

# State Council on Developmental Disabilities

## Executive Director Report

July 16, 2024

Aaron Carruthers





**DISABILITY PRIDE  
IS NOT ABOUT LOVING  
YOUR SYMPTOMS  
24/7**

**IT'S ABOUT REJECTING  
THE IDEA THAT THEY  
MAKE YOU INFERIOR**

**#DISABLEDAF #REPRESENT**

# Overview

- Events
- Advocacy
  - SCDD Supported Bills
  - SCDD Budget Priorities
- Master Plan
- Announcements

# Events



- Governor declares July Disability Pride Month
- Reception in Governor Office, highlighting accomplishments:
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Jobs
  - Schools
  - Developmental Services
  - Health Care
  - Belonging
  - Public Safety
  - Government

# Events



## National AFN Symposium

Highlighting forward-leaning, inclusive, innovative practices in emergency management



July 11-12, 2024



12-3 PM ET Daily

Organizers



Cal OES  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES



COLORADO  
Division of Homeland Security  
& Emergency Management  
Department of Public Safety



Sponsors



American  
Red Cross



# Advocacy: SCDD Supported Bills

- SCDD Supported Bills still moving through the Legislature:
  - Health
    - AB 1977 (Ta) Health Care Coverage Recertification
    - SB 1384 (Dodd) Power Wheelchair Repair
    - SB 1001 (Skinner) Protects individuals with IDD from death penalty
    - SB 1281 (Menjivar) Equity and Access in the Self-Determination Program
    - SB 1197 (Alvarado-Gil) Respite Services for Foster Youth
  - Home
    - SB 37 (Caballero) Housing Subsidy (co-sponsor)
    - SB 1443 (Jones) Interagency Council on Homelessness
    - AB 1876 (Jackson) Allows IPPs to be remote
    - AB 3291 (Committee) Caregiver succession, housing expenses for homeless
  - Work
    - AB 1147 (Addis) Regional Center “Accountability Act”
    - AB 1885 (Addis) 9-units as full time for students with disabilities

# Advocacy: SCDD Budget Priorities

- Full Implementation of Funding for the Rate Study by January 2025
- Inclusive College funded for \$2 million a year, ongoing
  - Governor initiative
  - Result of SCDD-sponsored AB 447 (Arambula)
- Dental Clinics: Restores \$50 million in infrastructure grants to dental clinics to improve access to dental care for children with special health care needs.
- Employment First Office (E1O) established at the Health and Human Services Agency as July 1, 2024
- Governor advocates for SCDD positions, begin July 1, 2024

# Master Plan

- Created five workgroups:
  - Workgroup 1: Individuals and families experience person-centered service systems they trust
  - Workgroup 2: Individuals receive timely, inclusive, and seamless services across all service systems
  - Workgroup 3: Individuals and their families receive services from a high-quality, stable, and person-centered workforce
  - Workgroup 4: Individuals and their families experience consistent, transparent, accountable and data-driven systems that focus on outcomes
  - Workgroup 5: Individuals are entitled to life-long services from systems with adequate resources



# Master Plan

- Workgroup 1: Individuals and families experience person-centered service systems they trust
  - Develop a culture of trust and respect for all individuals and their families
  - Access to culturally responsive services that are available in individuals' and their families' preferred language
  - Increase access to Self-Determination and other participant directed services
  - Common state-wide regional center service standards, definitions, availability and expectations
  - Person-centered planning
  - Access to person-centered planning and training for individuals, families and service coordinators
  - Focus on individuals who are aging and have older parents
- Recommend: Viviana Barnwell, Harold Ashe, Peter Mendoza, Dena Hernandez, Gina Hale

# Master Plan

- Workgroup 2: Individuals receive timely, inclusive, and seamless services across all service systems
  - Address system barriers to receiving generic services
  - Milestone transitions and planning across the life-span (e.g., early start, transitioned youth, and aging)
  - Rapid eligibility for services based on individual needs
  - Navigation supports that include assistance to obtain generic services
  - Rapid eligibility based on when the individual needs the services
  - Access to innovative services
  - Access to services which meet basic needs such as affordable, accessible housing, health care and crisis prevention
- Recommend: Jessica Brown, Nestor Nieves, Julie Neward, Zoe Bartholomew, Melissa Fitch, Reva Subra

# Master Plan

- Workgroup 3: Individuals and their families receive services from a high-quality, stable, and person-centered workforce
  - Employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to work in systems and support their peers
  - Skills and knowledge to provide person-centered services and help individuals achieve their identified outcomes
  - Culturally responsive services and language capacity to meet the needs of individuals served
  - Service coordinator roles and responsibilities
  - Address service barriers in remote and rural communities
- Recommend: Julie Gaona, Harold Fujita, Michelle Padilla, Chris Arroyo, Patricia Herrera

# Master Plan

- Workgroup 4: Individuals and their families experience consistent, transparent, accountable and data-driven systems that focus on outcomes
  - The system has a consistent interpretation of regional centers' responsibilities
  - Individuals and their families can easily access their information
  - Data and technology systems measure system outcomes and performance and are available to everyone (e.g., data dash boards)
  - Regional center accountability for achieving outcomes identified by the individual
- Recommend: Sheraden Nicholau, Kilolo Brodie-Crumsey, Diane Walker

# Master Plan

- Workgroup 5: Individuals are entitled to life-long services from systems with adequate resources
  - The Lanterman Act entitlement is protected
  - Eligibility for Medi-Cal waivers are streamlined
  - Medicaid waivers and State Plan services are modernized to expand service types and allow for innovation and obtain more funding
  - Identify strategies to pay for outcomes and rate reform outcome measures and incentives
- Recommend: Cathay Lui, Kathleen Barajas, David Forderer, Lourdes Gomez, Lisa Woods

# Announcements

## Upcoming

- Chair Wesley Witherspoon, Councilmember Liz Laugeson, and I will meet with LA28 to advise on making the 2028 Olympics more accessible

## SCDD Staff

- Saying hello to Kenya Martinez, North Bay Manager
- Recruitment for Deputy Director of Policy and Attorney continues





THANK YOU

Questions or  
Discussion?