

NOTICE/AGENDA

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

MEETING ID: 889 3587 8597

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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 ZOOM:

https://bit.ly/SCDDCouncilMar2024

MEETING ID: 889 3587 8597

PASSCODE: 312507

DATE: March 19, 2024

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. 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 1minute to comment.

Item 5. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 2024 MINUTES VMTE

Page 5

Item 6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Page 15

Wesley Witherspoon, Council Chair

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

Item 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Page 26

Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

- A. Draft SCDD 24-25 Budget
- B. Chief Deputy Director Report
- 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 8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT Page 64 SCDD SSAN Representative Alex Reyes

Item 9. CYCLE 47 PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT GRANTS VMTE

Page 65

Michael Ellis, State Plan Chair, and Rihana Ahmad, State Plan & Self-Advocacy Manager

Item 10.2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 66

Bridget Kolakosky, Deputy Director of Legislative and Public Policy

A. 2024 Bill Updates

B. Recommendations for Bills to Support/Sponsor



Item 11. MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION

Page 74

Joyce McNair, Councilmember and Master Plan Stakeholder Committee Member

Item 12. SIBLING AND NATALIE'S STORY

Page 78

Julie Neward, Councilmember and Kayln Farris, President, CA Sibling Network

A. Siblings Contribution & April Awareness Month

B. The Natalie Project Movie

Item 13. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

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The next Council meeting will be in person on May 21, 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 <u>yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov</u>. 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.

MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 4. 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.

MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of January 2024 Minutes

The draft minutes from the January 23, 2024, Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment

January Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the January 2024 Council meeting minutes.



DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes January 23, 2024

Members Attending

Alex Reyes (S.A.)
Andy Imparato (DRC)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Brian Winfield (DDS)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)

Debra Cooper (CHHS)

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)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
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.)

Yasamin Bolourian (UCEDD)

Members Absent

Nick Wavrin (CDE)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Aminah Abdul-Hakim
ARCA-Sidney Jackson
Beth Hurn

Brian Weisel

Bridget Kolakosky Charles Nguyen Christy Lam-Julian Connie Arnold

David Grady

Dena Hernandez

Holly Bins Jennifer Lucas Jose Valle

Julie Eby-McKenzie

Ken DaRosa Lisa Hooks Lynn Villoria

Mary Ellen Stives Maureen Fitzgerald

Michelle Cave Nicole Patterson Patricia Herrera Peter Mendoza Renee Bauer Riana Hardin

Others Attending (cont.)

Robin Maitino-Erben Ryan Duncanwood Scarlett VonThenen Sheraden Nicholau 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.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves and disclosed if there were others in the room with them.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Arnold, a Disability Rights Advocate, provided a public comment outlining concerns regarding independent living and access to care for individuals with disabilities. She emphasized the importance of a personcentered approach and highlighted challenges faced by recipients of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), including limited access to backup emergency services and difficulties in finding qualified care providers. Arnold's testimony included her personal struggles with finding reliable care, particularly during emergencies, illustrating the broader issues of a strained care system that threatens the autonomy and well-being of people with disabilities.

Christy Lam-Julian, a self- and family advocate, also provided a public comment. She communicated her interest for the opportunity to learn from and engage with the Council. Additionally, Lam-Julian reported existing service gaps in the Contra Costa area and requested support from the Council to address these issues.

5. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2023 MINUTES Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Ryan [S.A]/ Reyes [S.A.]) and carried to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Witherspoon highlighted upcoming monthly observances and provided an update on the Search Committee's progress for the National Association's next Director. He noted that 7 out of more than 100 applicants were invited for interviews. Additionally, he recognized Councilmember Kilolo Brodie-Crumsey for her dedication and leadership

on the Council and State Plan Committee. Councilmember Brodie-Crumsey expressed her gratitude towards her colleagues and shared a short presentation about her personal journey, and experience with raising a child with disabilities.

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/.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

The Executive Director provided an overview of the 2024 report on the phasing out of subminimum wage for people with disabilities. The report revealed that the transition of individuals from 14c subminimum wage programs was progressing on schedule, with about 2,000 of the 4,000 targeted individuals already transitioning to competitive integrated employment or other meaningful choices since SB 639's enactment. The full transition is expected to be done by January 2025. A significant challenge noted in the report was data availability, as departments struggled to collect and report new data elements required by SB 639. The report also addressed privacy concerns, indicating that while individual-level data could not be disclosed, group-level data will be provided in future reports. These preliminary findings will be presented to the legislature in late January.

He also shared that Assemblymember Liz Ortega formed a Select Committee on Opportunities and Barriers for People with Disabilities in the Workplace. They held a hearing in December to explore contributing factors to the low employment rate among people with disabilities and the challenges they face while employed. The Executive Director attended and provided the Committee with data showing lower employment rates among people with I/DD compared to PWD. Additionally, he highlighted the Council's role in advancing policies like SB 639 and the establishment of the Employment First Office. He also advocated for funding Disability Benefits 101 (DB101), a website that helps individuals understand the impact of income on benefits, urging for \$200,000 in state funding to ensure its continued operation and assistance in the transition to employment for people with disabilities.

The Executive Director raised concerns about a potential change by the U.S. Census Bureau in how they define and collect data on disabilities,

shifting from the American Community Survey (ACS) methodology to the Washington Group Short Set (WGSS) of questions. This modification risks undercounting individuals with disabilities by up to 40%, which could significantly reduce resources allocated for services.

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee hosted a town hall to gather feedback from individuals participating in self-determination programs regarding challenges they faced with their Financial Management Services (FMS) providers. The LPPC committee held a meeting on January 16th, featuring a guest speaker from the California Dental Association. Several years ago, the Council collaborated with the Dental Association, leading to the allocation of \$50 million in one-time funding by the legislature to establish specialty dental clinics. However, the Governor proposed delaying the implementation of this initiative, as part of the effort to balance the current year's budget. The Executive Director expressed appreciation for the California Dental Association's participation in the LPPC meeting and their discussion of future steps.

8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT SCDD SSAN representative Alex Reyes provided Councilmembers with an update from SSAN's meeting on December 12th, 2023. The next SSAN meeting will be held on February 28-29 over Zoom.

9. 2024 GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Debra Cooper, Council delegate and Assistant Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHSA) presented an overview of the Governor's budget, noting a \$37.9 billion projected shortfall due to stock market declines and delayed income tax collections. To mitigate this, the Governor proposed using \$13 billion from state reserves, reducing spending by \$8.5 billion, increasing revenue and internal borrowing by \$5.7 billion, utilizing \$7.2 billion for late expenditures and deferrals, and shifting \$3.4 billion in funding. The budget for the Health and Human Services programs for 2024-2025 was discussed, with a total allocation of \$253 billion. In response to the budget shortfall, CalHHSA identified guiding principles and priority initiatives that improve equity, address disparities, and maintain core safety net programs for low-income disadvantaged Californians. However, this also meant delays to some of their other initiatives.

Key initiatives that they were able to protect included the expansion of Medi-Cal to all income-eligible adults between ages 26 and 49, regardless

of immigration status, with an allocation of \$3.4 billion in 2024 and \$3.7 billion ongoing. The California Behavioral Health Community-Based Organized Networks of Equitable Care and Treatment (BH CONNECT) Demonstration maintained \$7.6 billion in funding. The California Advancing and Innovating Medical (CalAIM) initiative received about \$2.4 billion in 2024-25 to continue transforming the healthcare delivery system. Additionally, the budget allocated \$25 million, with an increase to \$198 million upon full implementation, to provide rent or temporary housing assistance to individuals at risk of homelessness. Childcare expansion was also prioritized, with \$2.1 billion dedicated to expanding access to subsidized childcare and development program slots. Within developmental services, they maintained \$1.7 billion to meet population growth and increased utilization. They also maintained \$50 million in funding to build capacity across local trusted community partners to enhance their ability to prevent and respond to behavioral needs of California's diverse older adult population. Public health infrastructure received \$300 million in ongoing support.

Despite facing a budget shortfall, they were committed to a targeted set of reforms aimed to improve delivery of some of their key programs. The reforms focused on improving service delivery for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, establishing a local aging network for seamless home and community-based services, and improving foster care outcomes through payment reforms.

Brian Winfield, Council delegate and Chief Deputy Director for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS), highlighted key components of the Governor's proposed 2024-25 budget as it pertains to DDS. He noted that the current year's budget remains unaffected, with all prior caseload projections upheld. For the 2024-25 fiscal year, the proposed budget allocated \$14.8 billion in total funds for developmental services, with \$9.6 billion from the general fund—an increase reflecting additional allocations of \$106.2 million for Regional Center operations and \$1.5 billion for the purchase of services. These enhancements are designed to address the expected growth in service demand, with caseloads projected to increase by 28,775 individuals, reaching a total of 458,228 individuals served by Regional Centers. The proposed budget specifically aims to support this expanded service provision and caseload.

He also highlighted four key aspects affecting developmental services. The first was the discontinuation of funding for participant choice

specialist positions within Regional Center operations, a program that was originally funded for three years but will expire after June. Secondly, he mentioned the preschool inclusion grant program, which had been allocated \$10 million, but had not yet been initiated by DDS. Initially delayed by one year, the Governor's proposed budget further postponed the commencement of these inclusion grants by an additional two years, pushing the start to fiscal year 2026-27. Next, he emphasized the importance of rate reform, highlighting the multi-year phase approach for new rate models, which will result in increased rates for service providers. Although the legislature had previously fast-tracked the implementation to July 2024, the Governor's proposed budget suggested reverting to the original schedule, with full implementation by July 2025. Despite the delay in implementation, Brian assured the Council that the Quality Incentive Program would continue, along with adjustments to independent living skill services and funding for minimum wage increases. Brian also mentioned the master plan for developmental services, which, while not a direct budget item, is acknowledged in the Governor's proposal. This plan, influenced by the master plan on aging, focuses on future developmental service planning and amplifying the voices of those served by Regional Centers and their families. A stakeholder working group is being assembled for this master plan. Chair Witherspoon requested that Executive Director Carruthers and Councilmembers be invited to be members of the master plan stakeholder committee.

10. **2023 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT (PPR)**

Former State Plan Committee Chair Kilolo Brodie-Crumsey and State Plan Manager Rihana Ahmad presented highlights of the 2023 Performance Program Report (PPR). The report covered activities from October 1st to September 30th and was submitted to the Administration on Community Living in December. It was noted that in California, 207 individuals reside in state Developmental Centers, with 396,375 served by regional centers and 615,226 identified with I/DD per the federal definition. The Council's systems change activities impacted 5,940,228 individuals in 2023, with outreach efforts reaching 139,089 Californians. The Council directly engaged with 84,139 individuals through various means like training, meetings, events, and technical assistance. They conducted a total of 7,126 major activities in 2023, with 5,164 people reached through technical assistance. Additionally, they held 658 trainings, impacting 19,912 individuals. Despite holding fewer trainings than in 2022, the Council achieved a more focused outreach in 2023, especially in addressing disparities, with a 20% increase in outreach

activities. Translations and interpretations for activities were expanded, with more than double Spanish translations and interpretation since 2022. The Council also expanded its network of collaborative partners, increasing by 120%, to include a wide range of federal, state, and local organizations. In 2023, the Council's activities were aligned with three primary goals: 19% focused on self-advocacy (Goal 1), 55% on systems change (Goal 2), and 26% on capacity-building (Goal 3).

Under self-advocacy, the Council conducted 20 Statewide and 87 Regional Self-Advocacy Chats, supported 19 self-advocacy groups, provided 67 trainings, and prepared 577 Peer Leaders. The Self-Advocates Leadership Academy (SALA) in the LA region emerged as a pivotal project, enhancing leadership skills and advocacy, with plans for statewide expansion in 2024 based on its successful pilot. Feedback from participants underlined the transformative impact of these initiatives, enhancing confidence, leadership, and advocacy skills. Another project, "The Other Option" from the Bay Area, empowered 26 young adults through a series of workshops, emphasizing future planning and community support. The Council surpassed its second-year state plan targets for self-advocacy, exceeding expectations in training and outreach metrics, which led to an increase of measures for many of the objectives.

Throughout 2023, the Council dedicated its efforts towards achieving systems change and advocacy, which included monitoring 200 systems/entities and 18 legislative bills, participating in 1,870 meetings, conducting 271 trainings for 4,785 professionals, leading 3 statewide projects, 14 regional projects, and funding 2 cycle 45 projects. The Council's commitment was also evident in its leadership of statewide and regional projects, directly contributing to significant legislative successes in areas such as civil rights, education, and public safety. Key projects included the "Alternative to Conservatorship" with LAUSD, focusing on reducing unnecessary conservatorships and promoting rights awareness, and the "Yolo County Oral Health Advisory Committee," which aimed to enhance oral health access for people with I/DD. The "CA START East Bay Advisory Committee" focused on implementing evidence-based care coordination models for individuals with I/DD. Feedback from participants highlighted the impact of the Council's work, such as improved emergency response protocols, policy changes facilitating the employment of individuals with I/DD, and successful advocacy leading to inclusive hiring practices. These achievements underscore the Council's

important role in driving systemic change and advocacy for improving the lives of people with I/DD.

Under capacity-building and advocacy, the Council engaged in 542 collaborative meetings, offered technical assistance to 4,444 individuals, and conducted 320 training sessions, preparing 164 peer leaders. The Council led or participated in 35 capacity-building projects, funded 2 cycle 45 projects, and participated in 113 events. Notable initiatives included collaborations with the Hoopa Tribe Education and Tribal Community IEP Gatherings, enhancing outreach and training on educational equity for Native American students with disabilities and establishing key tribal partnerships. The Council achieved its 2023 targets for Goal 3, with 46% of people trained, 44% receiving technical assistance, capacity-building projects exceeding expectations at 146%, and reaching 40% of self-advocates and family advocates. These achievements reflect the Council's commitment to enhancing advocacy, technical support, and training across diverse communities.

Participant surveys post-training, events, and projects revealed high satisfaction rates across the Council's goals: 97% satisfaction for Self-Advocacy initiatives, 91% for Systems Change projects, and 98% for Capacity-Building efforts. The Council effectively met or exceeded its Year 2 objectives, with notable progress in all goal areas.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on March 19, 2024. Chair Witherspoon adjourned the meeting at 2:26 P.M.

Name	Action 1					
Adler, Nicole	NP					
Ashe, Harold	For					
Barnwell, Viviana	For					
Beckley, Mark	NP					
Billingsley, Joseph	NP					
Bolourian, Yasamin	For					
Brodie-Crumsey, Kilolo	For					
Brown, Jessica	For					
Bycel, Lee	For					
Cooper, Debra	For					
Ellis, Michael	For					
Fujita, Harold	For					
Gaona, Julie	For					
Garnica, Julio	For					
Imparato, Andy	NP					
Jones, Sonia	For					
Liu, Cathay	For					
McNair, Joyce	For					
Neward, Julie	For					
Nieves, Nestor	For					
Ponton, Kara	For					
Reyes, Alex	For					
Ryan, Rosanna	For					
Stahmer, Aubyn	For					
Thomas, Michael	For					
Winfield, Brian	Abstain					
Witherspoon, Wesley	For					
Ybarra, Eric	For					
Yin, Larry	For					

MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 6. 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

SCDD Letter to CA Public Utilities Commission

Membership Committee Report to Council

The Membership Committee met on 02/01/24.

The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on 02/08/24.

The State Plan Committee met on 02/15/24.

The Administrative Committee met on 02/16/24.

The Executive Committee met on 02/20/24.

Handouts

Chair Report PPT

SCDD Letter regarding Rate Reform Implementation Delay

SCDD Letter regarding Master Plan Subcommittee Recommendations

The State Plan Committee will meet again on 03/12/24.

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) will meet on 03/14/24.

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 01/22/24.



State Council on Developmental Disabilities



websitewww.scdd.ca.gov

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California Public Utilities Commission
Application of Pacific Bell Telephone Company D/B/A AT&T California (U1001C) to Relinquish its
Eligible Telecommunications Carrier Designation
A2303002 - Public Comments

To Whom it May Concern:

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities appreciates the Commission's responsibility to consider the evolving landscape of telecommunications, but it is crucial to recognize the irreplaceable value that landline phones provide for many Californians, including those with a developmental disability.

As we have seen just in the past few months, landline phones have proven to be more reliable than cell phones in times of severe power outages, or of widespread cellular network failure. When a person loses cell phone coverage during weather events and emergencies, they rely on their landline for crucial communication and emergency services.

While technological advancements continue, it is essential to recognize that landline phones are a consistent and familiar technology. The State Council urges the California Public Utilities Commission to consider these points and prioritize the preservation of wired landline service for the benefit of all Californians. If the Commission is inclined to agree to the proposal, it should include a requirement for AT&T to upgrade its infrastructure so that that same known landline reliability extends to cellular networks in times of crisis.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this important proposed change of AT&T landline service as a carrier of last resort.

Sincerely,

Aaron Carruthers
Executive Director

California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."



March 19, 2024 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	*
North Valley Hills Region	December 2023	2

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				
Los Angeles Region	9/16/2024				
Sequoia Region	9/16/2024				
Central Coast Region	9/16/2024				
At Large	9/16/2024				
At Large Institution	9/16/2024				

SEC 4.	Recomm	nendations Solicit	ed			
Has a solid		ultiple recommendati	ons for Council appointn	nent been		
× Y	⁄es	□ No				
Agencies S	Solicited		Date	_		
SCDD Web	site		Continuous			
SEC 5.	Council	nember Terms				
Appointme	ent Roster Lis	sting Each Members 1	erm Attached?			
□Y	'es	⊠ No				
SEC 6.	Nomine	es				

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

AGENDA ITEM 6A.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

February 1, 2024

Meeting Focus

The Membership Committee met on February 1st. The meeting focused on Council and Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) vacancies.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the November 2023 meeting minutes as presented.
- The Committee acted to move applicants 780 (North Valley Hills), 225 (Orange County), and 792 (Orange County) forward to the interview phase of the appointment process for Council vacancies.
- The Committee acted to adopt the San Diego Imperial regional office manager's recommendations to appoint applicant 779 to the Regional Advisory Committee.

Future Meeting Dates

To be determined.

AGENDA ITEM 6B.

EMPLOYMENT FIRST COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

February 8, 2024

Meeting's Focus

The Employment First Committee (EFC) met on February 8th. The focus of the meeting was to review the 2023 Employment First Report outline that was drafted by the SMART workgroup. Following the review, members volunteered to draft sections of the report. The final report will be reviewed at the May 2024 EFC meeting.

Members also received updates from Deputy Director's Tania Morawiec and Bridget Kolakosky. Deputy Director Morawiec provided updates on CIE implementation supports, including the continuation of NEON grant activities. Deputy Director Kolakosky presented state legislative updates that included the status of CIE related bills, SCDD's SB 639 Report, and an update on the new Employment First Office.

The meeting concluded with updates on standing agenda items such as the update to the Employment Data Dashboard, activities of the DDS Employment Workgroup, CIE Blueprint implementation, and more.

Items Acted Upon

EFC approved the October 2023 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

May 16, 2024

Agenda Item 6C.

STATE PLAN COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meetings

February 15, 2024

Meetings' Focus

The State Plan Committee (SPC) met on February 15th to review Cycle 47 Program Development Grant ideas and give staff direction on revisions that will be reviewed and approved in the March SPC meeting. Staff informed the committee that initial Cycle 46 reports have been received and that the second reports are coming in this month. Staff reminded the committee that the Cycle 45 Grant Project Showcase is scheduled for March 11th as a 2-hour webinar.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the November 2023 Meeting Minutes
- The Committee established a workgroup to collaborate with staff and Federal Partners on survey design, data collection, outreach and other tasks related to the FFY 2027-2031 State Plan development.

Next Meeting

March 12, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 6D.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

February 16, 2024

Meeting's Focus

The Administrative Committee met on February 16th to receive an update on current year (FY 2023-24) budget expenditures and review SCDD's 2024-25 proposed budget. Members also reviewed proposed updates to the Council's Administrative and Sponsorship Policies. These included an increase to Facilitation and Attendant pay, an increase to funding for sponsorships, and revisions to the Council's Unprofessional Conduct Policy.

Members requested a one-time increase of \$40,000 to Program Development Grant funding and recommended that the Executive Committee approve the 2024-25 SCDD Budget. Members also recommended that the Executive Committee approve the proposed changes to the Sponsorship and Councilmember Administrative Policies.

Members concluded the meeting after reviewing SCDD's Designated State Agency (DSA) Evaluation.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the February 2023 meeting minutes.
- The Administrative Committee recommended that the Executive Committee adopt the 24-25 budget as drafted with the addition of a one-time increase of 40k for Program Development Grants, if available.
- The Administrative Committee recommended that the Executive Committee increase in Facilitation pay to \$21.67 an hour and Attendant pay to \$20.72 an hour.
- The Administrative Committee recommended that the Executive Committee approve the January 2024 revisions to the "Unprofessional Conduct Policy" to include volunteers serving on local advisory committees.

- The Administrative Committee recommended that the Executive Committee approve a \$1,000 funding increase for Sponsorships. The funding maximum for a single event would change from \$1,500 to 2500.
- The Administrative Committee recommended that the Executive Committee accept the 2023-2024 DSA Evaluation as presented.

Future Meeting Date

To be determined.

AGENDA ITEM 6E.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

February 20, 2024

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on February 20, 2024. Executive Committee Chair Lee Bycel introduced the public and new members to the Executive Committee by outlining the Committee's purpose and responsibilities. The meeting's focus centered on four sponsorship requests, six conflict of interest waiver requests, an SCDD budget update, and policy changes.

Executive Director Carruthers provided members with a report sharing updates related to the U.S. Census, phasing out subminimum wage, and the legislature. Additionally, he shared that Governor Newsom announced creating a Master Plan for Developmental Services and that CalHHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly has appointed members to its Stakeholder Committee. Councilmember Joyce McNair was appointed and will represent SCDD on the Stakeholder Committee. He also relayed information on the Cycle 45 Grant Showcase on March 11th from 10:30-12:30pm, which will feature 2023 grant project successes. Moreover, he shared that SCDD can develop trainings for Councilmembers on one focus area for 2024. Councilmembers discussed the idea and identified a set of potential topics for training sessions. Lastly, he shared that the Designated State Agency Evaluation was reviewed and approved by the Administrative Committee.

Items Acted Upon

- Approval of the October 2023 meeting minutes.
- Approval of sponsorship requests from the Special Needs Resource Foundation of San Diego, Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County, Cal-TASH, and CHOICES Institute.
- Approval of conflict-of-interest waiver requests from Regional Center Board Members Shawna Hall, Michael Costa, Lilian Martinez, Ramon Gonzalez, Joanne Giardello, and Mariana Murillo.
- Approval of the FY 2024-25 proposed SCDD budget to send to the full Council for consideration.
- Approval of an increase to the sponsorship funding amount to \$2500.

- Approval of updated policies to increase SCDD's facilitation/attendant rates to \$21.67 an hour for Facilitators and \$20.72 an hour for Attendants.
- Approval of the updated Unprofessional Conduct Policy for appointed local SDAC members.

Future Meeting Date April 16, 2024 MARCH 19, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Director Report and Staff Reports

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will present SCDD's 2024-2025 draft budget. Additionally, SCDD Staff reports have been included in the packet for informational purposes.

Attachments

Draft 2024-25 Proposed Budget
Budget Presentation
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

Handout

QA Project Update Report



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Fiscal Year 2024-25 Proposed Budget February 2024

	*Basic State Grant		SCDD Budget - Other Sources						
Categories			Quality Assessment		Clients' Rights Advocates/ Volunteer Advocacy		Supported Decisionmaking Technical Assistance Program		TOTAL
	Federal Grant		State Contract		State Contract	Lin	nited Term Program		
1. Personal Services:									
Net Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,397,500	\$	1,523,370	\$	842,540	\$	238,000	\$	7,001,410
Temporary Help / Honorarium	\$ 30,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	30,000
Worker's Compensation	\$ 45,000	\$	3,000	\$	5,000	\$	2,000	\$	55,000
Staff Benefits	\$ 2,259,795	•	865,321	Φ.	475,248	•	136,000	\$	3,736,364
Less 8% Salary Savings From Vacancies	\$ (354,000)		000,321	Ψ	473,240	Ψ	130,000	\$	(354,000)
Total Personal Services	\$ 6,378,000	\$	2,391,691	\$	1,322,788	\$	376,000	\$	10,469,000
2. Operating Expense and Equipment:									
General Expense	\$ 38,000	•	18,000	\$	5,000	2	6,000	\$	67,000
Printing	\$ 20,000		562,000				3,000	\$	594,000
Communications	\$ 45,000		40,000				6,000	\$	101,000
Postage	\$ 7,000		211,605				3,000	\$	222,605
Travel-in-State :	\$ 150,000		5,000				8,000		195,000
Out-of-State Travel	\$ 7,000		-	\$		\$	-	\$	7,000
Training (Tuition and Registration)	\$ 29,000		3,000	\$		\$	5,000	\$	52,000
Facilities Operations (Rent)	\$ 550,000	\$	282,000	\$	24,000	\$	-	\$	856,000
Utilities	\$ 8,000	\$	2,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	10,000
Interdepartmental Services	\$ 250,000	\$	164,000	\$	134,000	\$	3,000	\$	551,000
External Contract Services	\$ 100,000	\$	30,000			\$	-	\$	133,000
Information Technology	\$ 190,000		50,000			\$	6,000	\$	291,000
Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP)	\$ 25,000		-	\$		\$	-	\$	25,000
Other Items of Expense	\$ 5,000	\$	25,000	\$	93,000	\$	-	\$	123,000
Total Operating Expense and Equipment	\$ 1,424,000	\$	1,392,605	\$	371,000	\$	40,000	\$	3,228,000
3. Community Grants / Other Projects	\$ 300,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	300,000
4. Total SCDD Budget by Source	\$ 8,102,000	\$	3,784,000	\$	1,694,000	\$	416,000	\$	13,997,000
5. Total Basic State Grant Award	\$ 8,064,000	_							
	\$ 8,102,000	\$	3,784,	000	000 \$	000 \$ 1,694,000	000 \$ 1,694,000 \$	000 \$ 1,694,000 \$ 416,000	000 \$ 1,694,000 \$ 416,000 \$
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	750,000								
ble	\$ 355,000								

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Draft Budget

July 1, 2024- June 30, 2025



Key Takeaways

- Staff prepared a balanced budget.
- State increased salary and benefits costs off set by targeted reductions in other expenditures.
- The reductions match actual and trending expenditures.
- No item will go unfunded because of reduced expenditures.



Explanation of Terms

- Expenditures Items bought and paid for within a fiscal year
- Calendar Year January 1 through December 31
- State Fiscal Year (SFY) July 1 through June 30
- Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) October 1 through September 30th



What is a budget?

- It is a spending plan.
- An itemized summary of likely income and expenses for a given period.
- SCDD funding includes four sources:
 - Basic State Grant (Federal Funds)
 - Quality Assessment (State Contract)
 - Clients' Rights Advocates/Volunteer Advocacy Services (State Contract)
 - Supported Decision-making Technical Assistance (Limited-term Funding)



PERSONAL SERVICES - SALARIES & WAGES

The Personal Services category contains a single line item that includes the salaries, wages, and benefits for department staff.

It also includes the Honoraria payments to Council members.



Increased by \$131,000 from SFY 2023-24.

Includes salary changes associated with recent approved labor agreements, merit salary increases, and an 8 percent salary savings resulting from vacant positions. Examples include:

- Staff Salaries
- Health, Dental and Vision Insurance contributions
- PERS Retirement contributions
- State Disability Insurance tax
- Unemployment insurance tax
- Temporary Help (e.g., Retired Annuitants)
- Council Member Honorarium

Operating Expenses & Equipment (BSG) \$1,424,000

* Reduced by \$91,000 from SFY 2023-24.

The Operating Expense and Equipment (OE&E) category consists of several line items that cover our statewide operational costs of doing business.

The following slides explain these items and their proposed budget levels

General Expense (BSG)

\$38,000

* Reduced by \$12,000 from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes a variety of expenses that may not fall under specific line items.

- Office supplies and non-IT equipment.
- Service contracts.
- Association dues, membership fees and subscriptions to publications.
- Meeting rooms, conference facilities and fees.

Printing (BSG)

\$20,000

* Reduced by \$10,000 from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes the production of all printed materials such as:

- Copier maintenance in all offices.
- Council and committee agenda packets.
- Pamphlets, leaflets, brochures, etc.

Communications (BSG)

\$45,000

❖ Reduced by \$10,000 from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes all telecommunication and communications related expenses such as:

- Telephones and mobile devices (iPhones and iPads).
- Zoom licenses.
- Constant Contact

Postage (BSG)

\$7,000

❖ Reduced by \$2,000 from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes postage related expenses such as:

- Postage meter rental, repairs, postage refills and stamps.
- Mailing services such as FedEx and UPS.

In-State Travel (BSG)

\$150,000

❖ Reduced by \$25,000 from SFY 2023-24.

The draft budget for travel is based on spending and patterns over the last few years. This line item includes all staff and member travel expenses within California such as:

- Airfare, train fare.
- Taxi, bus, shuttle, rental car, Uber, and Lyft fare.
- Personal car mileage and parking expenses.
- Hotel rooms.
- Meal allowances and incidentals.

Out - of - State Travel (BSG) \$7,000

* Reduced by \$1,000 from SFY 2023-24.

Same as in-state travel but for travel outside California and approved by the Governor's Office.

Training (BSG)

\$29,000

* Reduced by \$6,000 from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes required and desired trainings for staff and members, and the costs of staff providing SCDD-related training in the community. Examples include:

- Ethics, Sexual Harassment Prevention, Basic
 Supervision, Leadership and other required trainings.
- Tuition and training fees.
- Training materials such as books and supplies.

Facilities Ops. (BSG)

\$550,000

Unchanged from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes the monthly lease or rental costs for SCDD Headquarters and SCDD's Regional Offices.

Utilities (BSG)

\$8,000

Unchanged from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes the monthly water, electricity, gas, and trash expenses in offices where they are not included in a lease or rent agreement.

Interdepartmental Srvcs. (BSG) \$250,000

Unchanged from SFY 2023-24

This line item includes the cost of contracts with other state agencies for required services such as:

- Department of Social Services (accounting and IT support).
- Department of Human Resources (HR advice and consultation).
- Department of Justice (legal advice and litigation support).
- Department of General Services (facilities support, purchase order, and contract review).
- State Controller's Office (expedited processing of payments).

External Contract Srvcs. (BSG) \$100,000

Unchanged from SFY 2023-24.

This line item includes the costs of contracts with non-governmental entities and local vendors for required services such as:

- Janitorial services for field offices where it is not included in the lease/rent agreement.
- Worksite/ergonomic evaluations.
- Captioning, interpreting and translation services.
- Consultants, presenters.

Information Technology (BSG) \$190,000

* Reduced by \$25,000 from SFY 2023-24

This line item includes costs related to information technology such as:

- Department of Technology data lines for Internet access in Headquarters and Regional Offices.
- Department of Technology (website maintenance and support).
- Computer hardware peripherals and accessories (computer parts and monitors).
- Software licenses (Windows operating system, Microsoft Office 365, Adobe Professional, and Qualtrics).

SWCAP (BSG)

\$25,000

The Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP) represents the SCDD's share of support for statewide general administrative costs (i.e., indirect costs incurred by central service agencies) from federal funding sources. By statute, SCDD's share is fixed at \$25,000. This charge applies only to the federal Basic Support Grant as the CRA/VAS and QA programs are funded by the Department of Developmental Services, which is a non-federal funding source.

Other Items of Expenses (BSG) \$5,000

This line item captures miscellaneous charges that don't fall under the other line items.

Community Program Development Grants \$300,000

The community program development (Cycle) grants are competitively awarded annually as directed by the Council. For SFY 2023-24, the Council approved a one-time increase of \$40,000 to this line item. This raised the budget to \$300,000.

The adjusted draft 2024-25 budget reflects the Admin and Executive Committees' recommendations to maintain the \$300,000 available for Cycle grants by transferring the unspent \$40,000 in SFY 2023-24 from the Estimated Unexpended Funds Available reserve to this line item.

Prudent Reserve and Estimated Unexpended Funds

Prudent Reserve: \$1,750,000

The prudent reserve identifies funding that would be available should the federal government shutdown or if Congress reduces state council budgets. We would be able to maintain stable funding for a few months, providing time to plan and make necessary operational decisions.

Estimated Unexpended Funds: \$355,000

The adjusted draft 2024-25 budget reflects a reduction of \$40,000 to augment the Cycle grant budget as recommended by the Admin and Executive Committees.

TOTAL PRELIMINARY 24-25 COUNCIL BUDGET ALL PROGRAMS

Basic State Grant (BSG) Federal Funds

\$8,102,000

Quality Assessment (QA) State Contract

\$3,784,000

Client's Rights Advocates

Volunteer Advocacy(CRA/VAS) State Contract

\$1,694,000

Supported Decision-making Technical

Assistance Program

\$416,000

Total Council Budget

\$13,997,000

Questions?

Chief Deputy Director's Report: March 2024

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.

- Continued planning, organizing, and implementation steps with the Supported Decision-making Technical Assistance Program team and external partners. Ongoing efforts included external engagement with partners and other interested entities (e.g., the Judicial Council), finalizing contract scopes of work, deliverables, and communication strategies.
- Assisted in the review and evaluation of contract applications for technical assistance and support. We received an insufficient number of responsive bidders, and the team is evaluating options and strategies so procure this valuable assistance.
- Supported the SDM-TAP team in finalizing grant objectives and scope. The
 content has been informed by, and responsive to, community conversations

 a series of stakeholder discussions 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.

- Grant Request for Proposal will be released in early March. The team continues to focus on five distinct settings: healthcare, education, the courts, service systems, and financial interests.
- o 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 fiscal matters and reporting (e.g., accounting and expenditure tracking) and drills from control agencies such as the Department of Finance.
- Collaborated with SCDD's Public Health Project Manager on project close-outs, and final reporting. 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.
- Assisted the Public Health Manager in finalizing reports and key deliverables given the manager's departure at the end of February.
- Continued contract discussions, with partner agency DDS, on the Selfdetermination Program Orientation and Quality Assurance Project contracts.
 Each of these is a multi-year agreement.
- Participated in the recruitment process to backfill SCDD's Personnel Office
 position which was vacated at the end of February. Candidates have been
 interviewed and we are in the final stages of making a hiring decision, and we
 anticipate an April 1 start date.

MARCH 2024

REPORT FROM DEPUTY DIRECTOR, POLICY, AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

POLICY UPDATE

- ✓ **New bills in 2024:** The deadline for bill introductions was mid-February. More than 1,500 bills were introduced between January and February! We reviewed all the bills that would impact our community. We then compiled a list of bills that we are recommending SCDD support. LPPC will review and vote on that list about a week before this Council meeting.
- ✓ **SB 37:** relating to a housing subsidy for aging individuals and people with disabilities age 50 and over continues to move through the legislative process. SCDD is a co-sponsor in a powerful coalition of diverse membership. We have had weekly meetings to strategize next steps and to ensure the bill is successful. We also met with Senator Caballero's staff to make key strategy decisions, including amendments that will make the bill more affordable. Due to the current and growing budget deficit, the bill was amended to reduce its cost from \$500,000 to \$25,000 and made it a pilot program to encourage more work on this important policy in the future.
- ✓ Office of Employment First: In 2023 we organized a strong and diverse coalition to support the hard (and successful!) work of championing the creation of an Employment First Office at HHS. We continue to meet on a weekly basis, compiling recommendations, and expertise that we will share with HHS. It is our hope that they will use our recommendations in implementing the new office come July 2024.
- ✓ 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. This month the concern or focus for the Latino community was to engage them in advocacy and teach them about systems change. There was discussion about how to do that. SCDD

volunteered to create a plain language training of the legislative process. Date for training to be established.

✓ Deaf Steering Committee: reviewed updates on several events that are encouraging deaf awareness in the state and locally, such as the first state training for deaf culture awareness and a deaf conference, regional center deaf resource fair and parent support groups. Went over the language & communication assessments updates on how to improve services for the deaf at regional centers by improving how staff communicates with deaf consumers. A list of standardized communication assessments used by other states has been compiled. An essential checklist for the language and communication assessments has been identified.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

OUTREACH

- ✓ **February News and Events:** Featured a brief overview of Black History Month and ongoing Council initiatives (Healthy U Series and SDP Orientations) and Council meetings. 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.
- ✓ SDM-TAP Contract Invitation to Bid: Dual Language Messaging (English and Spanish). Promoted the opening of available contracts to bid for the following: Warmline Services, Evaluation Services, and Branding & Advertising Coordination Services, from 2/2/24-2/23/24. 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.
- ✓ **SCDD HR Recruitment:** To aid in SCDD staff recruitment efforts, Comms created a flyer to promote the following positions: Basic State Grant Analyst (SBRO) and Regional Office Manager (NBRO). SBRO's position was included in the March News & Events Blast. Both positions were advertised via SCDD social media platforms: Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, and LinkedIn to a collective social media audience of nearly 9,000 followers.

- ✓ 2024 Grant Projects Showcase: Promoted the Grant Projects Showcase for 2023 Grantee Project Success and promoted upcoming grant opportunities for fiscal year 2024-2025. 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.
- ✓ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) Webinar 2024: Created a flyer and email blast to promote a special SSAN webinar limited to 500 participants, for selfadvocates and their family members, nationwide. Messaging was disseminated to over 12,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature via Constant Contact, and shared via the Council's primary social media pages.
- ✓ March News & Events email blast had messaging that highlighted Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month #DDAM2024. In celebration of this his year's theme: A World of Opportunities—the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilibites (NACDD) developed a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live. NACDD featured resources and materials from their partners in their DDAM Resource Guide 2024. SCDD contributed the following to the resource guide: Tracking the Transition out of the 14c Subminimum Wage Program: SB 639 1st Annual Report, There Should Be a Law Report 2023: 3rd Annual Contest Results and the Storytellers Blog page. 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
- ✓ Edited and published blog stories for the Storytellers blog page and participated in legislative outreach planning and coalition meetings. Assisted regional offices, Council committees, and partners with brainstorming, and disseminating information about existing and upcoming initiatives (including webinars and live in-person events) via statewide email or social media.

BRANDING

- ✓ Completed: Privacy disclaimer for the SCDD website and blog page.
 ✓ Completed: Editorial guidelines for the Storytellers Blog Page

REPORT FROM: TANIA MORAWIEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGIONAL OFFICE OPERATIONS REPORT RANGE 1/10/24-3/5/24

Activity & Impact

SCDD staff have been hard at work this reporting period!

- SCDD staff conducted 62 trainings.
- Provided 101 Self Advocate technical assistance services.
- Provided 189 Family Advocate technical assistance services.
- Provided 86 technical assistance services to "other" individuals like professional service providers or educators.

Family Engagement:

1. Family Outreach and education in Orange County:

SCDD Orange County staff hosted and supported the "Adult Family Connection" on 2/21/2024 via Zoom to 15 participants. The SCDD OCRO RAC (in July 2022) identified the community need for parent/caregiver support for those with adult children with IDD (18+). While there are many caregiver groups throughout OC for children and youth, there are very few that focus on caregivers of adults. "Adult Family Connection" is a monthly gathering of caregivers where all-things future planning are discussed. With a mission/vision to connect parents of adult children with disabilities who have lived experience while gaining valuable knowledge, resources, and tools together. Facilitated by Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and former SCDD Orange County Regional Advisory Committee Member, Lisa M. Stanton. A meeting on 2/21/2024 marked the 15th "Adult Family Connection" with 15 family and caregiver participants who met via Zoom. During the meeting, the group talked about the importance of effective communication and respecting their adult children's independence. Participants also shared their personal experiences and concerns about their adult children's behaviors, anxiety, and

online safety. Strategies such as healthy eating habits, relaxation techniques, and online safety education were proposed.

2. Outreach to Spanish speaking families/communities in the Bay Area:

La Familia's Aprende Promueve, Actua (APA) program provides training, workshops, and resources through parent support groups for Spanish-language families with loved one with developmental disabilities. All of these activities are provided in Spanish and cofacilitated by Spanish-speaking Parent Leaders. APA support groups requested a training overview of SCDD by BARO staff in Spanish for the Spanish language family support groups in Contra Costa County. As a result, these Spanish language family support groups and APA program participants are informed of SCDD's work and how they can become involved with advocacy in their region and/or state. Also, as a result, these family advocates gained skills and tools to be involved in other areas of advocacy, systems change, and where to share their experience on regional and statewide issues/emerging issues.

SCDD Presence at statewide conferences:

The statewide CalTash conference benefitted from three SCDD staff presentations by Sheraden Nicholau, Peter Mendoza and Gabriela Solval. Lisa Cooley co-presented with SCDD staff on two sessions, "Advocacy for Impact" and "SCDD and Public Safety". Conference organizers shared a positive impact statement that you read below. Statewide conferences are a great way to expand awareness of SCDD function and resources. Staff and SCDD associated self-advocates can share best practices and make professional/social connections. We can also learn from others via the diverse presentations.



Figure 1

A message of thanks from the Cal TASH conference organizers:

"Thank you for all your support of Cal TASH, we truly appreciate how willing you are to always collaborate and brainstorm when we talk.

You are doing a fantastic job at the Council and we are proud to be able to work together.

Your presentations were great and left folks with so many resources and ideas.

We are most interested in continuing our collaboration."

SCDD sponsors 3-day training to address employment service needscollaborates with regional centers for year two NEON grant.

A free, 3-day training with national subject matter expert Rick McAllister on Systematic instruction for job coaching and job development best practice is being planned. Systematic instruction helps people who have disabilities learn job duties and become more independent on the job. This supports long term job retention.

Two sites, one in northern and one in Southern California will be chosen. Alta Regional Center in Sacramento will co-sponsor by hosting and supporting advertisement and registration for one training series scheduled from 5/20-5/22. SCDD staff are searching for a southern California site.

SCDD Staff Video Nomination and Production:

SCDD is collaborating with CDSS on a "Got a Minute" video that features work from the Bay Area regional office! SCDD sent in 3 nominations for an

employee spotlight that will highlight the diverse and impactful work done by SCDD staff. The winning video idea was chosen by GovOps staff and will feature Gabriela Solval. SCDD will leverage this video to highlight our work and impact. GovOps works to accelerate innovation, develop a skilled workforce, and promote results-oriented practices in partnership with more than 150 departments statewide.

Mental Health:

Mental Health is a growing area of interest for SCDD staff. Much effort in expanding crisis intervention and connecting to long term services and supports is occurring. Many regional centers are using START services model. SCDD staff are helping first responders identify signs of disability via LD37 and CIT training. SCDD trainers help first responders understand resources for MH through the regional center system and help people who have disabilities and family members connect with both crisis intervention and long-term recovery supports. A lack of skilled providers in behavioral health for people with I/DD continues to impact treatment options. Plain language interventions and resources are needed. Cal Connect waiver work is being monitored and advocacy work is taking place at regional and statewide convening.

An example of SCDD outreach and education targeting this issue is a Sequoia Regional Office listening session. SCDD staff shared resources, options for service, and learned more from families about challenges and needs. Families are really frustrated at the fact that they are not getting services for their children. Multiple families have had to pull their kids out of school because the district refuses to provide behavioral based services. The listening session resulted in a list of the concerns that the community had. SCDD staff were able to come up with a plan of action to serve the community better. A parent attendee stated that she is happy that the Sequoia office will be here to help them with advocating and education them on services.

CRA/VAS

SCDD AT WORK INSIDE CALIFORNIA DDS STATE-OPERATED FACILITIES

CENSUS As Of March 1, 2024: 208

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.



Program Activity for January and February 2024

Canyon Springs Community Facility and Desert STAR Unit

CRA advocating for more in person visits to potential community environments. CRA attended 9 IPP/special meetings, 4 transition meetings; conducted 17 staff trainings on rights, and 4 self-advocacy meetings. VAS successfully advocated for placement in ideal home for clients who was originally denied. Through observations of the individual, VAS facilitated a neurology referral. VAS attended 37 IPP/specials, 23 transition meetings, and 2 human rights/behavior meetings.



COVID cases continued this reporting period putting several units on quarantine. CRA attended 12 IPP/special meetings; 2 transition, 19 Human Rights and Behavior committee meetings; CRA collaborating with teams for restoration of rights denied that were not least restrictive measures. VAS advocated for incarcerated individuals for community supports. Individuals was released to community home. Successful advocacy to changes units for individuals. VAS program attended 19 IPP/special team meetings; and 49 transition planning meetings.









Census Porterville DC: 168

AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is a project of the Council. Members will hear updates from Councilmember Alex Reyes on recent activities.

Handout

February 2024 SSAN Update Report

AGENDA ITEM 9.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Cycle 47 Program Development Grants

State Plan Chair Michael Ellis and HQ Operations and State Plan Manager Rihana Ahmad will present Cycle 47 Request for Proposal (RFP) project descriptions, which were suggested by Disability Expert Advisory Panels (DEAP's) and incorporated feedback/edits from State Plan Committee members. The project descriptions identify issues, gaps or systemic problems that may be addressed through Cycle 47 grant proposals and include details about the identified, intended outputs, outcomes, and impacts. The State Plan Committee will meet on March 12th, 2024, to review these descriptions and recommend that the Council approve the selected drafts for release as RFP.

The grants timeline will be presented, in addition to other updates regarding the grant process.

Handout

Cycle 47 RFP Project Descriptions

Action Recommended

Approve the Cycle 47 RFP project descriptions.

AGENDA ITEM 10.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

2024 Legislative Updates & Recommendations

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) will meet on March 14th to review and make recommendations on legislative bills. Committee members will use the 2022-2026 State Plan and Council-approved policy priorities to guide the discussion and subsequent recommendations.

The Council will review bills to possibly co-sponsor and/or support based on the LPPC's recommendation.

Attachments

2024 Bill Chart SCDD Policy Priorities

Handout

Policy Priorities Presentation

Action Recommended

Adopt LPPC's recommended positions on legislation.

2024 SCDD Legislation – Bill Support List

BILL # /TITLE	AUTHOR	WHAT DOES BILL DO?	CATEGORY	STATUS
ACR-150 Developmental Disabilities Month	Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen	Creates awareness for I/DD in month of March	Civil Rights	Assembly Floor
SB 37 Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities Housing Stability Act	Senator Caballero	Provides cash assistance for elders/IDD that are homeless or at risk of homelessness.	Housing	Passed Senate – now in Assembly
SB 483 Prone Restraints	Senator Cortese	Prohibits prone restraints from being used on students	Education	Passed Senate – now in Assembly
AB 447 Public postsecondary education: students with disabilities: inclusive college programs	Assemblymember Arambula	creates inclusive college opportunities, creates pilot program in CSU/UC.	Education	Already Passed - awaiting approval of Budget only
SB 1384 Power Wheelchair Repair	Senator Dodd	Increases accessibility and affordability for wheelchair users, making it easier for consumers to maintain their devices and keep them in good working condition, by requiring manufacturers to provide information, tools, and replacement parts to an owner or repair provider	Human Services	Committees Business Professions & Economic Development & Judiciary
SB 1443 Interagency Council on Homelessness ICH	Senator Jones	Adds SCDD to ICH so that I/DD community is included in any conversations relating to housing and homelessness	Housing	Committees Human Services and Housing

BILL # /TITLE	AUTHOR	WHAT DOES BILL DO?	CATEGORY	STATUS
SB 1001 Death Penalty: persons with I/DD	Senator Skinner	protect individuals with an intellectual disability from the death penalty. The bill takes legal cases and puts them in statute (also known as "codifies" by specifying that individuals with an intellectual disability cannot receive the death penalty.	Civil Rights	Committee Public Safety
AB 1977 Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses	Assemblymember Ta	does not allow a healthcare plan to require a person who is already diagnosed with developmental disorder or autism to be re-evaluated to maintain healthcare coverage for their condition. Why this is important: these conditions are for life, they do not change or go away, getting re-tested just creates a risk of losing this important healthcare insurance.	Health	Committee Health
AB 2510 Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses	Assemblymember Arambula	requires DDS to create a new program in the regional centers to improve dental care services to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. These new programs also must reduce the need for regional center consumers to receive dental treatment using sedation and general anesthesia.	Health	Committees on Human Services and Higher Education

BILL # /TITLE	AUTHOR	WHAT DOES BILL DO?	CATEGORY	STATUS
AB 1885 Student Success Completion Grant program	Assemblymember Addis	requires community colleges to award \$1,298 per semester to students who enroll in 9 units, who are considered full-time (at 9 units instead of 12 units) as part of a disabled student programs Academic Accommodation Plan	Education	Committee Higher Education
AB 1938 Special education: inclusive practices and strategies	Assemblymember Gallagher	requires inclusive practices and strategies for children who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind	Education	Committee Education
AB 2821 Postsecondary education: students with disabilities	Assemblymember Grayson	a) will add/require the gathering of program costs and budget breakdowns to the systems (already in place) for evaluating state funded programs for students with disabilities b) makes a change to instead require the governing boards of community colleges districts to carry out the evaluation c) Also creates a Disability Access and Compliance Training Program for personnel	Education	Committee on Higher Education
AB 2753 Rehabilitative and habilitative services: durable medical equipment and services	Assemblymember Ortega	requires health plans to include coverage of durable medical equipment, services, and repair.	Human Services	Committee on Health

BILL # /TITLE	AUTHOR	WHAT DOES BILL DO?	CATEGORY	STATUS
AB 2423 Developmental services: regional centers: rates	Assemblymember Mathis	would require annual review of rates to assess whether the rates are sufficient to adequately provide transportation services to regional center consumers.	Human Services	Committee Human Services
AB 1876 Developmental services: individual program plans and individual family service plans: remote meetings	Assemblymember Jackson	indefinitely extends the requirements that, if requested, individual program plan (IPP) and individualized family service plan (IFSP) meetings be held remotely.	Education	Committees Human Services and Judiciary
AB 2043 Medi-Cal: nonmedical and nonemergency medical transportation	Assemblymember Boerner	requires the Department of Health Care Services to require Medi-Cal managed care plans to contract with public paratransit service operators who are enrolled Medi-Cal providers, for the purpose of establishing reimbursement rates for transportation trips provided by a public paratransit service operator	Transportation- Human Services	Committee Health
AB 2002 Vehicles: public safety: Blue Envelope Program	Assemblymember Sanchez	if person chooses, may add information in the "envelope" pertaining to the individual's needs or requested accommodations. Purpose of bill is to help promote communication and accommodation between law enforcement and community members	Public Safety	Committee on Transportation

BILL # /TITLE	AUTHOR	WHAT DOES BILL DO?	CATEGORY	STATUS
SB 1285 Driver's licenses: disability identifier	Senator Laird	allows a person to voluntarily disclose they have a disability on application forms for a driver's license or identification card.	Public Safety	Committee Transportation
AB 2289 Vehicles: parking placards for disabled veterans and persons with disabilities	Assemblymember Low	would add "licensed physical therapist" to list of people that can certify a disability - for DMV to issue disabled parking placards	Public Safety	Committees Transportation & Military & Veteran Affairs
H.R. 6405 Marriage Equality for Disabled Adults Act	Congressman Panetta	The Act will increase the federal asset limit for persons with disabilities from \$2,000 to \$10,000. For couples, the limit would be raised to \$20,000. So people do not have to choose between getting married or keeping benefits.	Human Services	Subcommittee on Health



CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Policy Priorities 2023-24

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING CIVIL RIGHTS

Every person with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) has the right to self-determination, equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency no matter their disability.

The Council will work to ensure civil rights, including identification and reduction of racial and ethnic inequalities and disparities, are protected and enhanced and full implementation of state/federal policies including but not limited to the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Home and Community-Based Services Settings Rule, Every Student Succeeds Act and Achieving Better Life Experience Act.

GUARANTEEING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Every student with I/DD has the right to a quality inclusive education with their peers that prepares them for post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment (CIE). Students with disabilities must be provided the same opportunities for learning, in the classroom and online, as students without disabilities.

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to be employed in CIE. Individuals must have access to information, benefits counseling, transition planning, job training, career exploration and information and support for inclusive post-secondary education. New or expanded pathways to CIE must be developed and supported, including apprenticeships and internships.

The Council will work to ensure the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Every Student Succeeds Act and other federal and state policies to ensure that students with disabilities are provided the services and supports needed to receive quality inclusive education.

The Council will work to ensure the full and robust implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and California's Employment First Law, that policies and practices improve opportunities for and incentivize CIE, to create hiring incentives and supports for all employers and contractors and make the state a model employer.

IDENTIFYING & PRIORITIZING EMERGING ISSUES IN THE I/DD COMMUNITY

Every person with a developmental disability should not have to deal with problems of that arise due to the emergence of inequality issues in the community. Events in our every day lives, both due to policy changes and unforeseen events, have the ability to cause unintended consequences for the I/DD community. These issues must be identified and acted upon swiftly to ensure as little harm as possible is inflicted.

The Council will work to ensure any and all emerging issues including but not limited to dealing with disparity across all I/DD issues, barriers to participating in a community setting, and roadblocks to access for people with I/DD are dealt with through policy changes. The Council will work to ensure the Self Determination Ombudsperson program at the Department of Developmental Services uses its authority to ensure people with I/DD become successful participants in the Self Determination Program.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO QUALITY SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Every person with I/DD should have the ability to fully participate in their communities. Receiving quality, individualized services is the cornerstone for people with I/DD to be safe, healthy and to promote self-determination, interdependence and inclusion. Community-based services/supports require adequate wages for providers; therefore, the state must restore rates. Disparities in access, outcomes and quality for services and supports must be addressed. Complexities in the service delivery systems must be reduced.

The Council will work to continue to restore the Department of Developmental Services programs cut in 2009, to make meaningful improvements to the service delivery system to reduce disparities, increase transparency and accountability and increase quality outcomes, support efforts to provide adequate wages to providers for inclusive and quality supports, and work to ensure successful implementation of the Self-Determination Program.

ENSURING SAFETY IN THE COMMUNITY

Every person with I/DD has a right to be safe and must be provided emergency preparedness training and training in personal safety. Law enforcement personnel, first responders, emergency medical professionals and the judicial system must be trained in how to work with people with I/DD (including those who are suspects, victims or witnesses of crimes) during the course of their duties.

The Council will work to ensure people with I/DD are safe, free from abuse and neglect and have access to services and supports in their communities during all types of disasters or emergencies and an adequate safety net for people in crisis and access to adequate crisis intervention services.

IMPROVING HOUSING AND COMMUNITY LIVING

Every person with I/DD should have the opportunity to live in the community. Permanent, affordable, accessible, safe and sustained housing options must be continually developed. Statewide inclusive living options for individuals with I/DD must be increased and enhanced through access to housing and subsidies that are paired in a timely manner with needed services and supports.

The Council will work to implement the policy recommendations in the Statewide Strategic Framework for Housing and create a dedicated housing fund to support integrated community housing for people with I/DD.

AGENDA ITEM 11. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Master Plan Discussion

This agenda item will focus on the Master Plan, an initiative to enhance California's developmental services through recent investments. It aims to make services more accessible and equitable, and to connect the developmental services system with other essential health and social services, including education, housing, employment, transportation, and safety. The plan recognizes the changing demographics and needs of service recipients, advocating for improvements that make the system easier to use and more responsive to various cultural backgrounds.

The Stakeholder Committee, consisting of a diverse group of individuals appointed by the CalHHS Secretary, will work with CalHHS and its departments to develop a Master Plan for Developmental Services to be released by March 2025. Councilmember Joyce McNair was appointed to serve on the Stakeholder Committee and represent SCDD. In addition to the Stakeholder Committee, there will be topical subcommittees formed to include subject matter experts, community partners, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and family members in the discussion.

Councilmembers will provide feedback on the Master Plan.

Attachment

CalHHS Secretary Press Release

CalHHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly Announces Stakeholder Committee to Create Master Plan for Developmental Services

Blog, Featured

What You Need to Know: Today's appointment of a Stakeholder Committee underscores that California is doubling down on the promise of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act by modernizing the developmental services system to better serve the needs of Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities—moving forward the goal of a person-centered, equity-focused, and data-driven system.

SACRAMENTO – California Health and Human Services Agency (CalHHS) Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly today announced the establishment of a Master Plan for Developmental Services <u>Stakeholder Committee</u>. The Committee will be tasked with working with CalHHS and its departments to **develop a Master Plan for Developmental Services to be released by March 2025**. The Master Plan is designed to serve as California's collective roadmap to marshal the public and private resources of the entire developmental services system, as well as other systems and sectors, to deliver meaningful and concrete results.

"The reality is that the developmental services system cannot, nor should it, operate in isolation given the changing needs of the consumers and families we serve today." said CalHHS Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly. "This means we must proactively think about how we connect the dots between systems and sectors, while more intentionally integrating developmental services to our work to serve the whole needs of the individual and their families.

WHY CREATE A MASTER PLAN: Over the last few years, in partnership with the Legislature, the Newsom Administrations has made historic investments to increase rates within the developmental services system. The Master Plan will leverage these investments to strengthen accessibility, quality, and equity for all consumers. In recognition that California's developmental disabilities system is deeply connected to other health and social systems, the Master Plan will seek to create and strengthen bridges that connect the developmental services system to other critical systems across CalHHS, and other systems and services including education, housing, employment, transportation, and safety.

WHY THIS MATTERS TO CALIFORNIANS: Since 2019, the number of Californians served by the developmental services system has grown by 31%, with significant growth among children under the age of 22 who have an Autism diagnosis. Today, over 400,000 Californians receive services and supports through California's 21 Regional Centers. Individuals who receive services today are more diverse and live longer. They face affordable housing shortages, lower rates of employment, and the challenges of accessing services from other systems and sectors to address their physical, social, and behavioral health needs. A 21st century developmental services system must increase its ability to provide culturally responsive services and to strengthen the accountability and standardization of the system so that it is easier for individuals and their families to navigate no matter where they live in California.

"Our work together will build on the promise of the Lanterman Act, our current efforts and investments and new thinking from the diverse communities served by our Regional Centers," said California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Director Nancy Bargmann. "Our goal is to realize a 21st century developmental services system which is more person-centered, and based on quality, outcomes, and cultural competence."

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE: The Stakeholder Committee consists of a diverse group of individuals who bring varying backgrounds and experiences to help build the Master Plan. The members of the Committee have been appointed by the CalHHS Secretary for a one-year term with the intent that they collectively deliver a Master Plan by March of 2025. In addition to the Stakeholder Committee, there will be topical subcommittees formed to bring together additional subject matter experts, community partners, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and family members. These subcommittees will help shape the components of the Master Plan and provide opportunities for deeper and wider engagement.

WHAT COMES NEXT: In the weeks to come, CalHHS along with the DDS, will launch a public engagement campaign to engage individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, and system partners in the communities and neighborhoods across the state to better understand their hopes and dreams for a 21st century developmental services system. This Master Plan will not be developed in a vacuum in Sacramento, instead, it will look to meet people where they are to collectively learn about their lived experiences and use that to help shape the future of this system—a system that looks to provide culturally responsive services which meet the diverse needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Most importantly, this process

will be public and open to all Californians to engage in and participate in, our collective voices will only make this stronger.

BIGGER PICTURE: Over the last decade, California has closed all the Developmental Centers with the goal of integrating individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in communities and outside of institutional settings. Moreover, California is the only state in the nation that provides developmental services and supports as an entitlement with an intentional focus on home and community-based services. This contrasts with other states where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are on a wait list for services and are capped on what types of services they may receive.

Press Release Link: https://www.chhs.ca.gov/blog/2024/02/14/calhhs-secretary-dr-mark-ghaly-announces-stakeholder-committee-to-create-master-plan-for-developmental-services/

AGENDA ITEM 12. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Sibling and Natalie's Story

As we approach April's Sibling Awareness Month, it's essential to acknowledge the significance of siblings and their contributions. Siblings Day, celebrated on April 10th, serves as a reminder to honor these relationships, and recognize the impact they have on individuals, families, and communities.

Councilmember Julie Neward and President of the California Siblings Network Kayln Farris will present on April's Siblings Awareness Month and discuss some of their recent work. In addition, Councilmembers will be introduced to and shown a trailer of the Natalia Project Movie, a documentary by Councilmember Julie Neward.

Handout(s)

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The Council's next meeting date is scheduled to be in person on May 21, 2024.