Qualtrics survey. Messaging was disseminated to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ **NOVEMBER NEWS & EVENTS:** Included active links and messaging that highlighted Native American Heritage Month, and Election Day—California County Elections. Also included ongoing messaging about the SDM-TAP Grant Input Survey in English and Spanish, and the multi-language Self-Determination Program orientations. Messaging was 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.
- ✓ **2023 SCDD Legislative Update:** The [2023 Legislative Update](#) included a list of bills that the Council supported, their status and an active link to the bill text. The update included bills in the following categories: Civil Rights, Education, Housing, Human Services, and Public Safety. The update was disseminated to over 19,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ 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: Developing the SCDD Storytellers Blog and story archive.

REPORT FROM: TANIA MORAWIEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS REPORT RANGE 9/2/23-11/13/23

47 training and events occurred in this time frame. 157 collaborative meetings/chats and clinics occurred with 34 prep sessions to support self-advocate and family advocate leadership.

Spreading the Word; SCDD at Statewide and Local Conferences

Supported Life Conference:

- SCDD staffed a resource table at the Sacramento Statewide Supported Life Conference. Much interest in our emergency preparedness training and past grant projects like “Let’s Work” exists. Staff will join the planning team for future conferences to help ensure SCDD priorities and speaking opportunities for self-advocates and staff are optimized in this venue. Deputy Director Bridget co-presented in Employment First with a supported employment provider at the Supported Life Conference. Bridget gathered feedback and ideas for the Employment First Office which will be created under California Health and Human Services in 2024.

San Diego Self-Determination Conference:

- A Self-Determination Program (SDP) Presentation titled “Getting Unstuck” occurred at the San Diego Regional Center (SDRC). SDRC has the highest rates of SDP enrollment and a large SD team. Many SA led sessions explored the positive aspects of programming like heightened individualization of services leading to more community-based activities like art classes, gym classes, and small business development in areas of personal interest.

SCDD’s statewide SDP Trainer Christine Tolbert, SCDD’s Regional Office Manager Mary Ellen Stives, and Debra Jorgensen, co-facilitated the “Getting Unstuck” Break Out Session.



Many self-advocates, family members, providers and regional center staff attended this session. Opportunities to ask questions and brainstorm solutions to the person-centered plan development, budget creation process and service access phases of SDP occurred.

Additional presentations at the conference highlighted self-determination success stories and shared lived experiences with the program which provides more versatility in services and begins with a person driven plan.



- 2 SCDD staff members have submitted presentation proposals for the upcoming Cal-TASH Conference, Self-Determined Life.

New NEON Federal Grant Application

SCDD completed and submitted Year 2 Office of Disability Employment, NEON federal technical assistance grant application with a 4-part focus. SCDD successfully applied to the 2023 NEON cohort. Deliverables included developing a community of practice and facilitating meetings with national subject matter

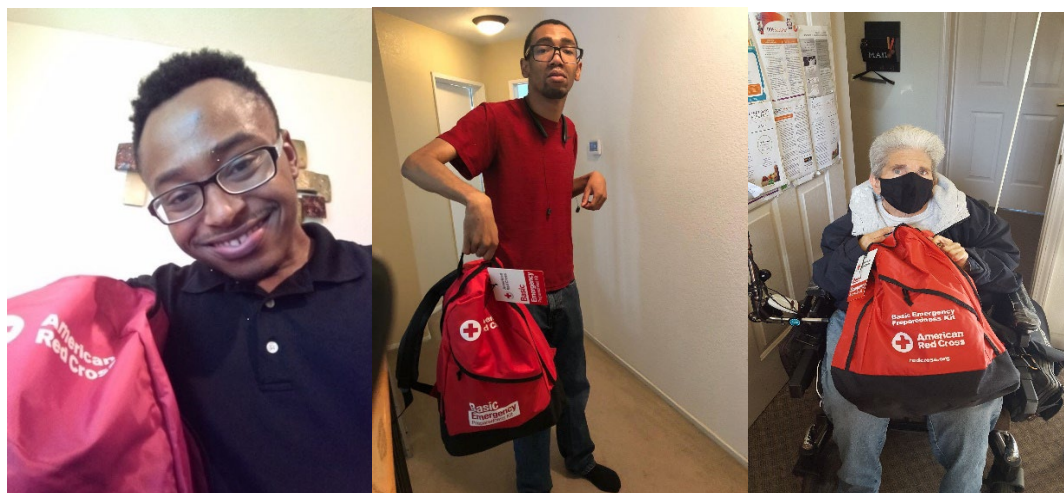
experts on blending, braiding and sequencing funding for competitive integrated employment. This supported interagency collaboration and funding strategies for employment initiatives.

Emergency Preparedness, Go-Kit Distribution

Deliveries of Go-Kits and planning for a second round of emergency preparedness training is beginning. High demand for this training exists. It is also an excellent opportunity for self-advocate co-trainers and draws in new stakeholders.

Ordering, planning for delivery, unpacking and dissemination is a huge task for SCDD regional teams which are not resourced for large scale storage and dissemination. This is an “all-in” project that often leverages HQ staff and community partners for storage, dissemination, and delivery facilitation.

This is the second round of emergency preparedness go-kit dissemination. The first round, sponsored by American Red Cross (see photos below), amplified community need for these life-saving resources and training. This year, SCDD’s go-kits are provided via a grant from California Community Foundation.



Self-Advocates Leading NDEAM Webinar

SCDD Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) hosted its first all Self Advocate planned and executed Employment focused webinar. Members took leadership and project design to a new level as they decided on a workgroup chair, discussed the goals and objectives of the event, discussed roles and responsibilities of members, and worked with the SCDD team to advertise

and implement the interactive ZOOM webinar celebrating National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This exciting opportunity to share insights and lived experience is the first in a series of SA led webinars.

CRA/VAS

SCDD AT WORK INSIDE CALIFORNIA DDS STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES

CENSUS As Of November 1, 2023: 244

SCDD commemorates 25 years of interagency collaboration with DDS to serve individuals residing in and transitioning from the DDS California state facilities. SCDD through the CRA/VAS Program worked through the successful closures of the following Developmental Centers - Sonoma, Agnews, Fairview, and Lanterman and Sierra Vista Community Facility. Stockton and Camarillo DC closed prior to 1998. CRA and VAS served the newly created DDS STAR crisis units. From an institutional population of approximately 5000 individuals in 1998 down to about 300 in 2023, SCDD was a key partner in California's deinstitutionalization of individuals with intellectual / developmental disabilities.

Thank You current and former CRAs and VASs. Your work these past 25 years improved thousands of lives.

Celebrating 25 Years
of CRA and VAS
Services for
people living in
California DDS
Facilities

Program Activity for September and October 2023

Canyon Springs Community Facility and Desert STAR Unit

CRA is collaborating with local DAP Health and Wellness Program in the desert to health courses for CS and DS individuals. CRA is also working with CS dietician to initiate: Healthy Living/ Healthy Lifestyle classes to occur monthly. VAS continues to advocate for much delayed transitions to the community due to nursing and support staff availability; six DS clients receive VAS services



Census
Canyon Springs 31
Desert STAR: 10

Porterville Developmental Center

Covid outbreaks created the need to quarantine some client areas this reporting period. CRA attended 15 IPP/special meetings; 8 transition, 14 Human Rights and Behavior committee meetings; CRA and VAS advocating least restrictive interventions and supports for transgender individuals; VAS assisted individuals with end of life planning in the community; VAS program attended 10 IPP/special team meetings; and 50 transition planning meetings inside the DC and in the community



Census:
Porterville DC: 203



Quality Assessment Project (QAP) Report

November 2023

Eligibility for Family Surveys

Family Surveys collect demographic information on both the individual receiving services ('family member') as well as the person who fills out the survey (the 'respondent') and information on services and supports received.

Child Family Survey (CFS): Mailed to families who have a child family member (ages 17 and under) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Adult Family Surveys (AFS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Family Guardian Survey (FGS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives in the community (outside the family home) and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Upcoming Cycle: Family Surveys

SCDD continues to prepare for family surveys to be mailed. Mail out is anticipated to begin January 2024. Staff are currently conducting outreach and educating the community about the importance of completing family surveys.

While the sampling strategy has not yet been finalized, DDS has returned to the strategy of sampling all eligible families per regional center (RC), per family survey as opposed to sampling 2,000 eligible families per 21 regional center (RC), per family survey. Each survey will also now be offered in 4 additional languages (Urdu, Portuguese, Japanese and Hindi), for a total of 17 languages.

More to come as we enter the Family Survey Cycle.

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: Vacant

Alta California

Central Valley

Valley Mountain

Lia Cervantes-Lerma • Brianna Reynoso •

Jenny Villanueva

Support Staff: Austin Murphy and Marina Bchtkian

East Los Angeles

Frank D. Lanterman

Harbor

North Los Angeles

San Gabriel Pomona

South Central Los Angeles

Westside

Angel Wiley

Priscilla Huang, SSA

SSA: Vacant

Staff Support: Vacant

Golden Gate

Orange County

San Diego

Matoya Terrell

Support Staff: Vacant

Inland

Kern

Tri-Counties

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

OCT 2023 – JUN 2024

NATIONAL CORE INDICATORS (NCI) FAMILY SURVEYS

Don't forget to participate!

Surveys evaluate the services and supports you and your family member receive through your regional center and service providers.

Surveys address topics like:

- Rights
- Choices
- Service Planning
- Community Inclusion
- Health & Safety
- Other Important Topics



WHAT?

You will receive one of three NCI surveys based on whether your family member with I/DD is:

- a child living in the family home
- an adult living in the family home
- an adult living outside of the family home

WHY?

Let your regional center and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) know what you think about your services.

Participating helps your regional center and DDS understand how services and supports impact you, your family, and loved ones.

HOW?

Surveys are mailed directly to you from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD).

Fill out the survey on paper and mail it in (postage is already paid)

OR

Use the code in your letter to fill out the survey online.



Questions? Email
QAProject@SCDD.ca.gov or NCiHelp@dds.ca.gov

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 9.

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.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 10.
INFORMATION ITEM**

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.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2024 Policy Planning

Deputy Director of Policy and Planning Bridget Kolakosky will provide members with an overview of the Legislative process and will announce the winner and present the highlights from the 2023 “There Should Be a Law Contest!”. The “There Should Be a Law Contest” is an annual bill idea contest that SCDD engages in that allows members of the public to submit legislative ideas on matters that impact the I/DD community.

Councilmembers will also be presented with the Legislative and Public Policy Committee’s (LPPC) 2024 policy recommendations for consideration.

Handouts

November Legislative Presentation

May be additional handouts the day of the meeting.

Action Recommended

Adopt the Legislative and Public Policy Committee’s recommendation to focus on legislative priorities that fall under the theme of “Health, Home, Work” during 2024.

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 12.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2024 Council and Committee Meeting Dates and Adjournment

The Council's next meeting date is scheduled for January 23, 2024. A chart of the 2024 Council and Committee meeting dates have been provided as a handout for informational purposes.

Handout

2024 Council and Committee Meeting Dates