

# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Chair Report

Wesley Witherspoon

# Overview

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- SCDD Storytellers Blog
- Jay Nolan Community Services
- Disability Policy Seminar
- Meeting with the Governor's Office
- Recent Fun Activities

# Mental Health Awareness Month

- Mental Health Awareness Month observed in the US since 1949 in May
- Meant to increase awareness about the role mental health plays in our overall health and well-being, and to provide resources and information to support people who may need mental health support.
- Activities to improve mental health can include guided meditation, journaling, outdoor mental wellness activities, and workshops with a mental health focus
- Check in on your friends and family
- SCDD table with Mental Health Awareness resources

# SCDD Storytellers Blog

- Councilmember Reyes was highlighted on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He discussed his journey with self-advocacy and music.
- Councilmember Ryan was highlighted on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. She shared her experience as a person with a disability in the school system.
- Many other stories highlighting self-advocates in our community
- Check it out! <https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-communications-blog/>



# Jay Nolan Community Services

- Jay Nolan Community Services (JNCS) is a nonprofit organization that was established in 1975 by members of the Autism Society of LA.
- Their mission is to enable individuals with Autism and other developmental disabilities to live fulfilling lives as members of the community by providing support services customized to their individual needs.
- They provide support services in LA, Ventura, Kern and Santa Clara Counties, offering individualized planning guided by the needs and wishes of the person receiving services. Services include Supported Living Services, Family Support Services & Employment Services.

# Jay Nolan Community Services

- I work for this nonprofit as an independent contractor.
- I have conducted relationship and healthy sexuality trainings and recently presented on people with disabilities
- [Video](#)

# Disability Policy Seminar

- Hosted in Washington DC
- Discussed different policy issues that affect our community like the direct care workforce crisis, Autism CARES Act, information on Congress and the budget, advancing disability protections in the criminal legal system, SSI, efforts to advance Community Living, health equity, voting rights and civic engagement
- Provided training and tips on telling effective stories that advance advocacy goals
- Opportunity to network and meet Congress members, Senators, and peers within the disability community

# Disability Policy Seminar





# Meeting with the Governor's Office

- Talk about our concerns about the proposal to fully fund rates in July 2025 instead of July 2024
- We know there is a \$27 billion budget deficit. We know the Governor has to make very tough choices.
- We also know the Governor supports people with developmental disabilities. We know this because he proposed more money for DDS next year. We are very grateful to the Governor for his support.
- As Governor appointees on developmental disabilities, we want to tell him how changing the date to fully fund rates would impact us and all people with developmental disabilities.

# Fun Things



# Chair Report

- Thank you
- Questions?