



## Employment First Committee Meeting Minutes July 14, 2022

### Attending Members

Sarah Issacs (DRC)  
Michael Luna (DDS)  
Steve Ruder (UCD)  
Nick Wavrin (CDE)  
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)  
Larry Yin (USC)  
Kara Ponton (SA)  
Cathay Liu (FA)  
Christine T. Moody (UCLA)  
Larry Yin (UCLA)

### Members Absent

DOR Representative

### Others Attending

Tania Morawiec  
Bridget Kolakosky  
Mary Ellen Stives  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Victoria Schlussler  
David Grady  
Suza Szewiola  
Viri Salgado  
Rebecca Reyes  
Lou Vismara  
Katherine Sanders  
Caroline Kelner  
Michelle Jodock

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

Chairperson Wesley Witherspoon (SA) called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.

#### 2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

#### 3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others introduced themselves.

#### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Isaacs/Wavrin) and carried to approve the June 6, 2022, meeting minutes with an amendment to add the six target priorities under Number 9 on Page 10. (Steve Ruder, Christine Moody, and Larry Yin)

abstained. All remaining members present voted in favor. See Page 1 for members in attendance.)

## 6. **CHAIR UPDATE**

Chair Witherspoon briefly updated the committee on relevant activities since the last meeting. The update included the DDS Employment Workgroup meeting on June 27th and SCDD's efforts to ensure the successful implementation of SB 639.

## 7. **2022 TARGETED PRIORITY UPDATES**

Chair Witherspoon stated that the meeting will focus on three of the six targeted priority areas that were decided upon in the last meeting— implementation of SB 639, data, and preventing people from “falling through the cracks.” Tania Morawiec updated the group on SB 639 implementation efforts. SCDD is working with stakeholders and providing opportunities for input across the state to reach the goal of phasing-out subminimum wage by 2025. Community Conversations were held in each region to engage stakeholders and gather ideas, thoughts, and concerns about the phase-out. Information from the Conversations is available on SCDD's SB 639 webpage (<https://scdd.ca.gov/sb639-home/>).

The committee discussed collecting data to measure the success of the phase-out of subminimum wage, noting that both quantitative and qualitative data will need to be collected in order to fully understand the impact of SB 639. As a result of this conversation, the Committee agreed to reestablish its Data Workgroup.

## 8. **TARGETED PRIORITY PRESENTATION**

Michele Jodock, founder of Vantage Point, provided a presentation on her company's customized employment services. Vantage Point is a provider in San Diego and Orange County. In two years, they have helped over 250 individuals secure customized employment in the community. Vantage Point serves a range of people with disabilities, including those with I/DD, cognitive impairments, neurodiversity, hearing impairments, vision impairments, psychiatric or mental health conditions, physical disabilities, and “invisible” disabilities.

## 9. **UPDATES ON CIE-RELATED LEGISLATION**

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Bridget Kolakosky gave a report on the legislative priorities for 2022. AB 2427 and AB 1831 have

stopped moving. The bills below have moved to the Appropriations Committee:

- AB 1663
- SB 951
- SB 870

The Legislative session ends on August 31st. Any bills that are passed must be signed within 30 days.

#### 10. **2022 EMPLOYMENT FIRST REPORT**

In preparation for the upcoming 2022 report, the Committee evaluated the contents and layout of the 2021 report.

#### 11. **UPDATE ON CIE BLUEPRINT IMPLEMENTATION**

Committee member Michael Luna provided an update on the implementation of the CIE Blueprint. The report for years 3 and 4 is in final stages of draft review. The Blueprint Team accomplished their goal of meeting with all 59 LPAs (Local Partnership Agreement). LPAs have established and improved communications between partners. The Blueprint team will ultimately update the CalHSS website with resources created by the LPAs.

#### 12. **DDS UPDATES**

Committee Member Michael Luna provided an update on the Department of Developmental Services CIE related activities. Business Use Case Proposal data is currently being shared between DOR and DDS and will be shared with the committee after it has been analyzed. Rate setting implementation went into effect on April 1, 2022, raising rates for supported employment and individual and group placements.

Guidelines for DDS's \$10 million grant opportunities were released on June 30th. Applications are due on August 24, 2022. Grant guidelines, FAQs, and video from the vendors conference are posted on the [Employment Grants website](#).

DDS received funding (due to SB 188) for a three-year pilot focusing on CIE for those with I/DD who are exiting work activity programs and secondary education. SB 188 also allows tailored-day services to be chosen in conjunction with other services (such as supported employment). This was not allowed under previous rules. A new rate will need to be developed.

### **13. MEMBERS UPDATES**

Chair Witherspoon asked that the October agenda include a consumer advocate who is concerned about employment at the regional center.

Committee member Sarah Isaacs stated DOR is in process of providing updates to the California Code of Regulations so people will better understand their rights, especially with regard to higher education and career advancement.

Committee member Nick Wavrin provided CDE updates. The IEP Template Workgroup and the Alternative Pathway to High School Diploma Workgroup have been reauthorized in the current budget. They will reconvene and deliver by 2024. Two Workability I Statewide Elementary School Connection Grants have been awarded to two school districts, San Jacinto USD and Elk Grove USD. It is a pilot grant to expand resources, tools, and professional development. In turn, this will build the capacity to connect secondary transition programs to students in elementary school. CDE has increased the number of Family Empowerment Centers from 14 to 41 Statewide. These Centers provide training and information to families of those aged 3 to 22.

### **14. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Upcoming meeting for 2022 are scheduled October 20th.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.