



San Bernardino Regional Office

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

February 13, 2024

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Members Present

Dustlyne Beavers, **Chair**

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**

Cindy Cox

Ryan Nelson

Sandra Diaz

Kimberly Risser

Sofia Benitez

Kelli Guillory

Cathy Rosas

Lisa Williams

Julio Garnica

Members Absent

Reginald Davis

Elizabeth Felix Discussion

SCDD Staff

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

Matoya Terrell, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Jose Valle, Office Technician

Guest Speaker

- Dr. Christine Moody, Director of Research, UCLA PEERS® Clinic

Public Attendees

Sharon Cobb
Christine Rios
Irma Perez
Gloria A Echevarria
Rita Loof
Debra Kamm
Daniel Schenkel
A. Monique Bridges
Caitlyn Martinez
Debra Kamm

English/Spanish Language Interpreter

N/A

Meeting called to order at 4:05 PM

Quorum Established. Welcome from Dustlyne Beavers, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Ryan Nelson motioned to approve minutes of the 11/14/2023 meeting. Motioned seconded by Kim Risser. Unanimously minutes were approved.

Presentation: Dr. Christine Moody, Director of Research, UCLA PEERS® Clinic

Topic: Leadership Academy, an advocacy and leadership course aimed at promoting and nurturing future disability rights leaders and the importance of post-secondary education for students with developmental disabilities and the value of college experience for competitive, integrated employment

4:19 PM – 5:50 PM: Dr. Christine Moody discusses the launch of the Leadership Academy, an advocacy and leadership course aimed at promoting and nurturing future disability rights leaders. She emphasizes the importance of post-secondary education for students with developmental disabilities and the value of college experience for competitive, integrated employment. Dr. Moody explains that students with college experience are more likely to obtain competitive and integrated employment, work more hours, earn higher wages, and have better independence, social networks, and physical health outcomes. She also mentions the growing awareness of inclusive post-secondary education and its value for both students and community employers. Christine Moody discussed recent updates recognizing people with disabilities as a health disparity population, opening up funding

opportunities. She highlighted the success of a program at North Orange Community College District, called Arise, which provides support for neurodivergent students. Dr. Moody also gave a presentation for faculty, outlining neurodiversity and providing practical strategies for inclusive teaching. Additionally, she mentioned the support for more specialized programs for those with intellectual disability or other developmental disabilities, through partnerships with the California Community College system.

Dr. Christine Moody presented data on the success rates of students in college to career programs, highlighting their high pass rates and employment rate. She noted that students in these programs were achieving at a higher rate than the overall community college system and the national average for college graduates. Dr. Moody also discussed UCLA's inclusive post-secondary education program, Pathway, which provides academic support, peer coaching, and a residential option for students. She concluded her presentation by mentioning that students with disabilities can also access the California Department of Vocational Rehabilitation for additional support.

Christine Moody discussed her department's partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation, with a focus on increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in high-demand, high-pay jobs. She also mentioned a project to support the transition of individuals from sub-minimum wage work settings into competitive, integrated employment. Dr. Moody also touched on the "Peers for Careers" program, which aims to improve employment-related social skills. Kim Risser suggested including information about social security work incentives in future presentations. The team agreed to consider presenting at student orientations at colleges to ensure students are fully informed about available resources and opportunities.

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

- Patricia Herrera underscored the importance of connecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with local resources and services and highlighted the potential for collaboration with organizations like the California Community Housing Foundation. She acknowledged the role of one-on-one support for those navigating challenges and emphasized the partnership with the Department of Rehabilitation. Patricia Herrera also discussed the National Core Indicator program and quality assurance, introducing Matoya Terrell, the Associate Governmental Program Analyst. They discussed a health and wellness fair planned in collaboration with the

Teamsters National Black Caucus and the Women's Caucus, with a focus on providing free health screenings and addressing various community needs. Patricia Herrera highlighted that an upcoming event would be an opportunity for new collaborators to join their system, with a focus on providing services for families with children with developmental disabilities who are currently not accessing them.

- Patricia Herrera discussed the success and impact of the Inland Empire business roundtable initiative launched last August. She proposed starting similar initiatives in smaller counties like Mono and Inyo to support local businesses. Patricia Herrera emphasized the need for workforce inclusivity, especially for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and highlighted their achievements in advocating for crisis intervention services. The next roundtable meeting was scheduled to be held at Ascendant, a fulfillment company with experience in inclusive workforce development. She also mentioned their involvement in SB 6, 39, which led to the elimination of sub-minimum wage for certain individuals.

Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda 5:50 PM – 6:09 PM

- Rita Loof, a parent of students with disabilities and a county board member, raised concerns about the need for education, the high percentage of students with IEPs in the juvenile justice system, and the issue of administrative costs in special education funding.
- Caitlyn Martinez, a special needs parent and advocate, expressed interest in the topic of post-secondary education for individuals with disabilities.

Meeting adjourned

- Dustlyne Beavers motion to adjourn meeting, Kim Risser seconded the motion. Motioned approved by RAC members. Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.