



Council Meeting Minutes January 25, 2022

Members Attending

Andy Imparato (DRC)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Brian Winfield (DDS)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Dr. 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.)
Michael Ellis (F.A.)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Nicole Adler (S.A.)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

Members Absent

Joe Xavier (DOR)
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
Richard Nelson (DHCS)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Beth Hurn
Brian Weisel
Bridget Kolakosky
Charles Nguyen
David Grady
Dena Hernandez
Douglas Sale
Holly Bins
Jennifer Lucas
Jozette Elizaldi
Judi Muirhead
Julie Eby-McKenzie
Julie Hillstead
Ken DaRosa
Kristie Allensworth
Lisa Hooks
Mary Ellen Stives

Others Attending (cont.)

MaryAgnes Nolan
Maureen
Nancy Bargmann
Nicole Patterson
Patricia Herrera
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben
Ryan Duncanwood
Ruby Villanueva
Sarah May
Scarlett vonThenen
Sonya Bingaman
Steve Huot
Tania Morawiec
Victoria Schlussler
Yaritza Sanchez
Yolanda Cruz

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:41 A.M.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

Legend:

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3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon announced a change in the agenda order to accommodate DDS Director Nancy Bargmann's schedule. With no objection, item 11 was moved to come after item 6. Members and others in attendance then introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Maureen Fitzgerald, an advocate/professional who has been involved in the developmental disabilities field for over 40 years, provided a public comment on this item. She spoke about Alta California Regional Center not allowing for public comment at its committee meetings (except for Executive) and being in violation of the Lanterman Act requirements. She filed a whistleblower complaint with DDS in 2021 regarding the issue and has not heard back. She is urging that DDS intervene and make Alta Regional Center allow for public comment at all its committee meetings.

Steve Huot also provided public comment on his personal case in 2019 that resulted in a brain injury. He mentioned that he had been unable to find neurological help in Chico, San Diego, and Colorado. He eventually moved back to Chico and continues to experience issues with locating assistance.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Bycel [F.A.]/McNair [F.A]) and carried to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes as presented by acclimation. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

6. **CHAIR REPORT AND 2022 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon began his report by highlighting January as National Blood Donor Month, National Thank You Month, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Cervical Health Awareness Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, National Braille Literacy Month, Children Impacted by a Parent's Cancer Month, National Birth Defects Prevention Month, National Women's Empowerment Month, Thyroid Disease Awareness Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and more.

He then transitioned into highlighting February as National Cancer Prevention Month, African American History Month, National Self-Check

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Month, National Heart Healthy Month, National Therapeutic Recreation Month, International Month of Black Women in the Arts, Turner Syndrome Awareness Month, International Friendship Month, International Prenatal Infection Prevention Month, Valentine’s Day, and the Superbowl.

Chair Witherspoon went on to provide an overview of the January Council meeting and announced the 2022 committee assignments. 2022 committee assignments can be found online <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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/>.

7. **2022-2023 GOVERNOR’S PROPOSED BUDGET**

DDS Director Nancy Bargmann presented highlights and provided an overview of the 2022-2023 Governor’s proposed budget. She emphasized that in developing their proposed budget this year, they continued to build on actions from the previous year’s budget with a focus on supporting young individuals and underserved communities.

American Rescue Plan Act

DDS Director Bargmann discussed the American Rescue Plan Act, also known as the HCBS Spending Plan. The funding comes from the federal government and can be spent through March 2024. Items that receive funding under this plan include rate model implementation; social recreation and camp services; language access and cultural competency; coordinated family supports; enhanced community integration for children and adolescents; and information technology modernization.

Family Wellness is a project that DDS will pilot with regional centers. The intent is to provide guardians with support in addressing and navigating through the initial stressors that come with their child’s first diagnosis. To develop culturally and linguistically sensitive services, DDS will provide training to providers and establish a scholarship and education stipend program. To increase outreach for Early Start services, DDS will establish a pilot partnership program between counties and regional centers and increase capacity and diversify community participation to the ICC. They also have funding dedicated for technical assistance, monitoring, and to develop technology to facilitate family self-referrals. Lastly, they will

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continue to collaborate with state partners on initiatives that support the transition from Part C (early intervention) to special education.

Regional Centers & DDS

New initiatives being proposed in the Governor's budget for 2022-2023 focus on children's support and early start coordination. The largest investment is reducing the caseload ratios for children from birth through age 5 to 1 to 40. The last three items include funds intended for resources to increase preschool inclusion of children served by regional centers; IDEA technical support for service coordinators (a specialist at every regional center); and DDS HQ coordination and monitoring activities (an IDEA specialist and monitors). 15 million is intended to fund communication assessments for individuals that are deaf.

Subminimum Wage Phase-Out Pilot

DDS has proposed a three-year pilot project to develop an alternative to a subminimum wage program. It will use a time-limited model for individuals that are in a transitional phase such as working in a Work Activity Program. DDS headquarter workload with phasing out subminimum wage will have funding available for monitoring and providing additional technical support.

Additional funding proposals include the Reimbursement System Project, Electronic Visit Verification Phase II, Administrative Support-STAR Homes, information security staffing support, clinical monitoring, safety net program support. State-operated facilities funding includes continual warm shutdowns, retention stipend carryover, control section adjustments, and BCP Capital outlay for Porterville sprinklers.

The full presentation and a summary of funding updates can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

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

He began his report by discussing the stages of the COVID-19 pandemic and how each stage has brought a different set of realities. Together they create a lot of uncertainty, but it is important to return to SCDD's core value of working to help individuals reach their natural best. In addition, Executive Director Carruthers spoke about the recent passing of SCDD

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staff Matt Traverso. He shared photos, highlighted his accomplishments with SCDD, spoke about his interests, and expressed SCDD's deep appreciation for Matt. He then transitioned into discussing public safety power shutoffs (PSPS). Although PSPS prevent the spread of wildfires, they also create public safety problems for people with disabilities. Within the last three and a half years, the Executive Director has been pushing the Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) to address these problems and work to find solutions. A series of day long Zoom sessions with IOU presidents have been scheduled to answer core questions to identify the people with I/DD that are impacted, what they need, and how the IOU's will meet those needs before, during, and after public safety power shutoffs.

The Executive Director provided an update regarding the "There Should Be A Law" contest. He mentioned there were 100 responses for bill ideas, with 80% from self/family advocates and 20% from professionals. Many were related to human services (22 out of 37 related to regional centers), education (3 out of 19 related to postsecondary education), housing (8 out of 9 related to available housing), and accessibility policy (6 out of 10 related to expanding existing laws to allow for virtual access to meetings). He then provided an update on next steps for SCDD co-sponsored legislation. Next steps include preparing for the first policy committee hearing in March or April for AB 1663 (Mainschein), working to find a legislator to champion the unfair hearing process bill idea, and finding authors for one or two more of the approximately 75 bill proposals in the bill contest report. Lastly, he presented an administration update and shared a 14% vacancy rate and the list of new staff that joined the SCDD team.

9. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

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

10. CYCLE 45 GRANT: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

State Plan Committee Chair Kilolo Brodie and Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the Cycle 45 grant components to the Council. The State Plan Chair began by providing members with a reminder of the federal requirement for the Council to submit methods to improve and increase services for individuals with disabilities and their families to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in a five year State Plan. One way to accomplish this is by awarding program development grants

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(PDG) or Cycle Grants to community-based organizations to assist the Council in implementing its State Plan. The grantee's work can range in scope, but all have components that do research, develop and/or implement innovative programs and promising or best practices throughout the state and its local communities.

State Plan Chair Brodie provided members with an expected timeline of the process, next steps, and reviewed the action needed to approve the Cycle 45 Grant. Executive Director Carruthers then transitioned into the regional project descriptions. He mentioned that each regional office was provided with a worksheet by the State Plan team to assist in gathering more information for their regional grant project. Regional offices were tasked with identifying an area of focus for their grant project. The Executive Director and State Plan Chair presented a summary of those Cycle 45 regional grant projects.

The first regional grant project from North Coast focuses on capacity building and advocacy around education and tribal communities. North State's grant project has an area focus of systems change, capacity building, and advocacy around health and safety. Sacramento's has a focus on capacity building and advocacy around health and safety or housing. Similarly, North Bay's regional grant project focuses on capacity building and advocacy around education, EI, and the health and safety of underserved populations. Bay Area has two regional grant projects, one centers around systems change and advocacy related to health and safety and the other on capacity building and advocacy around employment. North Valley Hills identified their objective is capacity building and advocacy with a focus on housing. Central Coast focuses on self-advocacy around self-advocacy and transition. Sequoia's focuses on capacity building and advocacy around health and safety. Los Angeles' regional grant project targets systems change and advocacy around self-determination. Orange County's project centers around capacity building and advocacy around housing. San Bernardino identified capacity building and advocacy as their objective with a focus on health and safety (mental health). Lastly, San Diego – Imperial's regional grant project has a focus on systems change, capacity building, and advocacy in education and service rights for tribal communities.

The full presentation and detailed project descriptions can be accessed online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Witherspoon [S.A.]/Ponton [S.A]) and carried to approve the Request for Proposals (RFP), scoring criteria, and the fourteen project descriptions. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

11. 2021 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE REPORT (PPR)

State Plan Committee Chair Brodie and Executive Director Carruthers presented highlights from the 2020-2021 Program Performance Report (PPR) outcomes and a five-year overview of the 2017-2021 State Plan activities.

The State Plan Chair reported on data that was collected from October 2020 through September 2021. Some of these figures included a total of 612 trainings, 24,262 people trained, and 83,906 people reached through technical assistance. She then presented the data obtained through the post-training surveys from more than 7,500 self-advocate and family advocates. The data showed that majority of the respondents lived in urban areas (74%), identified as female (81%), and were Hispanic/Latino (61%). In addition, majority of those surveyed identified that they were satisfied with SCDD programs and trainings. Majority of the self-advocates reported an increase in advocacy after participating in SCDD programs/trainings, and that they were better able to communicate what they wanted/needed after participating in SCDD activities. Lastly, she reported that 2,370,076 Californians were directly reached through SCDD activities; 4,247,000 people were impacted through SCDD's system change activities; and a total of 6,617,076 people were directly reached and impacted through SCDD's systems change activities in 2021.

Executive Director Carruthers then presented on the work done over the past five years in self-advocacy, systems change, and capacity-building. In addition, he reported on data collected over the past five years. These numbers included a total of 125,891 people trained, 299,696 people reached through events, 508,084 reached through technical assistance, and 13,137,622 Californians reached through SCDD activities. Lastly he summarized the take-aways from the data: regional staff has exceeded in all goal areas throughout the pandemic, SCDD increased outreach since the pandemic and reached over 1.2 million new people, SCDD has reached more people with online/virtual trainings, requests for technical assistance have risen since the pandemic, and systems change work has impacted twice as many people.

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The full PPR presentation with charts and additional information can be accessed online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

Action 3

It was moved/seconded (Imparato [DRC]/Stahmer [UCEDD]) and carried to approve the 2020-2021 Program Performance Report in concept for submission to the Administration on Community Living. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

12. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on March 22, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

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Name	Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
Adler, Nicole	For	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	For	For
Austin, Julie	For	For	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For	For
Brodie, Kilolo	For	For	For
Bycel, Lee	For	For	For
Ellis, Michael	For	For	For
Eriksen, Jeana	For	For	For
Fujita, Harold	For	For	For
Garnica, Julio	For	For	For
Imparato, Andy	For	For	For
Laugeson, Elizabeth	For	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	For	For
Marquez, Maria	For	For	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For	For
Millender, Karen	For	For	For
Neward, Julie	For	For	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For	For
Rosanna Ryan	For	For	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For	For
Wavrin, Nick	For	For	For
Winfield, Brian	For	NP	For
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For	For
Yin, Larry	For	For	For

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