



Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes January 17, 2023

Attending Members

Viviana Barnwell (FA)
Connie Lapin (FA)
Julie Neward (FA)
Rosie Ryan (SA)
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

Members Absent

Harold Ashe (FA)
Lee Bycel (FA)
Andy Imparato (DRC)
Maria Marquez (SA)

Others Attending

Chris Arroyo
Aaron Carruthers
Veronica Bravo
Michelle Cave
Sofia Cervantes
Charlotte Emerson
Eden Rosales
Bridget Kolakosky
Albert Feliciano
Robin Maitino-Erben

Judy Mark
Victoria Schlussler
Nina Spiegelman
Erick Thurmond
Santiago Vazquez
Brian Weisel

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Director, Bridget Kolakosky. The Committee then appointed Committee member Julie Neward Chair Pro-Tem.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established at 10:38 AM.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nina Spiegelman from DVU provided comment on legislation that DVU is sponsoring called the Disability Equity and Accountability Act (DEAA). The bill's intent is to create more oversight and accountability for regional centers. Ms. Spiegelman provided a broad overview of the specifics and hopes that the Council will support this bill. Committee member Connie Lapin also spoke in support of this bill.

5. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Lapin [FA]/Witherspoon [SA]) and carried to adopt the September 2022 meeting minutes as corrected. See page one for a record of members present.

Correction

Page 9, under members update, correct minutes to state that the SDP Connect meets bi-weekly (not monthly).

6. **PURPOSE OF LPPC AND OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES**

Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky provided members with an overview of the Committee’s purpose, the state’s legislative process and a list of important dates to remember. Following the presentation, Committee member Connie Lapin requested a new red book once available.

7. **LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY UPDATES**

Deputy Director Bridget Kolakosky provided an overview of the 2022 Bill Idea Contest submissions and trends. Safety was a reoccurring theme that showed up several times in the submissions.

Deputy Director Kolakosky then provided members with an in-depth overview of the SB639 legislative report as well as Senator Durazo’s plans to introduce a bill to address employment. Public member, Judy Mark endorsed the report and stated that it was informative, well done and invited SCDD to come present on the report.

8. **2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Following the Legislative Updates, Deputy Director Kolakosky segued into recommendations designed to engage the Committee and have a targeted legislative priority for 2023.

The first recommendation was that the Committee spend time at each 2023 meeting exploring safety issues that could lead to bill ideas for 2024. The second recommendation is to prioritize employment and housing in 2023.

[Committee member Connie agreed with the priorities recommended, but would like self-determination to also be a focus.

Deputy Director Kolakosky concluded her presentation of this item by updating members on the current state of the legislature and the budget.

Public member, Judy Mark spoke about accountability and transparency and stated she hopes to work with the Committee on these important issues.

9. **PANEL PRESENTATION ON ABUSE**

Ms. Eden Rosales from the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program provided members with an introduction to the Department of Aging's program.

This informative presentation provided an overview of the role of the Ombudsman office and how issues of persons with disabilities and aging are interconnected. Ms. Rosales also talked about her role with Silence = Violence, a network of organizations, state departments and advocates that raise awareness of violence and exploitation of the elderly and people with I/DD.

Following her presentation, members asked several questions and requested that Silence = Violence be invited to present at the March meeting.

10. **UPDATES ON STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided a summary of the agenda for the upcoming Council meeting, which will include vice-chair elections, presentations focused on self-advocacy, and an update on the Governor's 2023 proposed budget.

Committee member Connie Lapin reported that there continues to be a lack of guidance and movement with the Self-Determination Program and requested an update from Executive Director Aaron Carruthers on the status of the Evaluation Survey. Executive Director Carruthers responded by providing the status.

Hyperlinks for official agency updates on the DDS Taskforce and Workgroup, Self-Determination Program and CalABLE were also provided to members in the packet and in the Zoom meeting chat.

11. **MEMBER UPDATES**

Members provided brief updates of local legislative and regulatory activities taking place in their regions.

Connie Lapin reported that she attended the DVU SDP Conference on December 2nd. The conference was informative, insightful, and had great turnout.

12. **2023 MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM. The 2023 meeting dates are March 16th, September 12th, October 26th.