

## **NOTICE/AGENDA**

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

POSTED AT: www.scdd.ca.gov

CORRECTED

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code Section <u>11123.2</u>. 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 <a href="https://www.scdd.ca.gov">www.scdd.ca.gov</a>

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION

DoubleTree by Hilton Sacramento

2001 Point W Way

Sacramento, CA 95815

**JOIN VIA ZOOM:** 

Meeting ID:

Password:

DATE:

May 20, 2024

TIME:

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:** 

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

**JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:** 

Call-In Number: (888) 475-4499

Kara Ponton

Meeting ID: 894 2874 8383

bit.ly/MEM-MAY-2024

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#### Item 4. 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.

| Item 5. | APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2024 MINUTES VMTE  | Page 3  |
|---------|---|---------|
| Item 6. | MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP REPORT  Presented by: Kara Ponton, Committee Chair       | Page 7  |
| Item 7. | <b>DEMOGRAPHIC MAP</b> Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director     | Page 17 |
| Item 8. | APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES  Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director | Page 21 |
| Item 9. | APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL VMTE  Presented by: Kara Ponton, Committee Chair     | Page 27 |

- a. Review Council Applications for Expiring 2<sup>nd</sup> Term Seat(s)
  - North Valley Hills Region

#### Item 10. ADJOURNMENT

## **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 (916) 263-7919. Requests must be received by 5 business days prior to the meeting. *All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.* 

## May 20, 2024

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5.**

#### **ACTION ITEM**

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – Membership Committee

## Approval of February 2024 Minutes

Members will review and act on the February 1, 2024, meeting minutes.

#### **Action Recommended**

Approve the February 2024, minutes.

#### Attachment(s)

February 1, 2024, Minutes



#### **DRAFT**

# Membership Committee Meeting Minutes February 1, 2024

#### Attending Members

Kara Ponton, Chair (SA) Eric Ybarra (SA) Harold Ashe (FA)

## **Members Absent**

None

#### Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers Beth Hurn Dena Hernandez Ibrahim Muttaqi Mary Ellen Stives

#### Others Attending (continued)

Robin Maitino-Erben Scarlett VonThenen Sarah Davenport

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kara Ponton (SA) called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M.

#### 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

#### 3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others introduced themselves as indicated.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Ybarra [SA]/Ashe [FA]) and carried to approve the November 9, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed unanimously, see page one for members present.)

#### 6. **DEMOGRAPHIC MAP**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed a map showing the current demographic makeup of the Council.

#### 7. APPOINTMENT AND VACANCIES

Executive Director Carruthers presented the current Appointment and Vacancies Tracking Form to the Committee.

#### 8. APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

Committee Members reviewed applications for the two vacant Council seats (North Valley Hills and Orange County). Following their review, the Committee moved on to Agenda Item 9 before taking the below action to move applicants 225, 792 and 780 to the next phase of the interview process.

#### 9. REVIEW AND TAKE ACTION ON RAC APPLICATIONS

The Committee reviewed one application for an open seat on the San Diego Regional Advisory Committee

It was moved/seconded (Ashe [FA]/Ybarra [SA]) and carried to move applicants 225, 792 and 780 forward to the interview process for the open Council seats and to adopt the regional manager's recommendation to appoint applicant 779 for the San Diego RAC. (Unanimous, see page one for members present)

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting at adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

May 20, 2024

# AGENDA ITEM 6. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

#### Membership Workgroup Report

In November of 2023, the Membership Committee established a workgroup to review, vet and appoint/reappoint the membership of RACs and Local SDACs, allowing vacancies to be filled in a timely manner. The Membership Workgroup met for the first time on April 25, 2024. Committee Chair Kara Ponton will provide a brief update on the outcomes of that meeting.

#### Attachment(s)

April 25, 2024, Membership Workgroup Report



## April 25, 2024 Membership Workgroup Report to Committee

## **Regional Advisory Committee Actions**

## North Coast Regional Advisory Committee

No new appointments, reappointments or removals.

## North State Regional Advisory Committee

#### **RAC Removals**

| 581 | Larry Stevens |
|-----|---------------|
| 750 | Brandie Ryan  |

## Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

|     | •        |
|-----|----------|
| 719 | Decline  |
| 723 | Hold     |
| 730 | Appoint  |
| 731 | Waitlist |
| 737 | Appoint  |
| 748 | Waitlist |
| 777 | Waitlist |
| 788 | Appoint  |
| 796 | Waitlist |
| 804 | Waitlist |
| 812 | Hold     |
| 810 | Appoint  |
| 818 | Appoint  |

#### Removals

| 634 | Tammi Bradley    |
|-----|------------------|
| 593 | Stephani Crespin |
| 114 | Brandy Boyd      |

## North Bay Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

| 795   Appoint |
|---------------|
|---------------|

#### Reappointments

| 49  | Ellen Sweigert   |
|-----|------------------|
| 48  | Zoee Bartholemew |
| 486 | Bobby Craig      |

#### Removals

37 Chen Curtiss

## Bay Area Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

| 787 | Hold    |
|-----|---------|
| 781 | Hold    |
| 769 | Appoint |
|     |         |

#### Reappointments

574 Florence Wong

## North Valley Hills Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

| 806 | Appoint |
|-----|---------|
| 780 | Appoint |
| 811 | Appoint |

#### Removals

| 226 | Jayme Flores     |
|-----|------------------|
| 272 | Virginia Sanchez |
| 500 | Kerstin Williams |

## Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee

## **New Applications**

| 758 | Appoint  |
|-----|----------|
| 753 | Hold     |
| 772 | Hold     |
| 794 | Hold     |
| 797 | Hold     |
| 798 | Hold     |
| 800 | Hold     |
| 783 | Waitlist |

#### Removals

227 Mary Peitso

## Sequoia Regional Advisory Committee

### **New Applications**

| 785 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 790 | Appoint |

## Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee

#### **New Applications**

| 776 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 791 | Decline |
| 802 | Decline |

#### Reappointments

556 Lourdes Gomez

#### Removals

| 551 | Carla Lehmann   |
|-----|-----------------|
| 342 | Anahid Kademian |
| 610 | Harold Fujita   |
| 499 | Julia Gaona     |
| 612 | Cathay Liu      |
| 732 | Nestor Nieves   |

## Orange County Regional Advisory Committee

## **New Applications**

| 801 | Appoint |
|-----|---------|
| 803 | Appoint |
| 805 | Decline |
| 807 | Decline |

## San Bernardino Regional Advisory Committee

## **New Applications**

| ı |     | • •     |
|---|-----|---------|
|   | 782 | Appoint |
|   | 784 | Appoint |

#### Removals

| 295 | Cynthia Cox    |
|-----|----------------|
| 708 | Michelle Burns |

## San Diego Regional Advisory Committee

## **New Applications**

| 793 | Hold |
|-----|------|
| 799 | Hold |

## **Self-Determination Advisory Committee Actions**

## Redwood Coast Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

338 Appoint

## Far Northern Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

356 Appoint

## Alta California Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

|     | • •      |
|-----|----------|
| 381 | Hold     |
| 306 | Hold     |
| 345 | Waitlist |
| 324 | Waitlist |
| 329 | Withdraw |
| 351 | Hold     |
| 361 | Hold     |
| 370 | Waitlist |

## North Bay Regional Center

#### Removals

X26 Sonia Jones

## Golden Gate Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

|     | • •  |
|-----|------|
| 346 | Hold |
| 349 | Hold |

#### Removals

| X37  | Connie Johnson |
|------|----------------|
| X247 | David Nguyen   |

## Regional Center of the East Bay

#### Removals

| 341 | Lilian Ansari        |
|-----|----------------------|
| X51 | Melissa Crisp-Cooper |

## Valley Mountain Regional Center

## **New Applications**

378 Waitlist

## San Andres Regional Center

No appointments or removals

## **Tri Counties Regional Center**

#### **New Applications**

| 327 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 360 | Appoint |

## Central Valley Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

| 364 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 366 | Appoint |

## East Los Angeles Regional Center

#### Removals

140 Jocabed Garcia

## Frank D. Lanterman Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

| 374 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 375 | Decline |
| 286 | Appoint |

#### Removals

| 123 | Howard McBroom |
|-----|----------------|
| 124 | Mariko Magami  |

## Harbor Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

| 266 | Appoint |
|-----|---------|
| 365 | Decline |
| 220 | Appoint |

#### Removals

| 132 | Linda Chan Rapp  |
|-----|------------------|
| 121 | Juliana Martinez |
| 125 | Vianny Gomes     |

## North Los Angeles County Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

| 271 | Appoint |
|-----|---------|
| 350 | Hold    |

#### Removals

| 6   | Cheryl Hendrickson   |
|-----|----------------------|
| 105 | Sandra Baker         |
| 29  | Diana Padilla Garcia |

## South Central Los Angeles Regional Center

## **New Applications**

| 352 | Decline  |
|-----|----------|
| 353 | Waitlist |
| 355 | Decline  |

## San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center

#### **New Applications**

| 376 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
|     | Hold    |
| 369 | Decline |

#### Removals

123 Antony Rodriguez

## Westside Regional Center

## **New Applications**

| 297 | Appoint |
|-----|---------|
| 347 | Appoint |

#### Removals

| 96  | Brett Gordon  |
|-----|---------------|
| 148 | Carla Lehmann |
| 160 | Kim Watson    |

## Regional Center of Orange County

## **New Applications**

| 354 | Decline |
|-----|---------|
| 362 | Decline |
| 368 | Appoint |

## **Inland Regional Center**

#### **New Applications**

| 348 | Waitlist |
|-----|----------|
| 367 | Hold     |
| 372 | Waitlist |

## San Diego Regional Center

## **New Applications**

| _   |         |
|-----|---------|
| 344 | Appoint |
| 343 | Hold    |
| 337 | Hold    |
| 359 | Hold    |
| 363 | Hold    |
| 373 | Hold    |

#### Removals

| 235 | My Dinh    |
|-----|------------|
| 254 | Reva Subra |
| 2   | Kim Rucker |

May 20, 2024

# AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## Demographic Map

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the current Council make-up.

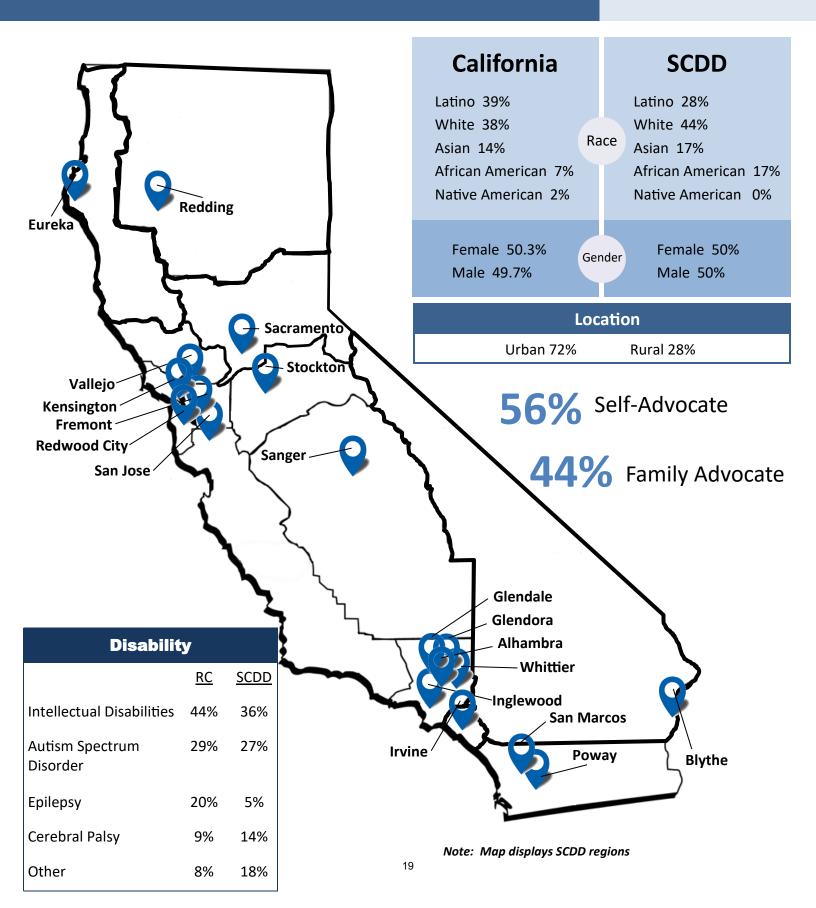
## Attachment(s)

Current Demographic Map as of May 2024

## **Who Are Our Council Members**

Non-Agency Proposed May 2024





May 20, 2024

# AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## Appointment and Vacancies

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will go over the appointment and vacancy chart in the packet. This chart show Councilmember term limits as well as information on the seat they represent.

## Attachment(s)

**Appointment and Vacancy Chart** 

## **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

| Catagoni                | Nama                                  | *1st Term   | *2nd Term   | Expiration | Expired | Expired >120 | Sent<br>to G.O. |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| Category                | Name                                  | Appointment | Appointment | Date       | >60     | >120         | to G.U.         |
| At Large<br>Institution | Harold Fujita<br>(family advocate)    | 9/16/2021   |             | 9/16/2024  |         |              |                 |
| At Large 1              | Eric Ybarra<br>(self-advocate)        | 3/30/2022   |             | 3/30/2025  |         |              |                 |
| At Large 2              | Lee Bycel<br>(family advocate)        | 6/14/2019   | 8/2/2022    | 8/2/2025   |         |              |                 |
| At Large 3              | Harold Ashe<br>(family advocate)      | 9/16/2021   |             | 9/16/2024  |         |              |                 |
| At Large 4              | Wesley Witherspoon<br>(self-advocate) | 5/18/2018   | 3/30/2022   | 3/30/2025  |         |              |                 |
| At Large 5              | Julie Gaona<br>(self-advocate)        | 10/20/2022  |             | 10/20/2025 |         |              |                 |
| At Large 6              | Nestor Nieves<br>(self-advocate)      | 5/18/2023   |             | 5/18/2026  |         |              |                 |
| At Large 7              | Nicole Adler<br>(self-advocate)       | 12/7/2018   | 3/30/2022   | 3/30/2025  |         |              |                 |
| North Coast Region      | Kara Ponton<br>(self-advocate)        | 6/14/2019   | 8/2/2022    | 8/2/2025   |         |              |                 |
| North State Region      | Rosanna Ryan<br>(self-advocate)       | 6/14/2019   | 8/2/2022    | 8/2/2025   |         |              |                 |
| Sacramento Region       | Joyce McNair<br>(family advocate)     | 6/14/2019   | 8/2/2022    | 8/2/2025   |         |              |                 |

## **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

| 0.1                     | Name  | *1st Term   | *2nd Term   | Expiration | Expired | Expired | Sent    |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Category                | Name  | Appointment | Appointment | Date       | >60     | >120    | to G.O. |
|                         | Sonia Jones                                     |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| North Bay Region        | (self-advocate)                                 | 5/18/2023   |             | 5/18/2026  |         |         |         |
|                         |   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Bay Area Region         | Alex Reyes<br>(self-advocate)                   | 3/30/2022   |             | 3/30/2025  |         |         |         |
| Day Area Region         | (sell advocate)                                 | 3/30/2022   |             | 3/30/2023  |         |         |         |
|                         |   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| N. Valley Hills Region  | Vacant (February 2024)                          |             |             |            | Х       |         |         |
|                         | Viviana Barnwell                                |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Central Coast Region    | (family-advocate)                               | 9/16/2021   |             | 9/16/2024  |         |         |         |
|                         |   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Conveis Bosion          | Michael Ellis                                   | 0/16/2021   |             | 0/16/2024  |         |         |         |
| Sequoia Region          | (family advocate)                               | 9/16/2021   |             | 9/16/2024  |         |         |         |
|                         | Cathay Liu                                      |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Los Angeles Region      | (family advocate)                               | 9/16/2021   |             | 9/16/2024  |         |         |         |
|                         |   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Orange County Region    | Vacant (February 2023)                          |             |             |            |         |         | X       |
| 0                       |   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
|                         | Julio Garnica                                   | - 1- 1      | - 1- 1      | - 1- 1     |         |         |         |
| San Bernardino Region   | (self-advocate)                                 | 7/9/2019    | 8/2/2022    | 8/2/2025   |         |         |         |
| San Diego Imperial      | Jessica Brown                                   |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Region                  | (family advocate)                               | 5/18/2023   |             | 5/18/2026  |         |         |         |
|                         | Law Varian Direct                               |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Rehabilitation | Joe Xavier, Director<br>Jessica Grove, Designee | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| Depart of Rendamication | vession drove, besigned                         | C.1501116   | C.IBOILIB   |            |         |         |         |
|                         | Tony Thurmond, Director                         |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Education      | Nick Wavrin, Designee                           | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |

Appointee ChartUpdated May 7, 2024Page 2

## **Appointment and Vacancy Tracking Form**

|                                    |                              | *1st Term   | *2nd Term   | Expiration | Expired | Expired | Sent    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Category                           | Name                         | Appointment | Appointment | Date       | >60     | >120    | to G.O. |
|                                    |                              |             |             |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Susan DeMarois, Director     |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Aging                     | Mark Beckley, Designee       | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| CA Health & Human Services         | Mayle Challe Cogratage       |             |             |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Mark Ghaly, Secretary        | 0           | 0           |            |         |         |         |
| Agency                             | Debra Cooper, Designee       | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Nancy Bargmann, Director     |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Dont of Davidonmental Comises      | Brian Winfield, Designee     | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Developmental Services    | Brian Willield, Designee     | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Michelle Baass, Director     |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Health Care Services      | Joseph Bilingsley, Designee  | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| Dept. of Health Care Services      | Joseph Billigsley, Designee  | Origoning   | Oligoling   |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Andy Imparato, Director      |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| Disability Rights CA               | Sandra Smith, Designee       | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| Disability Rights CA               | Elizabeth Laugeson, Director | Oligonig    | Oligoling   |            |         |         |         |
|                                    | Christine Moody, Yasamin     |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| University Center for Excellence   | Bolourian, Beth Stoffmacher, |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| UCLA                               | Designees                    | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| OCLA                               | Designees                    | Origoning   | Oligoling   |            |         |         |         |
| University Center for Excellence   |                              |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| USC                                | Larry Yin, Director          | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| 030                                | Larry rm, Director           | Oligonia    | Oligonig    |            |         |         |         |
| University Center for Excellence   | Aubyn Stahmer, Director      |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| UCD                                | Janice Enriquez, Designee    | Ongoing     | Ongoing     |            |         |         |         |
| Non-Governmental Agency/Group      | zamez zimiquez, zeolgnee     | 5505        |             |            |         |         |         |
| Concerned with Services to Persons |                              |             |             |            |         |         |         |
| with DD                            | Julie Neward                 | 12/7/2018   | 3/30/2022   | 3/30/2025  |         |         |         |
|                                    |                              |             | -, -0, -0   | 2,00,2020  |         |         |         |

Notes: 1) 3- Year Term

- 2) Appointee can serve two successive terms.
- 3) Continues to serve until appointment of replacement is done.
- 4) Of the 20 non-agency members, at least 7 are people with DD and at least 7 are parent, family member, guardian or conservator of someone with DD residing in CA. All 20 must fall into one category or the other.

## May 20, 2024

# AGENDA ITEM 9. ACTION ITEM

# STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

## **Applications for Council**

Members will review and make recommendations on applications to fill the two Council seat vacancies.

#### Recommendation

Move selected applicants forward to the interview process.

## Attachment(s)

Applications 651 and 806 for the North Valley Hills Region

#### Handout(s)

There may be additional handouts the day of the meeting.

# NORTH VALLEY HILLS APPLICATIONS

## **Redacted Membership Application**

#### **MM-651**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: CA

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

I am a: parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Are you a member of a nongovernmental agency that does not receive regional center funding?

Do you want to serve on the State Council:

**Do you want to serve on a Regional Advisory Committee:** Yes, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I have two sons with autism. Advocating for their services and researching the condition, services, and treatments have brought many insights and understandings. I am also an instructional coach and see and assist many students and their teachers with recognizing and understanding the disabled. Mostly, I suggest people assume competence and remove limits by introducing accommodations and modifications. I am constantly surprised and encouraged by what I see my son and students accomplishing.

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

My children are autistic and I run a Facebook support group for Autism families in San Joaquin county. My children have had OT, Speech and ABA services. We are currently exploring adult services as they reach that stage.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I would like to serve on this council to share my experience of the services of VMRC from childhood diagnosis through adulthood. I would also like to share what's going on with my contacts in the autism community.

What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?: I am a good listener and communicator. I have ideas about what my children and the children of my friends have difficulty with and the needs that have been expressed to me. I also am good at connecting people with resources and hope to assist with this as well.

## **Redacted Membership Application**

#### **MM-806**

Name: REDACTED

Address: REDACTED

County of Residence: Amadpr

Email: REDACTED Phone: REDACTED

Race: White

I am a: parent, family member, legal guardian or conservator of a person with a developmental disability

Are you currently employed by, or a member of the governing board of an organization providing services to persons with developmental disabilities?:

No

Are you a member of a nongovernmental agency that does not receive regional center funding?

Do you want to serve on the State Council: Yes, I want to apply to serve on the State Council

**Do you want to serve on a Regional Advisory Committee:** Yes, I want to apply to serve on the Regional Advisory Committee

How did your interest in, or knowledge of, the developmental disability field and service system develop?:

I am interested in serving on the board because I am a parent of an adult with a developmental disability. In addition, I teach Adult Transition students and see the lack of supports they routinely encounter. Throughout my son's years in the school system, I have had to fiercely advocate for his needs. Such advocacy involved making comments at public hearings at the Capitol, meeting local elected lawmakers to share our story, involvement in advocacy groups, and involvement in administrative hearings (as the last possible resort).

What are your areas of interest in the developmental disability field and service system?:

I am interested in the provision of services, vocational training, adult services, services offered through the Dept. of Rehabilitation, and social supports for adults with disabilities,.

Please explain why you wish to serve on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, or on one of its Regional Advisory Committees:

I am interested in serving on the council because I teach individuals with disabilities and have firsthand

experience with the challenges parenting a child with a disability involves.

#### What strengths would you bring to the State Council and/or Regional Advisory Committee?:

I have a number of strengths: I am working on my Master's degree in Special Education in which I am studying the impact of vocational training has on students with developmental disabilities. I work and volunteer in my community to network with other agencies and businesses to gain support and vocational opportunities for my students. I am knowledgeable about the needs of individuals with disabilities. On top of all that, I am also a Special Ed. teacher who is passionate about the need for advocacy for and on behalf of individuals with disabilities.