



San Bernardino Regional Office

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

November 14, 2023

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Members Present

Dustlyne Beavers, **Chair**

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**

Cindy Cox

Ryan Nelson

Kimberly Risser

Sofia Benitez

Kelli Guillory

Reggie Davis

Cathy Rosas

Lisa Williams

Members Absent

Michelle Burns

SCDD Staff

Patricia Herrera, MS, Staff Services Manager II (SSMII)

Esteban Ortiz, MHA, Associate Governmental Program Analyst (AGPA)

Guest Speaker

- Daniel Schenkel, CEO, California Housing Foundation and President of the Lanterman Housing Alliance
- Patricia Robertson, Executive Director, Eastern Sierra Community Housing serving Inyo and Mono Counties

Public Attendees

Jeannette Zamudio
Greg Damewood
Shandra Beer
Elizabeth Feliz
Dakota Brown
Claudia Rivera
Silvia Hernandez
Delfina Reyes
Briseida Ramirez
Nora Baladerian

English/Spanish Language Interpreter

Rosuara Elenes

Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Quorum Established. Welcome from Dustlyne Beavers, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Nelson motioned to approve minutes of the 8-29-2023 meeting. Motioned seconded by Kim Risser. Unanimously minutes were approved.

Presentation: Daniel Schenkel, CEO, California Housing Foundation and President of the Lanterman Housing Alliance

Topic: Legislation Affecting Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities

Patricia Robertson, Executive Director, Eastern Sierra Community Housing serving Inyo and Mono Counties

Topic: Affordable Housing Development Project in Mammoth Lakes

Daniel gave a detailed overview of the Lanterman Housing Alliance's efforts to tackle the housing crisis for people with developmental disabilities in California. He discussed the Alliance's collaboration with the California Housing Foundation and its successful housing projects, as well as the Alliance's fall summit which highlighted the need for innovative housing solutions. Daniel emphasized the important role DDS has played in moving people out of developmental centers and into community placement programs. He also expressed his wish for a shift in state investment to the Community Resource Development Program (CRDP) and highlighted the success of Alta California Regional Center in prioritizing housing for seniors who are caregivers for their adult

children with developmental disabilities. Daniel highlighted the need to increase affordable housing and the role of advocacy of Self-Advocates and Family-Advocates working with elected officials.

Daniel presented the findings of a study conducted with the Community Housing Partnership Corporation. The study revealed that 41% of households served by the regional center are rent-burdened, with 28% being severely rent-burdened. There was also a need for housing for individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom live with caregivers over 70. Daniel mentioned California's 44 Continuums of Care, which aim to count the number of homeless people in the state, reporting around 171,000 homeless individuals last year. He also highlighted the difficulties in quantifying the number of people with developmental disabilities among the homeless population. Daniel proposed that there are at least 60,000 households in California that need affordable housing. He concluded by emphasizing the need for a more comprehensive and connected approach between the homeless system and the regional center system.

Daniel also discussed a project aimed at enabling individuals serviced by the Inland Regional Center to transition into independence and employment through vocational training and academic classes.

Patricia Robertson, Executive Director of the Eastern Sierra Community Housing Development, introduced the organization's various projects and highlighted the challenges of developing housing in the region. Patricia shared information on the renovation of affordable housing units in Mammoth Lakes and meetings with Kern Regional Center to determine the possibility of having a few carve-unit for individuals with developmental disabilities. DDS funds for affordable housing development is limited. The team also discussed the need to raise funds for affordable housing to address the struggles faced by individuals with I/DD.

Report from Regional Manager – Patricia Herrera, M.S.

- The Inland Empire Business Advisory Roundtable launched August 16, 2023, is thriving. Meetings are held in-person with businesses, DOR, IRC and employment stakeholders. A tour was conducted by Phenix Technology in the month of November 2023 on their inclusive workforce development and their DOR EmployAbility grant. The December 2023 Roundtable was held at DOR with a focus on

Apprenticeship development and programs. The January 24, 2024 meeting held at California Baptist University focused on the Pathways to Higher Education for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Meeting was held on average from 25 to 50 participants. These meetings (bi-monthly in 2024) are designed around bringing together all the resources available to our I/DD community as well as helping to coordinate efforts between various agencies, non-profits, and employers. The focus of the Business Roundtable is the recruitment of employers in providing access to jobs to individuals who face incredible barriers to gainful employment.

- SBRO participated in the advocacy for SB 4 to pass in legislation as law effective January 2024. SB 4, is a planning and zoning bill for higher education institutions and religious institutions to lease land not subject to a conditional use permit, if the development satisfies certain objective planning standards for the construction of affordable housing. Affordable housing that has been primarily targeted for Senior Citizens, Veterans and for Families/Individuals previously homeless. SBRO has partnered with **Making Housing and Community Happen (MHCH)**, a non-profit that is funded to provide guidance to religious institutions on leasing land for affordable housing development. SBRO's involvement with MHCH has brought the awareness for individuals with I/DD to be included with other mainstream target groups in dire need of affordable housing. MHCH is available to work with religious institutions on leasing unused land for affordable housing development.
- SBRO and IRC have completed recruitment and appointment of members for Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) for the Self-Determination Program. Quorum issues has been resolved and the LVAC is moving forward with DDS allocation for the funding of a local project that will promote the Self-Determination Program widely in the community.
- SBRO continues to hold the monthly Self-Determination Program Comprehensive workshop sessions on each component of the program. Workshops are conducted by Kristianna Moralls, Autism Community, with support by Dustlyne Beavers, First Choice Solutions. A separate workshop series is also held for the Spanish speaking Community. Workshop is facilitated by Lourdes Gomez and

Evelyn Rodriguez, both Independent Facilitators. Participation in these workshops range from 30 to 70 participants.

- SBRO team continues to conduct monthly Law Enforcement Trainings for the San Bernardino County Behavioral Health Crisis Intervention Team and the Sheriff's Department.

- SBRO Self-Advocacy Council continues to meet monthly to develop educational sessions for self-advocates and leadership development opportunities. Brandi Halstead, Outreach Coordinator Intern, assists with the leadership development and with coordinating training with the **SafetyPower** Facilitators and their curriculum.

Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda

- Affordable housing development in the Inland Empire region was discussed as priority by the public attending the meeting. Briseida Ramirez, introduced herself and discussed her work with community college students with disabilities and potential housing development. Members discussed having more information on the Individual Program Plan (IPP) Streamline Project proposal, which will standardize effort for the IPP process across the state.

Meeting adjourned

- Dustlyne Beavers motion to adjourn meeting, Kim Risser seconded the motion. Motioned approved by RAC members. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.