



# San Bernardino Regional Office

## Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

**October 08, 2024**

**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

### **Members Present**

Dustlyne Beavers, **Chair**

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**

Kelli Guillory

Kimberly Risser

Lisa Williams

Reginald Davis

Ryan Nelson

Shannen Mitchell

Sofia Benitez

### **Members Absent**

Elizabeth Felix Discussion (excused absence)

Sandra Diaz

Kelly Wedberg

### **SCDD SBRO Staff**

Patricia Herrera, MS, Staff Services Manager II

Alondra Castillo, Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Jose Valle, Office Technician

### **Guest Speakers**

- Kelli Guillory

## **Public Attendees**

Barbara B.  
Natalie B.  
Sharleen O.

## **English/Spanish Language Interpreter**

### **Meeting called to order at 4:10 PM**

Quorum established. Welcome from Dustlyne Beavers, Chair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Kim Risser motioned to approve minutes of the 08/20/2024 meeting. Motioned seconded by Ryan Nelson. Unanimously minutes were approved.

### **Presentation: Kelli Guillory**

**Topic: Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Community Living Services and other programs the DOR provides**

**4:10 PM – 4:20 PM:** Patricia Herrera introduced and expressed her appreciation for Kelli Guillory's support and emphasized the importance of her work with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities.

**4:20 PM – 5:20 PM:** Kelli thanked Patricia then explained the significance of October 2024 as a special month for employment and the role of the DOR in launching programs. She discussed the importance of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, October 2024, its evolution, and the benefits of hiring individuals with disabilities. Kelli also highlighted the work of the California Department of Rehabilitation, which provides services and advocacy for individuals with disabilities, aiming to help them obtain competitive integrated employment and independent living. Lastly, she mentioned the various services provided by the organization, particularly those catering to the deaf and hard of hearing, blind, and visually impaired communities.

Kelli provided an overview of the community living services and the DOR's program, which is statewide and covers San Bernardino and Riverside counties. She encouraged questions and offered further guidance. Dustlyne suggested the information could be useful for future presentations. Patricia clarified the program's coverage and Kelli agreed to connect with decision-makers to facilitate positive change. The importance of reasonable accommodations and job coaching was highlighted by Dustlyne. Natalie B. raised a question about the services provided by the

DOR for individuals with traumatic brain injuries, which Kelli explained that there are individuals that are trained and help train employers on disability sensitivity as well as what the laws are with reasonable accommodation. Kelli also agreed to provide more information on making DOR's services more accessible on its website for visually or hearing-impaired individuals. Kim Risser offered to share resources for specific disabilities and mentioned her experience working in the public sector and in a regular clerical role.

Dustlyne Beavers shared several positive outcomes from working with DOR, including securing a six-figure job, receiving education and employment support, and having university education costs covered. The team agreed on the importance of sharing such success stories to motivate and inspire staff.

**5:20 PM – 5:40 PM:** Lisa Williams discussed the Aspires Program, a transition program for students aged 18 to 22, focusing on life skills and employment readiness. The program includes culinary lessons, work experience in the school district's central kitchen, and partnerships with businesses like CVS, Walgreens, and Grocery Outlet. Students are paid and receive liability insurance and workers' compensation. Lisa expressed a desire to track the success of graduates after leaving the program. Patricia and Ryan Nelson discussed the potential for expanding the program to other employers but noted the challenge of transportation and distance. They agreed on the program's positive aspects, including job experience and self-advocacy skills.

The team discussed the importance of one-on-one support for individuals, with Kim suggesting partnerships with local independent centers. Lisa confirmed that the program was funded through workability. Kelli suggested connecting students with DOR for additional supports and tracking their progress through communication with their counselors. The team also praised the programs offered by the school, with Kelli expressing her excitement about the services and supports for children. Patricia was acknowledged for her hard work in leading the advisory committee and the SCDD office.

### **Report from Regional Manager – Patricia Herrera, 5:40 PM – 5:55 PM**

Patricia introduced two individuals to the team, Natalie B. and Barbara B., with Natalie discussing her organization's plans to host an annual event aimed at educating business owners about the benefits of hiring people with disabilities.

Alondra discussed the upcoming training schedule, emphasizing the importance of registration by the first of each month. She highlighted a presentation on Voting Rights by the Office of Clients' Rights Advocates, a department within Disability Rights California, for Monday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 @ 10 AM for Self-Advocates. Alondra also highlighted the availability of a Spanish training schedule and the October training schedule and agreed to send it to Kim.

Patricia provided updates on the legislative report, the Monthly Training Newsletter, and a major employment initiative for ages 18-22. Patricia discussed assertive skills training and the potential for partnerships with organizations like Learning Rights and Disability Rights California. She also mentioned a job fair for Self-Advocates and a parent resource fair. Patricia expressed her appreciation for Alondra's organizational skills and the progress made in their operations. She highlighted the importance of collaboration and the need for feedback. Patricia also discussed the progress of the California Systemic, Therapeutic, Assessment, Resources, & Treatment Program (California START Program) which is a proactive approach for people who are at-risk and those who provide them support (funded by DDS), and the importance of stakeholder involvement. Dustlyne agreed with Patricia's suggestions and requested that the information be sent out as calendar invites.

Dustlyne and Patricia discussed their communication preferences, with Dustlyne favoring calendar invites and Patricia considering using Facebook professionally for SCDD. Patricia shared her efforts to improve Special Education services through a partnership with Learning Rights and her successful connection with a faith-based organization for affordable housing. She suggested extending this model to Inyo and Mono counties and mentioned a group that could provide training and support for interested faith-based organizations.

### **Public Comments on Matters Not on the Agenda 5:55 PM**

N/A

### **Meeting Adjourned**

- Dustlyne Beavers motions to adjourn meeting. Motion approved by RAC members. Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.