



Council Meeting Minutes September 20, 2022

Members Attending

Alex Reyes (S.A.)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Brian Winfield (DDS)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Eric Ybarra (S.A.)
Harold Ashe (F.A.)
Jeana Eriksen (S.A.)
Joyce McNair (F.A.)
Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)
Julie Austin (F.A.)
Julie Neward (F.A.)
Julio Garnica (S.A.)
Kara Ponton (S.A.)
Kilolo Brodie (F.A.)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Lee Bycel (F.A.)
Maria Marquez (S.A.)
Christine Moody (UCEDD)
Mark Beckley (CDA)
Michael Ellis (F.A.)
Michael Rillera (F.A.)
Michael Thomas (DOR)
Nicole Adler (S.A.)
Nick Wavrin (CDE)
Viviana Barnwell (F.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (S.A.)

Members Absent

Andy Imparato (DRC)
Harold Fujita (F.A.)
Marko Mijic (CHHS)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Beth Hurn
Brian Weisel
Bridget Kolakosky
Charles Ngyuen
Chris Arroyo
David Grady
Dena Hernandez
Holly Bins
Janet Fernandez
Jennifer Lucas
Jozette Elizaldi
Julie Eby-McKenzie
Ken DaRosa
Lisa Hooks
Mary Agnes Nolan
Mayra Hernandez
Michelle Cave
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad

Others Attending (cont.)

Scarlett VonThenen
Sheraden Nicholau
Sidney Jackson
Sofia Cervantes
Tina Reszler
Veronica Bravo
Victoria Schlussler
Yaritza Sanchez
Zak Ford

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wesley Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 10:35 A.M.

Legend:

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FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
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2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. SWEARING IN OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER

Chair Witherspoon and Executive Director Carruthers swore in new Councilmember Michael Rillera.

4. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments on this item.

6. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Action 1

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

7. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon asked the Council to take a moment of silence to recognize the recent passing of his best friend, Derrick Isaac, and Vice Chair Lee Bycel's son, Micah Bycel.

The Chair shared that he was trained to be a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteer and obtained his certification in August. The CERT program prepares individuals in basic disaster response skills to help keep communities safe and save lives during disasters. Trained volunteers engage in basic response activities such as checking in on neighbors, distributing information, helping to manage traffic, and providing supports that free up first responders to focus on more dangerous efforts.

Chair Witherspoon shared upcoming holiday and observances for the months of September and October and asked that members refer to their meeting packets for SCDD committee reports. The committee reports and Chair Witherspoon's presentation can be found online at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT AND STAFF REPORTS

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

The Executive Director announced that the Council will be wrapping up its first year of the State Plan. Members will be provided a summary report at the November 2022 Council meeting. The State Plan Committee worked to include revisions to the current State Plan. The revisions added language to specify that the Council will meet its goals by 2026, added more to the commitment and activities section to ensure cultural and racial diversity, and added cross disability coalitions. The Administration on Community Living (ACL) reviewed and accepted the revisions. They also provided detailed feedback on the Council's 2020 and 2021 reports. The ACL emphasized the Council's work and thorough commitment to address cultural diversity and disparities through each of its twelve regional offices, strong descriptions of what California is doing, and the powerful stories of individuals with ID/DD that were impacted by the Council's work and legislative changes.

Executive Director Carruthers provided a brief update on the Council's access and inclusion sponsored bill package. SB 1092 (Hurtado), which reforms the regional center fair hearing process, was enacted through the budget. Additionally, the LEAP internship, for people with intellectual disabilities that want to work for the State, was extended through the budget process. AB 1663 (Mainschein), which examines probate conservatorships and establishes supported decision making, was sent to the Governor's desk, and awaiting his signature. AB 2547 (Nazarian), a \$1.4-billion effort for rent subsidies and AB 2920 (Arambula), a \$10 million effort for inclusive college programs, did not pass this year. Despite not becoming law, AB 290 increased awareness for inclusive college programs and can still be reintroduced next year.

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) contracted with the State Council with providing statewide self-determination orientation trainings to individuals interested in the program. In two months, the Council trained almost 700 people with a quarter of those trainings done in Spanish. 10% of the people trained were self-advocates and regional center consumers, 46% were family advocates, and 31% were professionals. 93% of the people surveyed said they found the information in the training valuable, 48% said they were interested in self-

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determination and going to take the next step, 31% said they are still considering it.

At the end of the State fiscal year, the Administration on Community Living (ACL) notified the Council that they will be receiving a one-time \$57,000 increase. When other state Councils are unable to spend their funds, the ACL takes what is available at the end of the year and redistributes it to the other state Councils. Chief Deputy Director DaRosa has already incorporated the increase into the Council's finances.

In 2019, the Council allocated \$50,000 to redesign the website. The pandemic broke out in 2020 and temporarily put the project on hold. The State Plan & Self-Advocacy team including Manager Rihana Ahmad, Charles Nguyen, and Beth Hurn re-dedicated their efforts to give the website a cleaner design and better layout. The Executive Director encouraged members to take a look. Executive Director Carruthers also shared that SCDD Communications Manager Michelle Cave created "News Clips" to keep staff and Councilmembers informed about local, statewide, and federal news via email. Executive Director Carruthers welcomed new staff members Anne De Medeiros as the Sacramento Regional Office Manager and Veronica Bravo as a Policy Analyst for SCDD's Headquarters Office. He concluded his report by saying goodbye to Statewide Self-Determination Orientation Trainer Joseph Hernandez and Vaccine and Public Health Coordinator Tamica Fouts-Rachal whom accepted positions at other departments.

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

SCDD SSAN representative Maria Marquez provided Councilmembers with an update from the most recent SSAN meeting on September 7th and 8th, 2022. The next SSAN meeting is tentatively planned for December 14th and 15th, 2022.

10. **SCDD BUDGET UPDATE**

Executive Director Carruthers and Vice Chair Bycel updated the Council on prior-year carryover amounts. Previously, staff identified \$445,000 the Council could use for one-time purposes. Deputy Director DaRosa recommended an additional \$175,000 for a total of \$620,000 available for one-time spending.

In February 2022 the Executive Committee asked the Executive Director to return to the Committee in six months with recommendations on staff

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support and training needs. Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented the results of a survey of staff support needs and the estimated costs at the August Executive Committee meeting. Staff needs fell under three large areas: equity, core supports, and career related. The Committee voted to approve staff recommendation for one-time carryover funds of \$275,000 for staff supports and training as described.

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

Action 2

It was moved/seconded (McNair [F.A.]/Reyes [S.A.]) to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to allocate \$275,000 in one-time carryover funds for staff support and training as described. (Passed unanimously, see page one for list of members present.)

11. APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The State Council holds an election for Council Chair and Vice-Chair every two years. At the August 2022 Executive Committee meeting, members acted to put forth a slate of nominees to serve for one year on the Nominating Committee. Jeana Eriksen (S.A) was recommended to serve as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. Rosie Ryan (S.A), Harold Ashe (F.A), Joyce McNair (F.A), and Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD) were recommended to serve as members of the Committee.

The Nominating Committee will meet on October 4th to consider a slate of eligible candidates interested in serving as Chair and Vice Chair of the Council. The Committee will make its recommendation to the full Council at the November Council meeting.

Action 3

It was moved/seconded (Ellis [F.A.]/Marquez [S.A.]) and carried to adopt the Executive Committee's proposed recommendation of Councilmembers to serve for one year on the Nominating Committee. (Passed unanimously, see page one for list of members present.)

12. CYCLE 45 GRANTS UPDATE

Federal law requires that the Council identify methods to improve and increase services for individuals with disabilities and their families and submit these to the Administration for Community Living (ACL) in a five-year State Plan. One way to accomplish this is by awarding program

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development grants (PDG) or Cycle Grants to community-based organizations to research, develop and/or implement innovative programs and promising or best practices throughout the state and its local communities.

After releasing the Cycle 45 Request for Proposals (RFP), the Council did not receive any submissions that fully met its funding requirements. In response, the Council released four new RFPs, which integrated the previous regional requests into new models, for statewide consideration. The total amount of available funds was \$260,000.00.

After releasing a second of RFPs, the Council received twelve submissions. Four of the proposals failed during administrative review so did not move forward to the scoring team. The remaining eight proposals were reviewed and evaluated by a scoring team. The Council's State Plan Committee (SPC) Chair, Kilolo Brodie, and SCDD State Plan Manager Rihana Ahmad presented the scoring teams funding recommendations to the Executive Committee on August 19th, 2022. The team recommended funding four projects, one from each of the focus areas (education, employment, health and safety, and housing), for a total funding amount of \$256,423. The Committee voted to approve the State Plan Committee's Cycle 45 Grant funding recommendations and direct the Executive Director to administer the contract process.

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

13. CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

Chair Witherspoon announced a change to the agenda order. Closed Session was moved to item 13, and 2023 Policy Planning to item 15.

The Council went into closed session.

14. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Council reconvened from closed session with no actions to report.

15. 2023 POLICY PLANNING

Deputy Director of Policy and Planning Kolakosky presented on the Legislative process, timeline, and the proposed 2023-24 Policy Priorities for consideration.

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The second annual “There Should be a Law Contest” was launched on September 1st and active until September 30th. If a bill idea that was submitted in September becomes legislation, the individual that submitted will be a winner of the contest and invited to join the legislative process for that bill. The link to submit bill ideas and additional information on the contest can be found on the main SCDD website or at https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8c9wD1u72jkHEF0.

Deputy Director Kolakosky provided a thorough update on the access and inclusion bill package. As indicated during the Executive Director report, SB 1092 (Hurtado) passed through the budget process. DDS is already in the process of implementing it. Some of the fair hearing reform occurred as soon as the budget passed with additional changes that will launch in October. By March 2023, all the changes that were adopted in the budget bill will become law. On a limited bases, the Council will observe some fair hearing events, take notes, and meet with the Coalition group that sponsored the bill to ensure implementation is going seamless. Deputy Director Kolakosky announced that AB 1663 (Maienschein) is waiting for the Governor’s signature, but five million to manage the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) was already on its way to the Council. The 5 million will be spent in very close and transparent coordination with Disability Rights California (DRC) and the UC Davis MIND Institute. AB 2547 (Nazarian) did not receive the funding that it needed, so did not pass through the legislature. The author of AB 2547, Assemblymember Nazarian, voluntarily left the legislature so he will no longer be pursuing the bill. As one of the co-sponsors, the Council was encouraged to continue conversations around the bill. The Council will be meeting with other departments such as the Housing and Community Development (HCD) and Department of Aging on ways to pursue the bill next year. Like the housing bill, AB 2920 (Arambula) did not receive the funding that it needed, so did not pass this year. The Council is hopeful that the bill may get reintroduced next year. Out of the many bills that the Council supported, seven of them were signed into law or sitting on the Governor’s desk awaiting his signature. The Governor has until September 30th to sign all the bills on his desk.

The five-year State Plan helps direct the goals and priorities of the Council. Last year the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) updated the policy platform priorities based on the new 2022-2026 State Plan. The LPPC met on September 13th and recommended that the Council adopt changes to further align the Policy documents with the

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2022-2026 State Plan. They recommend adding the following inclusive language: “protecting rights, ensuring accessibility of services and supports to I/DD individuals and their families regardless of racial, cultural, ethnic, religious, sexual orientation, and gender identity”.

Action 4

It was moved/seconded (Ybarra [S.A.]/Ponton [S.A.]) and carried to approve the Legislative and Public Policy Committee’s recommended changes to the 2023-2024 Policy Priorities.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on November 29, 2022. The meeting was adjourned at 3:13 P.M.

Name	Action 1 Minutes	Action 2 One-Time Funds	Action 3 Nominating Committee	Action 4 2023-24 Policy Priorities
Adler, Nicole	For	For	For	For
Ashe, Harold	For	NP	NP	NP
Austin, Julie	For	For	For	For
Barnwell, Viviana	For	For	For	For
Beckley, Mark	For	For	For	For
Billingsley, Joseph	For	For	For	For
Brodie, Kilolo	For	For	For	For
Bycel, Lee	For	For	For	NP
Ellis, Michael	For	For	For	For
Eriksen, Jeana	For	For	For	For
Garnica, Julio	NP	For	For	For
Liu, Cathay	For	For	For	For
Marquez, Maria	For	For	For	NP
Moody, Christine	For	For	For	For
McNair, Joyce	For	For	For	For
Neward, Julie	For	For	For	For
Ponton, Kara	For	For	For	For
Reyes, Alex	For	For	For	For
Rillera, Michael	For	For	For	For
Rosanna, Ryan	NP	NP	NP	NP
Stahmer, Aubyn	For	For	For	NP
Thomas, Michael	NP	For	For	For
Wavrin, Nick	Abstain	For	For	For
Winfield, Brian	For	NP	NP	For
Witherspoon, Wesley	For	For	For	For
Ybarra, Eric	For	For	For	For
Yin, Larry	For	For	For	For