



## Council Meeting Minutes March 22, 2022

### Members Attending

Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)  
Brian Winfield (DDS)  
Cathay Liu (F.A.)  
Liz Laugeson (UCEDD)  
Harold Ashe (F.A.)  
Harold Fujita (F.A.)  
Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)  
Joyce McNair (F.A.)  
Julie Austin (F.A.)  
Julie Neward (F.A.)  
Julio Garnica (S.A.)  
Kara Ponton (S.A.)  
Karen Millender (F.A.)  
Kilolo Brodie (F.A.)  
Larry Yin (UCEDD)  
Lee Bycel (F.A.)  
Maria Marquez (S.A.)  
Mark Beckley (CDA)  
Michael Ellis (F.A.)  
Michael Thomas (DOR)  
Nick Wavrin (CDE)  
Nicole Adler (S.A.)  
Richard Nelson (DHCS)  
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)

### Members Attending (cont.)

Sandra Smith (DRC)  
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)  
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

### Members Absent

Marko Mijic (CHHS)

### Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers  
Amy Steffen  
Beth Hurn  
Brian Weisel  
Bridget Kolakosky  
Charles Nguyen  
David Grady  
Dena Hernandez  
Douglas Sale  
Holly Bins  
Jennifer Lucas  
Jozette Elizaldi  
Julie Eby-McKenzie  
Ken DaRosa  
Kristianna Moralls  
Lisa Hooks

### Others Attending (cont.)

Mary Agnes Nolan  
Mary Ellen Stives  
Nicole Patterson  
Robbin Puccio  
Patricia Herrera  
Riana Hardin  
Rihana Ahmad  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Ron Cole  
Ryan Duncanwood  
Sarah May  
Scarlett vonThenen  
Sheraden Nicholau  
Sidney Jackson  
Sonya Bingaman  
Tina Reszler  
Tania Morawiec  
Victoria Schlussler  
Zak Ford  
Yaritza Sanchez

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:31 A.M.

### 2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

---

#### Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

Chair Witherspoon announced changes in the agenda order to accommodate the guests from the legislature and their schedules. He welcomed Assemblymember Arambula, who represents the 31st Assembly District in the Central Valley, to present on [AB 2920](#). The bill creates a grant program to establish inclusive college programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and expand existing programs. The goal is to expand higher education and access for individuals with disabilities and supporting competitive integrated employment. An example of the first four-year program in California can be found at the UC Davis Redwood SEED Scholars Program.

### 3. **SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBERS**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon reported that there were not any new appointments to the Council.

### 4. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves. Executive Director Carruthers announced Sonya Bingaman's retirement and thanked her for her work and dedication to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

### 5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Councilmember Nicole Adler provided a public comment on this item. She mentioned that she is in the process of self-determination and has a lot of people in her life supporting her career. She is also working on making changes to her conservatorship.

### 6. **APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

#### **Action 1**

It was moved/seconded (Ellis [F.A.]/Adler [S.A]) and carried to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

### 7. **2022 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND PRIORITIES UPDATE**

Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky began the presentation with a reminder of the authority that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) is granted. She mentioned that the advisory committee provides the Council and/or the Executive Committee with its recommendations. The Council Chair and LPPC Chair can also takes positions on legislation

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

when required between meetings. During the last LPPC Committee meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>, the members reviewed six rollover bills from 2021, considered taking a position on three new bills, and discussed several watch bills. The six bills that LPPC is supporting this year, and that were rolled over from last year include: AB 813, AB 1007, AB 126, SB 692, SB 291, and AB 1417.

AB 813 (Mullin) is a two-year bill that would require the department to collect data and metrics to improve services by regional centers and as experienced by consumers. AB 1007 (Carrillo) is a two-year bill that would provide reimbursement or payment for individuals that were forced into involuntary sterilization. AB 126 (Garcia) would revise the provisions related to Family Empowerment Centers on Disability. This would also require the department to award grants by March 2022 to applicants in the 32 regions of the state that do not have a center and to give priority to specific applicants. SB 692 (Cortese) would revise the State Board of Education's evaluation tool to add the least restrictive environment as another local measure of the state priority of school climate. SB 291 (Stern) would establish an advisory council to provide the commission with advice and input from current pupils with exceptional needs. AB 1417 (Frazier) would require the Chancellor's Office to develop a model curriculum for a certification program for providers of care for individuals with developmental disabilities. Deputy Director Kolakosky mentioned that Assemblymember Frazier resigned this year, so another legislative member will need to pick it up before it can continue to move. The five SCDD watch bills include: [SB 518](#) (Laird), [AB 808](#) (Stone), [AB 1915](#) (Lackey), [AB 1927](#) (Nazarian), and [AB 1947](#) (Ting).

Deputy Director Kolakosky introduced the LPPC's 2022 proposed recommendations for the Council to take positions on new legislation. Those bills include: SB 951, SB 870, AB 2483, and AB 1831. She noted that AB 2483 was not discussed at the LPPC meeting, but that more information was introduced the following day.

[SB 951](#) (Durazo) addresses the formula currently used and would remove benefit limitations. It would increase the amount of money that all people on unemployment benefits receive weekly.

Deputy Director Kolakosky paused her presentation to welcome the next legislative speaker. Assemblymember Maienschein who represents the 77<sup>th</sup> Assembly District in San Diego presented on his bill [AB 1663](#). The bill

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

examines probate conservatorships and establishes supported decision making. It ensures that conservatees know their rights and understand what they are entering beforehand. The Assemblymember mentioned that due to a recent famous case, conservatorships have gained more attention. He concluded his presentation by answering questions from the Councilmembers.

Deputy Director Kolakosky continued her presentation on LPPC's proposed recommendations for support. If passed, [SB 870](#) (Portantino/Wilk) would expand the age of the onset of a developmental disability and change the definition of "developmental disability". Under this bill, a person who is not diagnosed until the age of 20 or 21 would still be eligible for services. [AB 2483](#) (Maienschein) offers incentives to developers seeking funding through the Multifamily Housing Program to build projects that include housing units for people experiencing homelessness eligible for PACE, ALW, or HCBAW. The bill would also require HCDD to work with the Department of Health Care Services to align services and connect developers with service providers. This bill would scale up best practices that allow older adults and people with disabilities experiencing homelessness to avoid nursing home admissions, exit homelessness, and receive services. [AB 1831](#) (Sayarto) would require the Alfred E. Alquist Seismic Safety Commission to have a representative from the field of developmental disability services.

### **Action 2**

It was moved/seconded (Marquez [S.A.]/Witherspoon [S.A]) and carried to adopt LPPC's recommendations to support SB 951. In addition to the six roll over bills from 2021, the 2021/22 legislative package include supporting SB 951, SB 870, AB 1831, and AB 2483. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

### **Action 3**

It was moved/seconded (Wavrin [CDE]/McNair [F.A]) and carried to adopt LPPC's recommendations to support SB 870. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

### **Action 4**

It was moved/seconded (Ellis [F.A.]/Smith [DRC]) and carried to adopt LPPC's recommendations to support AB 1831.(See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

## **Action 5**

It was moved/seconded (Marquez [S.A.]/Eriksen [S.A]) and carried to adopt LPPC's recommendations to support SB 2483. See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

Deputy Director Kolakosky presented on the four bills the Council is co-sponsoring AB 2920, SB 1092, AB 1663, and AB 2547. She also announced the three bill idea contest winners: Parent Advocate Mary Peitso, Professional Advocate Erica Jewel, and former Councilmember Lisa Cooley. Executive Director Carruthers congratulated the winners and mentioned that there is interest among legislative offices to obtain the full report from the bill contest. He also mentioned that SCDD is engaging in conversations with UCLA about the possibility of expanding the report and extending its reach to universities.

Deputy Director Kolakosky introduced Liz Fuller, the lead staffer handling [AB 2547](#), and presenting on behalf of Assemblymember Nazarian. Assemblymember Nazarian represents the 46th Assembly District in Los Angeles and Chairs the Aging and Long-Term Care Committee. AB 2547 establishes the Housing Stabilization to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities Act. The bill would require the Department of Aging to create and administer the Housing Stabilization to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities Program. It would also require the department to offer grants to community-based organizations, continuums of care, and public housing authorities to administer a housing subsidy program for older adults and persons with a disability that are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. Ms. Fuller mentioned that their office is working on drafting amendments that would leave a percentage of money that will exist after administrative costs, specifically to homelessness. The remainder of the subsidies could be used in several different ways to meet immediate needs. She concluded her presentation by taking questions from the members.

Marisa Shea, the lead staff handling [SB 1092](#) presented on behalf of Senator Hurtado. Senator Hurtado represents the 14th Senate District in the Central Valley. SB 1092 creates a fair hearing advisory committee. It focuses on ensuring that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can meaningfully participate in decisions about the services they receive in the administrative hearings about those services, regardless of their race, ethnicity, English proficiency, or ability to afford

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

legal counsel. The goal is to ensure that they are expanding equitable access to services, and if it proceeds to the fair hearing process, ensure that individuals have the support they need. It makes the hearing process more accessible, fair, and makes disputes easier to resolve.

Deputy Director Kolakosky thanked Marisa Shea for presenting on SB 1092 and then transitioned into providing a budget advocacy update. She mentioned that some of the sponsored bills would be more expensive than others, and as the bills move through the legislative process, some of those dollar amounts may change. SCDD is working to find ways of funding the bills and hopeful that at least one will be mentioned in the Governor's May Revise. She briefly discussed the California Dental Association budget ask of \$50,000,000 to build dental facilities that will accommodate individuals with needs that cannot be accommodated in a regular dental office. SCDD is working to ensure that the money is spent the way it was intended and towards a facility that is accessible for our disability population. Lastly, she provided with an update on SB 639. The Council is responsible for organizing the stakeholders and coming up with recommendations to the legislature on how best to transition individuals out of subminimum wage. The first stakeholder meeting occurred on April 8<sup>th</sup> and they will be working towards submitting a budget request in April to identify ways to help transition folks out of subminimum wages.

Additional information on all of the bills mentioned can be accessed online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

## 8. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Wesley Witherspoon began his report by highlighting March National Nutrition Month, Caffeine Awareness Month, National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, Women's History Month, Irish-American Heritage Month, Kidney Cancer Awareness Month, National Social Work Month, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, National Alport Syndrome Awareness Month, National Sleep Awareness Month, Endometriosis Awareness Month, Gender Equality Month, National Brain Injury Awareness Month, National Cerebral Palsy Month, National Optimism Month, and more.

He then transitioned into highlighting April as National Food Month, National Grilled Cheese Month, National Poetry Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Couple

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

Appreciation Month, STD Awareness Month, Testicular Cancer Awareness Month, National Occupational Therapy Month, National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, National Fair Housing Month, National Internship Awareness Month, National Minority Health Month, Counseling Awareness Month, Jazz Appreciation Month, National African American Women's Fitness Month, National Anxiety Month, National Donate Life Month, National Humor Month, National Pet Month, National Recycling Month, Parkinson's Awareness Month, Stress Awareness Month, and more.

Chair Witherspoon went on to provide an overview of the remaining items on the March Council meeting.

SCDD committee reports were provided in the meeting packet. Chair Witherspoon asked that members read through these reports when they are able. The committee reports and 2022 committee assignments can also be accessed online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

## 9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented a report on recent Council activities and goals.

He began his report by reflecting on the attack on Ukraine. He mentioned the fear of the potential rise of authoritarian impulses in every level of life. He emphasized that the foundation of democracy is having power with people, and not over them. Power with people is the essence of many great movements that led to the creation of Councils nationally. Agencies and family members are invited to join the table with people with developmental disabilities to come to agreements on the changes that are needed. With that power, we can lead with inclusion, trust, and empathy.

Executive Director Carruthers also addressed phasing out subminimum wage and the SB 649 Stakeholder Workgroup. He mentioned that the workgroup has approximately 30 representatives which include providers, regional center representatives, DDS representatives, Department of Rehab representatives, living centers representatives, and people with lived experiences in sheltered workshops. To obtain community input, SCDD has hosted community conversations throughout the state and created a comment portal through a dedicated SB 639 website to obtain feedback. An ACL grant was also secured from the Administration on Community Living to obtain national subject matter expertise. The goal of

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

the implementation plan is to find creative pathways for people to find their version of a meaningful day. He relayed a call to action for Councilmembers to participate in the community conversations and share the details to others.

He then provided an update on the Self-Determination Program. There were approximately 1,200 people that transitioned out of the traditional waiver and on to the self-determination program waiver. On average, states have about 10% enrollment, so SCDD is building a program that can serve 10% of regional center consumers (about 35,000 people). SCDD will be providing the first statewide self-determination orientation training and has already created a first draft. Once the trainings are approved, experienced self-advocates will be hired as coach trainers to administer the trainings. Once the final modules are complete, a self-determination focus group will provide feedback to SCDD's lead statewide trainer Joe Hernandez on the five different modules. SCDD will also continue to lead out with the Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee. Furthermore, SCDD has the responsibility to evaluate the Self-Determination Program. The Governor proposed \$100,000 to fund the evaluation. However, the money would begin in July 2022, so the Governor proposed moving the due date to complete the Self-Determination Program evaluation from December 2022 to June 2023. SCDD is hoping to partner with a university center of excellence on developmental disabilities to conduct the evaluation. The call to action for Councilmembers is to participate in the self-determination focus group if they can.

Moreover, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services provided SCDD with a unique opportunity to get COVID tests out to the community. Managers identified and received responses from 153 organizations, asking for a total of 437,000 tests. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services relayed they were only looking to provide 100,000-200,000 tests. The Executive Director condensed the order down to 173,000 and asked that the 437,000 amount be used as evidence of the community need for more tests. The Executive Director shared that the 173,000 tests were received and distributed.

Executive Director Carruthers mentioned that SCDD is responsible for doing data collection from regional center consumers and families and providing that data to the Department of Developmental Services. DDS then analyzes, synthesizes, and releases the data in reports. SCDD has

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate



begun the family surveys and have mailed 81,000 English surveys, 21,468 Spanish surveys, and 4,124 surveys in other languages. He provided an update on Bagley Keene, mentioning that the permission the Governor gave during the pandemic to virtually meet expire on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Deputy Director Kolakosky is in communications with the Governor's Office and the legislature and will continue to monitor any changes. The Executive Director concluded his report by announcing Michelle Cave as SCDD's new Public Information Officer.

**10. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT**

SCDD SSAN representative Maria Marquez provided Councilmembers with an update from the most recent SSAN meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The next SSAN meeting will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**11. SCDD 2022-23 DRAFT BUDGET**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the 2022-2023 SCDD draft budget. Information was provided for the current and upcoming fiscal years. Executive Director Carruthers gave summaries on sections of the budget including personal services, general office expenses, communications services, in-state and out-of-state travel, training, facilities operations, utilities, information technology and community program development grants. Further updates will be provided at the May 2022 Council meeting and members will vote on whether to approve the budget for the new fiscal year.

The full presentation can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council meeting will be held on May 24, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

---

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 SB 951	Action 3 SB 870	Action 4 AB 1831	Action 5 SB 2483
Adler, Nicole	For	For	For	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	For	For	For	For
Austin, Julie	For	For	For	For	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For	For	For	For
Beckley, Mark	For	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Brodie, Kilolo	For	For	For	For	For
Bycel, Lee	For	For	For	For	For
Ellis, Michael	For	For	For	For	For
Eriksen, Jeana	For	For	For	For	For
Fujita, Harold	For	For	For	For	For
Garnica, Julio	For	For	For	For	For
Laugeson, Elizabeth	For	For	For	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	DNP	For	For	For
Marquez, Maria	For	For	For	For	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For	For	For	For
Millender, Karen	For	For	For	For	For
Nelson, Richard	For	For	For	For	For
Neward, Julie	For	For	For	For	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For	For	For	For
Rosanna Ryan	For	For	For	For	For
Smith, Sandra	For	For	For	For	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For	For	For	For
Thomas, Michael	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Wavrin, Nick	For	For	For	For	Abstain
Winfield, Brian	For	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For	For	For	For
Yin, Larry	For	For	For	For	For