



Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes October 26, 2023

Attending Members

Harold Ashe (FA)
Julie Neward (FA)
Nicole Adler (SA)
Rosie Ryan (SA)
Viviana Barnwell (FA)
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

Members Absent

Alex Reyes (SA)
Andy Imperato (DRC)
Connie Lapin (FA)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Beth Hurn
Bridget Kolakosky
Jadolphus Fraser
Michelle Cave
Rachel Liebert Lewis
Raquel Gibbons
Robin Maitino-Erben
Veronica Bravo
Chris Arroyo

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Harold Ashe called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Witherspoon [SA]/Ryan [SA]) and carried to adopt the March 16, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed. Councilmember Viviana Barnwell was not present for the vote and Councilmembers Julie Neward and Nicole Adler Abstained. See page one for a record of members present.)

6. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided members with an update on the status of legislation that the Council supported in 2023 and items in the state budget related to the Council's employment priorities. Effective on July 1, 2024, the LEAP SIP program will be made permanent, and the Employment First Office will be created under that California Health and Human Services Agency. The full presentation can be viewed here: [Oct-2023-LPPC-Legislative-Update PPT.](#)

7. 2024 LEGISLATIVE PLANNING

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided a presentation of the legislative process and timeline and provided members with an update on the 2023 "There Should Be a Law" contest. Family advocate Raquel Gibbons won the 2023 There Should Be a Law Contest for her proposal to create mental health centers with wrap around care for children with aggressive behaviors. Ms. Gibbons joined the meeting and presented her bill idea and discussed her experiences with having a child with co-occurring mental health and I/DD. A copy of the full report can be found at [2023-There-Should-Be-a-Law-Report.](#)

Members reviewed the Council's 2021-2026 State Plan and 2023-2024 Policy Priorities and discussed policy ideas for 2024. In response to current events and in alignment with Council priorities, staff recommended "health, home, work" as the areas of focus. Members discussed policies that they would like to focus on within these areas, which included mental health and wellness and support and education services for siblings of people with I/DD. Members discussed the possibility of expanding demographic data collection to inform the Council's policy work.

It was moved/seconded (Adler [SA]/Neward) and carried to recommend that the Council focus on legislative priorities that fall under the theme of "Health, Home, Work" in 2024. (Motion passed unanimously, Councilmember Wesley Witherspoon was not present for the vote. See page one for a record of members present.)

8. INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH AND SAFETY DEAP

SCDD Sequoia Regional Office Manager Yolanda Cruz provided a presentation on the recent activities and accomplishments of the Council's Health and Safety Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP).

The DEAP monitors and tracks emerging issues related to health and safety, along with developing curriculum for and conducting a variety of law enforcement and first responder trainings and building coalitions to promote the health and safety of people with I/DD. Ms. Cruz gave an overview of some of the issues that the DEAP is currently focusing on, which include wandering/elopement, continuing to train those who work in the criminal justice system to interact safely with people with I/DD, supports for people with co-occurring mental/behavioral health and disabilities, and trainings about consent, healthy relationships, grooming and catfishing for people with I/DD.

9. UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided a summary of the September 2023 Council meeting. Hyperlinks for official agency updates on the DDS Taskforce and Workgroup, Self-Determination Program and CalABLE were provided to members in the packet and in the Zoom meeting chat.

10. MEMBER UPDATES

There were no member updates provided.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The committee will meet on January 16, 2024. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 PM.