



**Council Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023**

Members Attending

Alex Reyes (S.A.)
 Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
 Brian Winfield (DDS)
 Cathay Liu (F.A.)
 Christine Mirzaian (UCEDD)
 Christine Moody (UCEDD)
 Eric Ybarra (S.A.)
 Harold Ashe (F.A.)
 Harold Fujita (F.A.)
 Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)
 Joyce McNair (F.A.)
 Julie Austin (F.A.)
 Julie Neward (F.A.)
 Julie Gaona (S.A.)
 Julio Garnica (S.A.)
 Kara Ponton (S.A.)
 Kilolo Brodie (F.A.)
 Lee Bycel (F.A.)
 Maria Marquez (S.A.)
 Mark Beckley (CDA)
 Michael Ellis (F.A.)
 Michael Thomas (DOR)
 Nicole Adler (S.A.)
 Nick Wavrin (CDE)
 Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)
 Sandra Smith (DRC)
 Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
 Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

Members Absent

Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)
 Marko Mijic (CHHS)
 Michael Rillera (F.A.)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
 Anne De Medeiros
 Benny Aviles
 Brian Weisel
 Bridget Kolakosky
 Charles Ngyuen
 Charlotte Emerson
 Chris Arroyo
 Chris Mitchell
 Connie Arnold
 David Grady
 Dena Hernandez
 Erick Thurmond
 Jennifer Lucas
 Julie Eby-McKenzie
 Luis
 Mary Ellen Stives
 Michelle Cave
 Nick
 Nicole Patterson
 Olga Solomon
 Peter Mendoza
 Renee Bauer

Others Attending

(cont.)

Riana Hardin
 Rihana Ahmad
 Rondale Holloway
 Ryan Duncanwood
 Sandra Van Scotter
 Scarlett VonThenen
 SH
 Sheraden Nicholau
 Sidney Jackson
 Sofia Cervantes
 Tania Morawiec
 Tumboura Hill
 Veronica Bravo
 Victoria Schlussler
 Yaritza Sanchez
 Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:34 A.M.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
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N/A = not available
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2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marissa provided a public comment. She said it has been difficult to find people within her county that want to work in attendant care due to low wages. In addition to the statewide attendant shortage, varying wages based by county, and certain state policies are making it difficult for people to want to work as an attendant. She believes that the Governor and state representatives need to discuss a statewide wage.

Connie Arnold also provided a public comment. She stated that independent living in California is threatened by a lack of care providers. Which is caused by low wages across the state. People with disabilities who cannot find attendants are forced to return home to receive family support and care or be institutionalized. She emailed the Executive Director and Sacramento's Regional Officer Manager outlining 14 changes that must be implemented to prevent people with disabilities from being forced into facilities. Some of these changes include raising wages to \$20 an hour and focusing evaluations on what a person would need in the absence of existing family/friend supports. She highlighted SCDD's Peter Mendoza as an intelligent and well-informed member of the community. Lastly, she also encouraged everyone to be involved with the Department of Health Care services.

5. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Action 1

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

6. 2022-2023 VICE CHAIR ELECTION

The Council voted to elect Wesley Witherspoon as Council Chair and Kara Ponton as Vice Chair on November 29, 2022. Due to personal complications, Councilmember Ponton had to step down from the position. Chair Witherspoon appointed Lee Bycel as interim Vice Chair

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until a new election could be held. The Nominating Committee met on January 18th, 2023 to establish a slate of nominees for Council Vice-Chair. Lee Bycel was considered as a candidate.

Following a member statement by the candidate for Vice Chair, a roll call vote was taken. Councilmember Lee Bycel won the unanimous vote for Vice Chair.

Members voted to elect Councilmember Lee Bycel as the new Council Vice-Chair. Vice Chair-elect Lee Bycel will serve in his position from January 2023 until December 2024. (See last page of minutes for a voting record of members present)

7. CHAIR REPORT AND 2023 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair Witherspoon announced the 2023 committee assignments.

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon began his report by sharing photos at the 2022 AUCD Conference and with his mom during the holidays. He then highlighted January as National Blood Donor Month, National Thank You Month, National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month, Cervical Health Awareness Month, National Birth Defects Prevention Month, National Women's Empowerment Month, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, and more. Next, he highlighted February as National Cancer Prevention Month, African American History Month, National Self-Check Month, Turner Syndrome Awareness Month, International Friendship Month, Valentine's Day, and more. He concluded his report with an overview of the January 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 2023 committee assignments can also be accessed online 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.

The State Council submitted the 2022 Program Performance Report (PPR) to the Office on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (OIDD) on December 30th. The report outlined the outcomes/outputs

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accomplished in carrying out the activities of the State Plan performed October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. Some of the data includes: 6,345 total activities, 630 trainings, 17,589 total people trained, reached 8,759 total people through technical assistance, reached 165,279 total people in 2022, 1,293,929 Californians directly reached, and 3,768,646 total people impacted. From October 2022 to December 2022 the State Council trained over 3,000 people, organized/participated in 31 events, monitored over 50 entities, facilitated 10 technical assistance (TA) clinics, provided TA to 1,778 individuals, and reached 19,750 total people.

The Council will host a two-hour virtual showcase on March 15, 2023 from 10am to 12pm highlighting the outcomes of the 2022 Cycle 44 project grantees. The Council funded four projects from the following providers: Pathpoint (mental health), Parents Helping Parents (mental health), Down Syndrome Connection of the East Bay (mental health), and Chime Institute (inclusive education). These projects began in October 2021 and ended in September 2022. Councilmembers and public members were invited to attend.

The 2023 “There Should Be a Law Contest” received over 100 bill ideas, 11 of which were in Spanish. This year’s bill idea trends were safety, access to transportation, equal opportunities in higher education and employment, affordable housing, and access to services. The Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) met on January 17 and established a focus on safety for all. The bill ideas will be shared with members of the Legislature and their staff.

The Executive Director reported that the Council’s budget remains strong. He alluded to possible recessions but reminded members that the State Council has amassed a considerable rainy-day fund that could be used for such events. He concluded his report by welcoming Renee Bauer as the North State Regional Manager and Elsa Casper as Headquarters Human Recourses Specialist.

9. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

SCDD SSAN representative Maria Marquez provided Councilmembers with an update from the most recent SSAN meeting on December 13th and 15th, 2022. The next SSAN meeting will be on March 8th and 9th, 2023.

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10. 2023 GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

DDS Director Nancy Bargmann provided an overview of the Governor's proposed budget for developmental services. She relayed that each proposal was reviewed through a service, access, and equity lens, which evaluated barriers for specific communities. She emphasized that in developing their proposed budget this year, they continued to support previous years' initiatives and policies. Their budget also reflected the health and safety concerns expressed by communities as a result of the pandemic.

Largely there was no change to the 2022-2023 estimates. Caseload projections for the 2022-2023 remained the same (400,485 for current year), Lanterman Act provisional eligibility gained a \$15.8 million dollar increase, and there was a decrease of \$10 million dollars as part of delaying the implementation of early start preschool inclusion grants.

She reminded Councilmembers about regional centers' significant one time 2022-2023 policies which included training stipends for workers who provide direct services (\$127.8M), internships for workers who provide direct services (\$22.5M, available funding through 6/30/24), regional center tuition reimbursement program (\$30 M, available funding through 6/30/25), pilot remote services using technology solutions (\$5M), communications assessments for individuals who are deaf (\$14.3M TF, \$8.4M GF), and a new service model for work activity programs (\$8.2M TF, \$4.9M GF funding available through 6/30/25). Some of the updates to regional center operations and purchase 2023-2024 policies were a projected caseload of 420,927, an increase of 355.9 million dollars to service provider rate reform, an 102.1 million dollar increase to reduce caseload ratios for children 0-5, funding for minimum wage increase, a 1.8 million dollar increase to START Services, and 28.5 million dollar increase to the Lanterman Act provisional eligibility. The Department's proposal, as part of their 2023 safety net plan, is requesting the development of a Complex Needs Residential Program, development of three 5-persons homes, staffing and conversion of Stabilization, Training, Assistance, Reintegration (STAR) homes and Separation of Crisis Assessment Stabilization Teams (CAST), RC supports for Trauma-Informed Services for foster youth, 15 additional staff for regional center coordination, and establishing an Autism Services Branch at DDS.

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

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11. REMEMBERING THE HISTORY OF SELF-ADVOCACY

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) members presented an overview of the State Council, SAAC, a brief history of self-advocacy, and the important role self-advocacy has in creating change.

The State Council works to ensure that people with disabilities and their families receive the necessary supports and services to achieve self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion. The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) currently has ten self-advocate members. The Committee advises the State Council on self-advocate needs, policies, practices, and programs. They nominate a representative to the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) and review Council materials to ensure they are written in plain language. Priorities of the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee include access to public health and public safety, affordable housing, early intervention services, public education, and transition/post-secondary education. They emphasized the importance of self-advocacy and organizing to create a more inclusive society with equal opportunities and treatment.

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

12. A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON SELF-ADVOCACY

Heidi Lieb-Williams, the Chair of Alaska's Governor's Council for Disabilities and Special Education (GCDSE), presented on the work that their Council is doing and shared her personal journey as a national speaker and Chair of the Council. As a lifelong advocate for people with disabilities, she had received numerous awards and national recognition for her efforts. In addition to her role as Chair, she also served on the GCDSE Executive Committee, GCDSE Self-Advocacy Committee, the Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP), and the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) Leadership Circle. She presented at variety of venues, conferences, and locations. Among them are the Arc of U.S. Disability Policy Summit, NACDD National Disability Conference, the National Leadership Consortium, and to other Councils on Developmental Disabilities. She helped pass the Supported Decision-Making Agreement Act, Telecommunications Law, Minimum Wage Exemption Bill, and the Developmental Disability Vision Law in Alaska. In addition, she created "Puzzled with Purpose-Autistically Inspired Creations" and is in the process of publishing her own autism children's book, autism films, and disability-focused documentaries.

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She mentioned that people seeking change must give their best, set goals, pursue their goals with passion, empower others, share their stories, and never give up. The word “impossible” should translate to “I’m possible”, and “I can’t” to “I can’t, yet”. There is power in transforming negative comments into inspiration and motivation. There is a need to develop emerging leaders and champions among self-advocates who understand their own and community needs in creating inclusive education, housing, and employment. Family members and professionals can assist in the development of self-advocates by leading by example, encouraging people with disabilities to share their truth, working to understand accessibility needs, and discussing person centered goals. Self-advocacy raises awareness about challenges, service gaps, and solutions to barriers. Ms. Lieb-Williams concluded her presentation by reminding members that sharing their stories is an act of kindness, impacting those that hear it and creating change.

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

13. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council meeting will be held on March 21, 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 P.M.

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Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 Lee for Vice Chair
Adler, Nicole	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	For
Austin, Julie	Abstain	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For
Beckley, Mark	For	For
Brodie, Kilolo	For	For
Bycel, Lee	For	For
Ellis, Michael	For	For
Eriksen, Jeana	Abstain	For
Fujita, Harold	For	For
Gaona, Julie	For	For
Garnica, Julio	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	For
Marquez, Maria	For	For
Mirzaian, Christine	For	For
Moody, Christine	Abstain	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For
Neward, Julie	For	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For
Reyes, Alex	For	For
Rosanna, Ryan	For	For
Smith, Sandra	For	For
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For
Thomas, Michael	For	For
Wavrin, Nick	For	For
Winfield, Brian	For	For
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For
Ybarra, Eric	For	For