

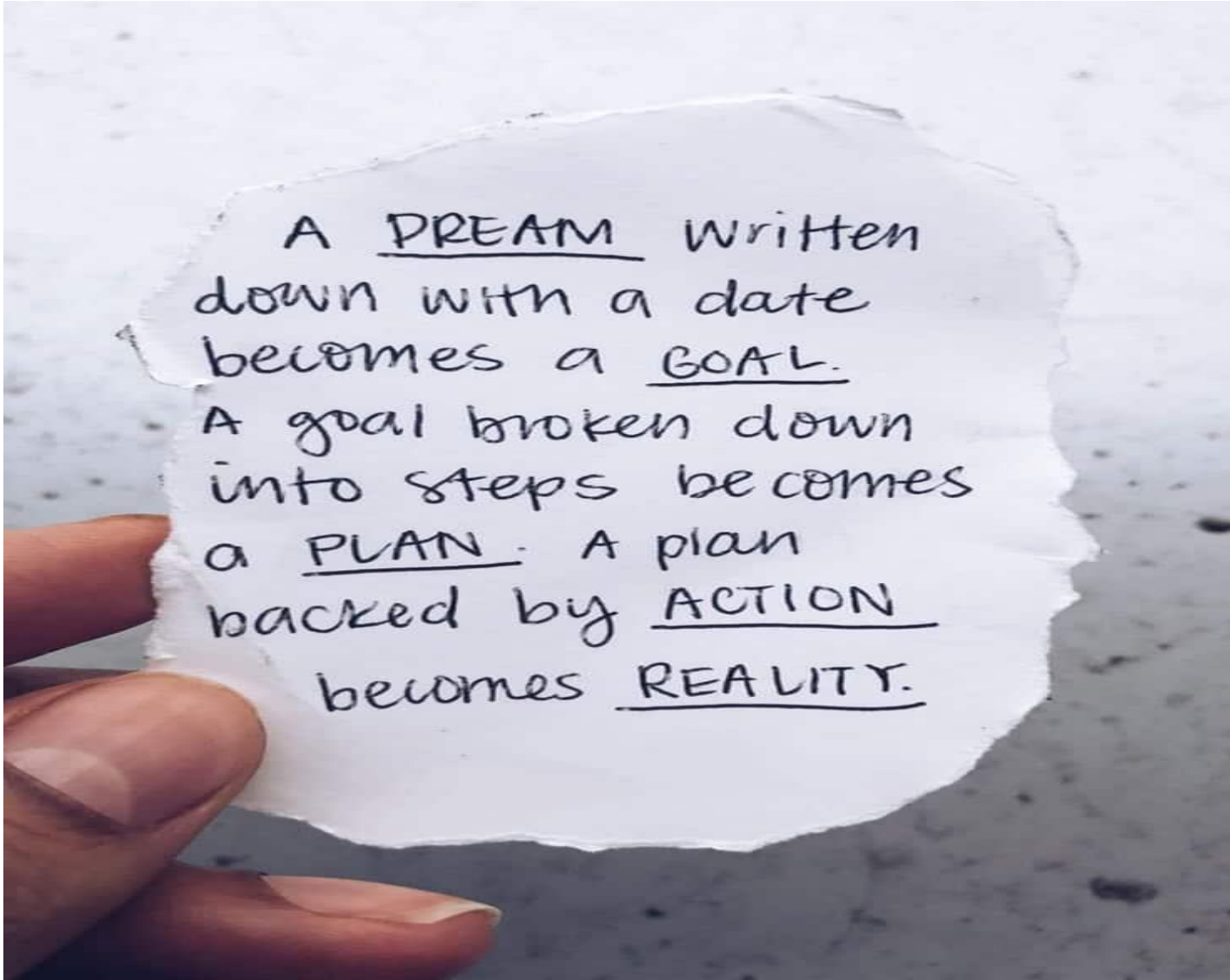
# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Executive Director Report

May 21, 2024

Aaron Carruthers



A hand is holding a piece of white paper with torn edges. The paper has handwritten text in black ink. The text is arranged in four lines, with the words 'DREAM', 'GOAL', 'PLAN', 'ACTION', and 'REALITY' underlined. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

A DREAM written  
down with a date  
becomes a GOAL.  
A goal broken down  
into steps becomes  
a PLAN. A plan  
backed by ACTION  
becomes REALITY.

# Overview

- Advocacy Update
- 504 Update
- Self-Determination Program update
- Announcements

# Advocacy Update: Deadline

- This week is “House of Origin” deadline in the Legislature
  - This means bills introduced by a Senator must be passed by the Senate and bills introduced by an Assemblymember must be passed by the Assembly by Friday
  - Legislature is in session every day this week
  - Assembly – 553 bills on the floor
  - Senate – 365 bills on the floor
  - Both Houses: 918 bills to be acted on by Friday

# Advocacy Update: SCDD Supported Bills

- SCDD Supported Bills still moving through the Legislature:
  - Health
    - AB 1977 (Ta) Health Care Coverage Recertification
    - SB 1384 (Dodd) Power Wheelchair Repair
    - SB 1001 (Skinner) Protects individuals with IDD from death penalty
  - Home
    - SB 1443 (Jones) Interagency Council on Homelessness
    - AB 1876 (Jackson) Allows IPPs to be remote
    - SB 1281 (Menjivar) Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program
    - SB 1197 (Alvarado-Gil) Respite Services for Foster Youth
  - Work
    - AB 1885 (Addis) 9-units as full time for students with disabilities

# Advocacy Update: SCDD Supported Bills

- SCDD Supported Bills no longer moving through the Legislature:
  - AB 2753 (Ortega) Cover Durable Medical Equipment (held on Suspense)

# Advocacy Update: SCDD & May Revise

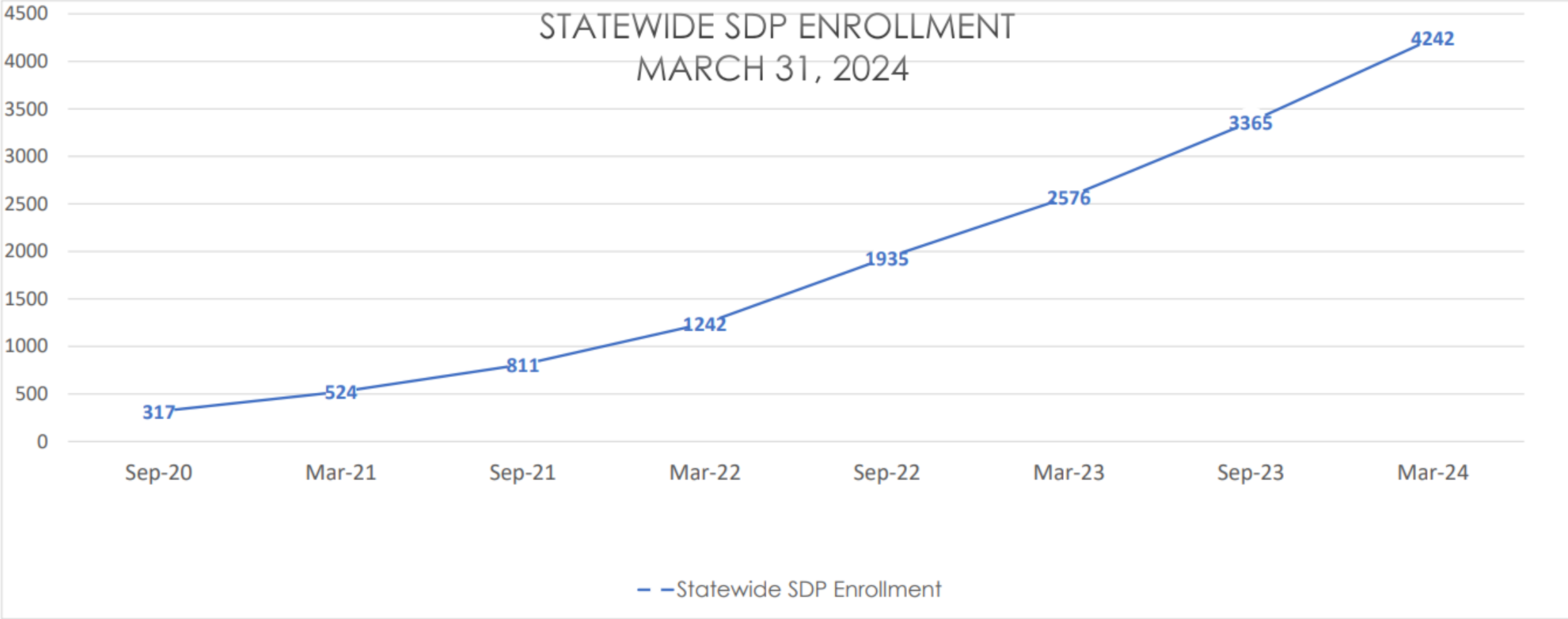
- Governor's Revised Budget Proposal Included Proposals for SCDD
  - Staff Support Assistant for SCDD employees with IDD and disabilities
  - Permanent staff for the Self-Determination Program Orientation and Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee
  - Budget authority to keep spending the grant for Go-Kits
- Thank you Chief Deputy Director Ken DaRosa and Budget Officer Lynn Villoria for preparing strong justifications
- Thank you Governor Newsom for promoting SCDD's effective operations

# Section 504 Final Rule Update

- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs and activities that receive funding from the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- May 1, HHS finalized a rule to strengthen protections for people with disabilities:
  - Medical decisions are not based on biases or dehumanizing beliefs
  - Prohibits “value of life” being used to decide benefits
  - Defines accessibility for websites and mobile apps
  - Adopts standards for medical diagnostic equipment, like exam tables
- “Direct result of decades of advocacy by people with disabilities, the updated 504 Rule is one of the strongest tools we have ever had to combat discrimination,” Alison Barkoff, leads the Administration on Community Living (ACL).

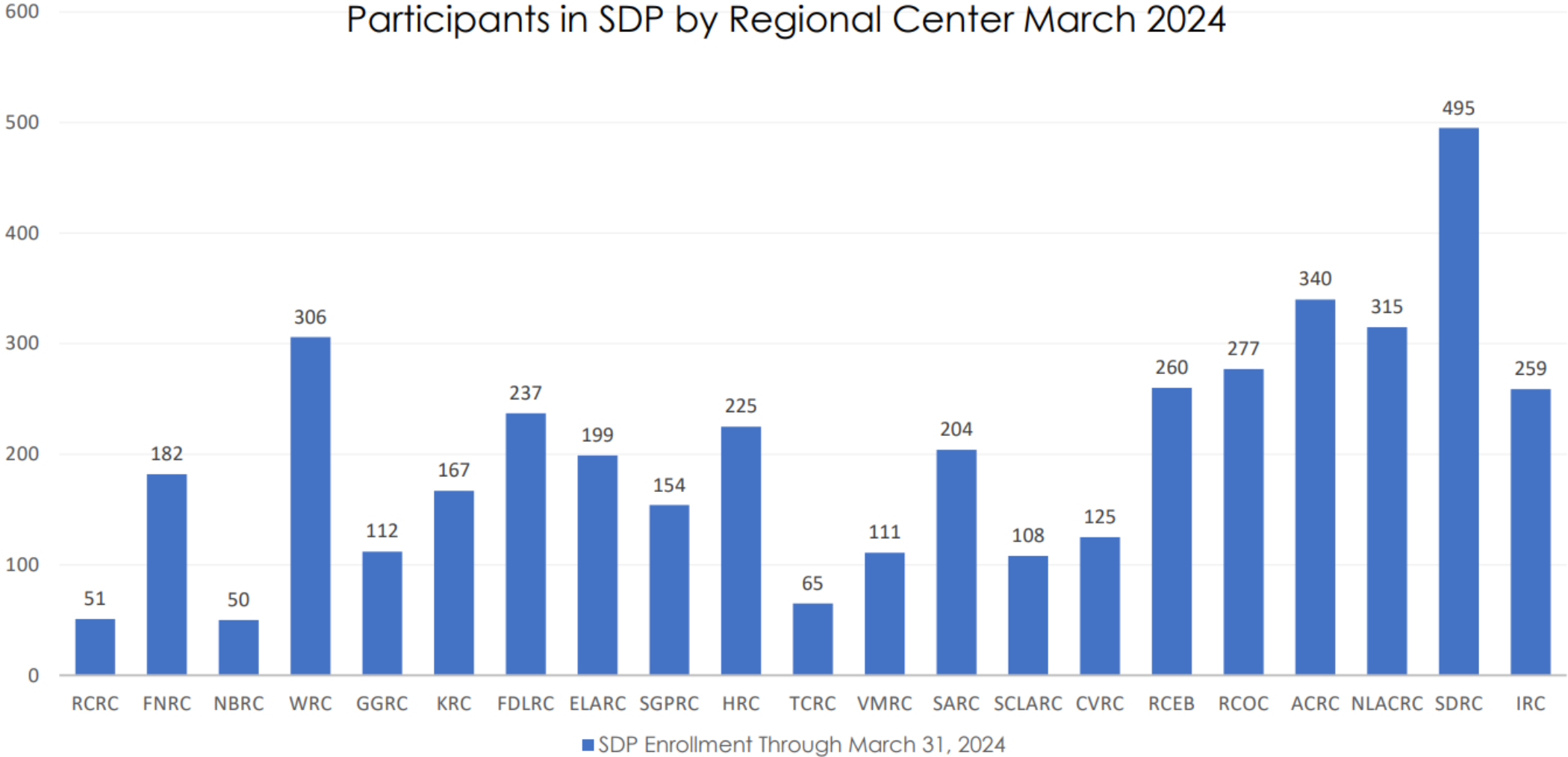


# Self-Determination Program Update



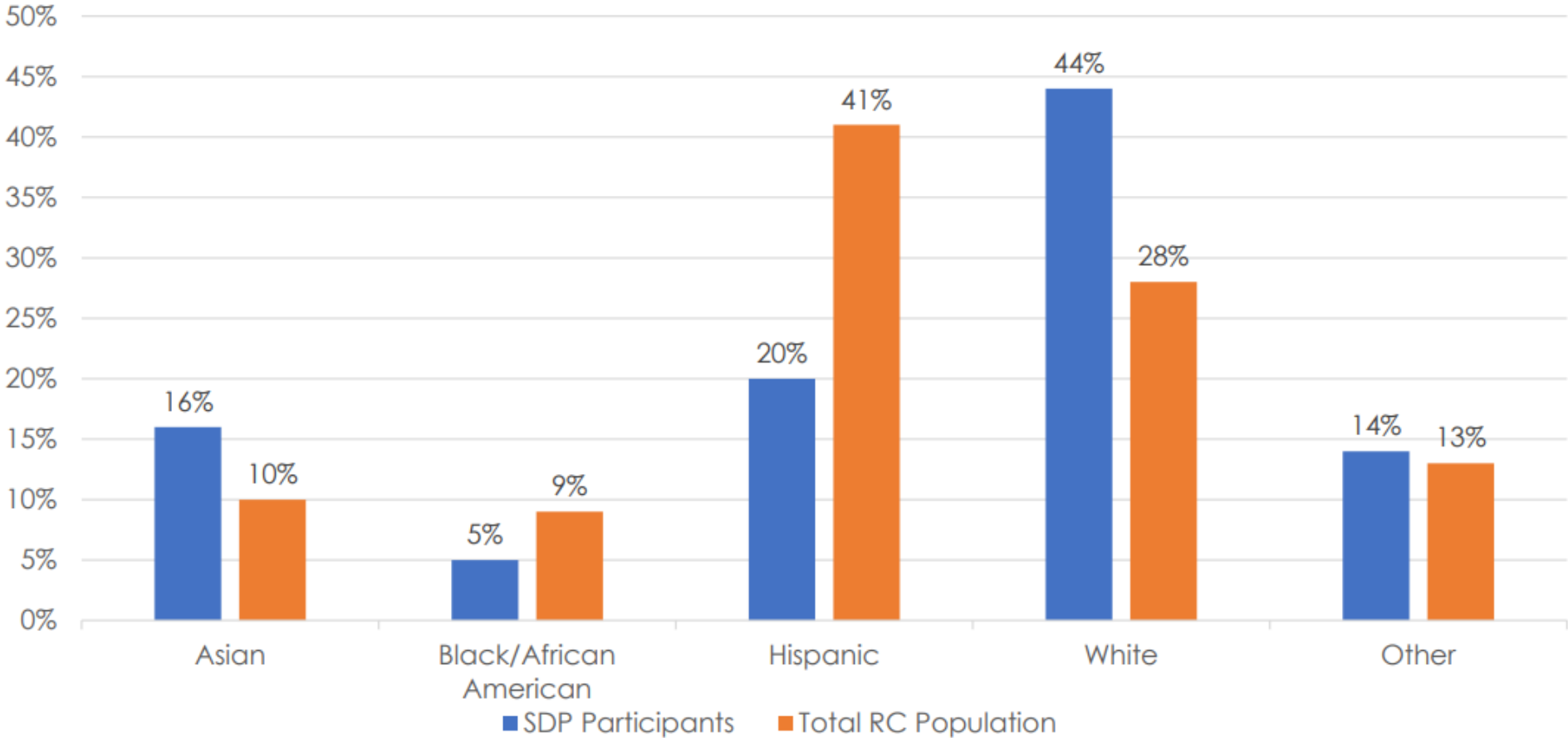
Statewide SDP Enrollment for March 31, 2024– 4,242

# Self-Determination Program Update



# Self-Determination Program Update

SDP Participants Compared to All Regional Center Consumers  
March 2024, By Ethnicity



# Self-Determination Program Update: LA Times

Los  
Angeles  
Times

- “People with disabilities love this program. Why are Latinos underrepresented?” April 15, 2024
- Title and content built from SCDD evaluation of self-determination program
- Cites SB 1281 (Menjivar) legislation to reform self-determination program (uses evaluation as evidence)
- SCDD Executive Director quoted re people having higher budgets in self-determination program:
- *Aaron Carruthers, executive director of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, said he sees those numbers as evidence of “people who were underserved finally getting what they needed.”*

# Self-Determination Program Update: Orientation Training

July 2022 through March 2024

- 214 Trainings
- 4,805 participants
- 10 languages

What are they saying?

- 90% find the information useful

“Do you plan on enrolling in SDP?”

- 69% yes
  - 22% undecided
  - 5% no
-

# Announcements: People First CA 50<sup>th</sup>



# Announcements

## Federal funding

- Federal Government budget for October 2023-September 2024 includes level funding for Councils. That means the same amount for California, and no changes to the approved budget

## SCDD Staff

- Saying hello to Personnel Officer Thuy
- Saying goodbye to Counsel Brian Weisel
- Recruitment for Deputy Director of Policy and Attorney continues



THANK YOU

Questions or  
Discussion?