



July 2025 Report from Christofer Arroyo Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

POLICY UPDATE

- ✓ **Telling Your Story:** The current Federal Administration proposed budget cuts that will likely impact the Medicaid system. SCDD continued to provide trainings to educate the community about the proposed cuts, the services funded through Medicaid funding (for example, regional center, Medi-Cal, IHSS, and more), and how individuals can share their stories with lawmakers.
 - **Legislative Meetings re: Proposed Medicaid Cuts:** SCDD, in collaboration with partners such as Disability Rights CA, Family Voices of CA, independent living centers, and Autism Society SF Bay Area, trained constituents to meet with their lawmakers in three different districts to share their stories about how Medicaid-funded services impact their lives. SCDD provided data to the lawmakers about the number of their constituents that receive Medicaid-funded services.
- ✓ **Governor's Budget:** Developed and distributed Summary of May Revise for public and regional offices. Provided testimony in two budget subcommittee hearings concerning the impact of specific proposals concerning IHSS and Medi-Cal in the Governor's Proposed Budget.
 - **Input on the Budget:** SCDD provided input pertaining to the Governor's Proposed Budget at an invite-only legislative event and to a community partner who drafted trailer bill language concerning the Self-Determination Program.
- ✓ **2025 Legislation:** Wrote support/oppose letters for 17 bills prioritized this year. Monitored and analyzed legislation for amendments and impact. Attended two bill hearings to speak in support of them.
- ✓ **Leadership Program Continues:** In collaboration with the SCDD Los Angeles and San Bernardino Regional Offices, statewide leadership program for Spanish-speaking participants, Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacia Sistemica (ALAS, the Leadership and Systemic Advocacy Academy). Training is from April through July and focuses on developing leaders and the advocacy opportunities that exist within civic processes to disrupt systems in order to improve them. The Chief Deputy Director's report notes many notable accomplishments of graduates.
- ✓ **Coalitions:** SCDD participates in monthly meetings with coalitions to build and support efforts that strengthen the systems that serve individuals with IDD and their families. Coalitions include ADHAC (Aging, Disability, and Homelessness Advocacy Coalition), Employment First, Inclusive College Association (ICA), and the Fair Hearing Reform Coalition.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- ✓ **Telling your Story Campaign:** Announced campaign in English and Spanish to request respondents to share how changes in Medicaid services will impact them and their families. Toolkit developed and provided to regional offices. Eblasts were sent announcing trainings to over 12,000 unique emails and shared on the Council's primary social media channels. Over 2,600 letters were received from the public, sharing their stories, how Medicaid-funded services support them, and what their lives would be like if those services were reduced or eliminated.
 - **Additional Campaigns:** Eblasts were sent to over 12,000 unique emails and shared on the Council's primary social media channels concerning the passage of the federal spending bill, comments due for Section 504 regulations, a statement that SCDD stands in solidarity with those it serves, and next steps for Medicaid cuts.
- ✓ **Launched Next Steps for Medicaid Cuts Campaign:** Eblasts were sent to over 12,000 unique emails and shared on the Council's primary social media channels concerning trainings provided by Executive Director Carruthers. Additional trainings are being scheduled at the time of this writing.
- ✓ **Launched the Fifth Annual There Should Be A Law Campaign:** Announced campaign to collect ideas for bills that people want to see passed into law. Eblasts were sent to over 12,000 unique emails and shared on the Council's primary social media channels, a rotating banner was placed on the SCDD website, and regional office staff have been promoting the Contest. Deadline for ideas is July 18.
- ✓ **Rotating Banners:** Rotating banners are designed and used on the SCDD homepage to promote and link to content. Banners were created for the Fifth Annual There Should Be A Law Contest and the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program.
- ✓ **News & Events Email Blast, May/June:** Featured messaging with links to commemorative events such as Pride Month, Father's Day, Juneteenth, Disability Pride Month, Independence Day, and ADA Day. Additional messaging included Medicaid Funding at Risk call to action and SCDD meetings. Messaging was disseminated to over 12,000 unique email addresses, including the CA Legislature, and shared on the Council's primary social media channels.
- ✓ **Regional and Partner Support:** Assisted regional offices, SCDD HQ, committees, and partners with creative design and messaging for various initiatives, including webinars and live in-person events, shared statewide via email and social media.