

# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Executive Director Report

April 15, 2024

Aaron Carruthers



# Overview

- Advocacy Update
- Master Plan on Developmental Disabilities Update
- LA Times Article
- Training for Councilmembers
- Announcements

# Advocacy Update

- Testified on Council supported bills:
  - SB 1384 (Dodd) Power Wheelchair Repair
  - SB 1443 (Jones) Interagency Council on Homelessness
  - AB 1977 (Ta) Health Care Coverage Recertification
  - AB 1885 (Addis) 9-units as full time for students with disabilities
  - AB 2753 (Ortega) Cover Durable Medical Equipment
  - AB 1876 (Jackson) Allows IPPs to be remote
  - SB 1281 (Menjivar) Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program
  - SB 1197 (Alvarado-Gil) IHSS for foster youth
  - SB 1001 (Skinner) Protects individuals with IDD from death penalty

# Master Plan on IDD Stakeholder Meeting

- January 10, 2024 First Meeting of the Stakeholder Committee
  - SCDD Represented by Councilmember Joyce McNair
- Secretary Mark Ghaly comments:
  - Today as “opening day”
  - Not about reforming DDS, need all departments for whole person
  - Master Plan must have an equity focus
    - Equity is about shifting power
- Department of Developmental Services Director Nancy Bargmann comments:
  - Lanterman Act created 50 years ago by people around tables envisioning a better future, same as today. What is that better future?

# Master Plan on IDD Stakeholder Meeting

- Breakout sessions
  - Community agreements
  - Shared values
  - Aspirational vision of success
  - Priorities
- Next steps
  - SCDD has federal and state authority to “define and redefine” systems
  - Lee Bycel posed question to Agency, ask for a meeting
  - Define vision along with federal partners (UCEDDs & DRC)
  - Next stakeholder meeting April 2024, Agenda item on May Council meeting

# Master Plan on IDD Stakeholder Meeting

- Some thoughts:
  - Council is optimistic about what is possible from a Master Plan on DD.
  - Must answer the question, “Will this improve the lives and outcomes of people with IDD?”
  - SCDD intends to lean into its federal and state statutory authority for “system design and redesign.”
  - SCDD mission perfectly mirrors the Master Plan’s goal of strengthening accessibility, quality, and equity while improving bridges that connect the IDD system to other service systems, like education, housing, employment, transportation, and safety.
  - SCDD functions with both the intersectionality of individuals’ identities as well as the intersecting service delivery systems.
  - We work daily to help people succeed when stuck between systems. Any “system design and redesign” includes the accessibility, quality, and equity of the intersectionality of multiple service systems.

# LA Times Article on Self-Determination Program

Los  
Angeles  
Times

- “People with disabilities love this program. Why are Latinos underrepresented?” April 15, 2024
- Title and content built from SCDD evaluation of self-determination program
- Cites SB 1281 (Menjivar) legislation to reform self-determination program (uses evaluation as evidence)
- SCDD Executive Director quoted re people having higher budgets in self-determination program:
- *Aaron Carruthers, executive director of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, said he sees those numbers as evidence of “people who were underserved finally getting what they needed.”*

# Training for Councilmembers Update

- Opportunity:
  - SCDD can develop trainings for Councilmembers on one focus area for 2024
- Question:
  - Would Council members benefit from trainings that would support you in your role? What topics? Would Council members engage?
- Poll



# Training for Councilmembers: Poll Results

*“Please review the list of possible training topics. If we can only accomplish one in 2024, which is your highest priority?”*

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	0.00% 0
Conflict Management in Dealing with Difficult People	33.33% 4
Council Fundamentals (purpose of Council, role as Council member, rules for Council members)	8.33% 1
Preparing for Meetings (roles, packets, and expectations for council and committee meetings)	8.33% 1
Being an Effective Change Agent (change management and advocacy)	50.00% 6
A Focus on Meeting Packets (how are packets built to prepare you for meetings, are they clear or helpful, how they change to better fit your needs)	0.00% 0
TOTAL	12

# Training for Councilmembers: Poll Results

*“How likely are you to participate in a training like these?”*

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very likely	75.00% 9
Likely	16.67% 2
Neither likely nor unlikely	8.33% 1
Unlikely	0.00% 0
Very unlikely	0.00% 0
<b>Total Respondents: 12</b>	

# Training for Councilmembers: Poll Results

*“Do you prefer to have these trainings in-person or by zoom?”*

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None of the above	0.00% 0
In-person, the day before the May or September Council meeting	41.67% 5
In-person, the day after the May or September Council meeting	25.00% 3
Zoom	8.33% 1
I'm fine with in-person a day before or after a Council meeting or by Zoom	50.00% 6

Total Respondents: 12

# Training for Councilmembers: Poll Results

*“Do you have any comments about these trainings?”*

- Thank you
- I'm excited about this!
- I am always willing to learn to learn how I can do things better. And learning new policies and expectation that I need to meet and be a better council member.
- Being an effective change agent is too vague and does not say what we are changing, there is a lot of problem areas such as the regional centers, school districts, employment. There are many issues and is not clear how we can effect change depending on the issue. My second choice after change agent is to figure out how the meeting packets are made and where the information comes from and if there is anything cut out for the sake of simplicity.
- Virtual training is not engaging

# Announcements

- Federal Government budget for October 2023-September 2024 includes level funding for Councils. That means the same amount for California, and no changes to the approved budget
- Saying hello to Personnel Officer Thuy
- Saying goodbye to Counsel Brian Weisel
- Recruitment for Deputy Director of Policy continues
- Planning for May in-person meeting continues
  - Increased costs, s

THANK YOU!

*Thank you*

