

NOTICE/AGENDA

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

MEETING ID: 871 6958 7016

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STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

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MEETING DETAILS:

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:

SCDD LA REGIONAL OFFICE 411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 620 Glendale, CA 91203

JOIN BY ZOOM:

https://bit.ly/SCDDJulyCouncil2025

MEETING ID: 871 6958 7016

PASSCODE: 082389

DATE: July 22, 2025

MEETING TIME: 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAIR: Julie Gaona

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

	to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minuallocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes comment.	
	Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.	
Item 5.	APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES VMTE All	Page 5
Item 6.	CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS Julie Gaona, Council Chair	Page 14
	 A. Executive Committee B. Statewide Self-Determination Committee (SSDAC) C. Membership Committee D. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) 	
Item 7.	STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK REPORT SCDD SSAN Representative Rosie Ryan	Page 20
Item 8.	UPDATE ON MEDICAID Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director	Page 23
ltem 9.	BUDGET PRINCIPLES VMTE Christofer Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs	Page 24
Item 10	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director	Page 25
	A. Chief Deputy Director ReportB. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs ReportC. CRA/VAS ReportD. QA Project Update Report	
Item 11.	NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT The next Council meeting will be held in person on September 2 in Sacramento.	Page 43 3, 2025,

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information

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Accessibility:

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All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

AGENDA ITEM 4. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public Comments

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Separately, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of May 2025 Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 20, 2025, Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment

May Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the May 2025 Council meeting minutes.



DRAFT Council Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025

Members Attending

Ana Acton (CDA)
Andy Imparato (DRC)
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)

Alex Reyes (S.A.)

Cathay Liu (F.A.) Harold Ashe (F.A.)

Harold Fujita (F.A.)

Kara Ponton (S.A.)

Irene Valdez (F.A.)

Jessica Brown (F.A.)

Jessica Grove (DOR)

Joyce McNair (F.A.)

Julie Gaona (S.A.)

Julie Neward (F.A.)

Julio Garnica (S.A.)

Lee Bycel (F.A.)

Michi Gates (DDS)

Nestor Nieves (S.A.) Nick Wavrin (CDE)

Nicole Adler (S.A.)

Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)

Sonia Jones (S.A.)

Yasamin Bolourian (UCEDD)

Members Absent

Debra Cooper (CHHS) Eric Ybarra (S.A.) Joseph Billingsley (DHCS) Larry Yin (UCEDD) Lupe Rodríguez (F.A)

Others Attending

Nick Lutton (F.A.)

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Barbara Imle
Beth Hurn
Carmela Garnica
Charlie Graves
Chris Arroyo
Christine Tolbert
David Delgado
Debra Adler
Debra Ponton

Holly Bins

Jennifer Lucas

Dena Hernandez

Julie Eby-McKenzie

Others Attending (cont.)

John Kelly Kathleen Hankins Kelli Hanspard Lisa Hooks Michael Santiago Michelle Cave Nicole Patterson Riana Hardin Rihana Ahmad Rondale Holloway Scarlett VonThenen Sheraden Nicholau Tamera Cannon Tania Morawiec Veronica Bravo Walker Woodard

Yaritza Sanchez

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Julie Gaona called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carmela Garnica provided a public comment on this item. She explained that Blythe is geographically isolated, with the closest alternative hospital located an hour and a half away. The hospital is facing a financial emergency and may be headed toward bankruptcy, with a potential shutdown of critical services. She expressed concern about the impact it would have on her community, especially low-income residents with limited access to reliable transportation. She shared that she had been appointed Chair of the hospital board and that a confidential closed session had been leaked, causing the bank involved in their loan recovery plan to withdraw before the first loan payment was made. She requested any insight or support the Council could offer, particularly to help keep the hospital's emergency department open. She also highlighted larger systemic issues that have left rural hospitals underfunded for years, including low Medicaid reimbursement rates. She urged action to prevent the loss of emergency care access in her community.

Debra Adler provided a public comment. She thanked the Council for its continued advocacy to protect Medicaid funding and recognized Councilmember Alex Reyes for coordinating a recent community gathering. She also shared concern regarding the Governor's May Revise and the decision to separate Self-Determination Program (SDP) funding from the traditional Regional Center budget. She described the change as a dangerous misunderstanding of the program's purpose and impact. She expressed concern about a proposed "two-bucket" funding structure and asked for transparency around who made the decision and why. She concluded by urging the Council to reject the proposed \$22.5 million cut to SDP funding.

Kathleen Hankins provided a public comment expressing concern about the ongoing cuts to Medi-Cal and Medicaid services. As a caregiver and grandparent raising autistic grandchildren, she explained that her family and many of the individuals she supports depend on these programs for access to medical care, developmental supports, and opportunities for inclusion. She also reflected on the impact of past federal policy changes, highlighting the elimination of subsidized job programs in Redding following the return of the Trump administration. She noted that many of the individuals she worked with were left unemployed and without a sense

of independence. She stressed the importance of programs that support employment, healthcare, and social inclusion to ensure people with disabilities have a voice.

Dena Hernandez, manager of SCDD's North Valley Hills Office, provided a public comment and presented a plaque to the State Council on behalf of the Choices Institute. She reported that the event had over 500 attendees and featured enthusiastic participation from advocates, including singing and dancing that brought energy and connection to the room. She highlighted their micro business fair, which was hosted at the San Joaquin Office of Education and featured self-advocate vendors. The event was organized in partnership with multiple agencies and advocates, including the Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, the Family Resource Network, the Regional Center, and the State Council. She thanked the Council for its support in making the event possible.

Julie Neward addressed the Council as a member of the public and provided a public comment. She introduced SibThrive, a six-week virtual support program for adult siblings of individuals with disabilities. The program, developed by psychotherapist Heather D. Frankovich and hosted by the National Sibling Leadership Network, includes weekly group sessions, optional one-on-one support, and access to a private peer network. She encouraged members to refer adult siblings from their communities to join the next summer cohort. She also presented the 2025 Disability Survey, a statewide data collection effort to gather updated data on disability-related needs, with a particular focus on abuse and unmet services. She explained that the survey was developed over three years in collaboration with Dr. Colburn, Angela Kaufman, and other advocates. The final version will be released on June 1 and will include ASL videos. She asked members to assist in sharing the survey and emphasized the need for updated data to address gaps in services and protections for individuals with disabilities.

5. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2025 MINUTES Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [S.A]/ Adler [S.A.]) and carried to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes by unanimous acclamation, with one correction. Councilmember Nick Wavrin was originally listed as not present for Action Item 2, but it was clarified that he had voted "Aye." The minutes were amended to reflect his vote. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Gaona began her report by recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. She emphasized the importance of mental health in our overall well-being and encouraged everyone to engage in meaningful activities that promote mental wellness. In support of this effort, SCDD staff prepared Mental Health Awareness stations for Councilmembers and attendees to engage with throughout the day. Furthermore, she provided an advocacy update, sharing that she attended multiple meetings throughout Los Angeles with disability advocacy groups to address concerns about the proposed federal Medicaid cuts. She noted that the Council issued a formal letter expressing solidarity with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), and voicing opposition to proposed cuts to Medicaid and other essential programs serving more than 624,500 Californians with IDD. The letter called on the community to unite in advocacy efforts. In her legislative update, Chair Gaona outlined changes to the Council's bill positions since the March Council meeting. She reported that the Council had opposed SB 84, which would delay the ability to file disability-related complaints in court by requiring a 120-day advance notice to businesses. The Council also took support positions on SB 373, which would increase transparency and protections at nonpublic schools, and AB 1220, which would require regional centers to document and publicly report service denials, appeals, and notices of action. Lastly, AB 617 had been removed from the Council's legislative platform and moved to a watch position due to significant amendments since the Council's original support.

SCDD committee reports were provided in the meeting packet and can be accessed online at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/. Chair Gaona asked that members read through the reports.

7. SCDD 2025-2026 BUDGET

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Chief Deputy Director Gates presented an update on the state budget and its impact on developmental services. She noted that California is facing a budget deficit this year, and like all state departments, DDS must identify solutions to help close the gap. She emphasized that DDS remains focused on preserving the long-term sustainability of California's developmental services system. Unlike other states that cap the number of individuals they serve, California provides services to all eligible individuals through the Regional Center system. She noted that the system is expected to serve almost 500,000 people in the upcoming fiscal

year, reflecting the program's success and the growing cost to maintain it. Chief Deputy Gates reported that the developmental services budget is expected to grow from \$15 billion to \$18.7 billion in the 2025–26 fiscal year due to the rising costs and the addition of 40,000 new individuals. To manage this, DDS is proposing to end the "hold harmless" policy for provider rates under rate reform earlier than planned. By moving the end date to March 1, 2025, DDS can save approximately \$75 million. This and other measures would allow DDS to limit proposed cuts to under \$124 million.

Furthermore, she outlined additional proposals to help reduce costs. One recommendation is to delay the implementation of the Direct Service Provider (DSP) University program, which was designed to establish a three-tier wage structure for direct service providers based on the completion of a curriculum. Delaying the program is expected to save about \$50 million, with DDS hoping to revisit implementation once funding conditions improve. She also provided an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Since being added to California's federal waiver, the program has changed from its original pilot version and is seeing much higher annual costs. DDS plans to review the program to ensure it follows state and federal requirements. If the current spending is allowable under existing rules, the program will continue unchanged. If not, the Department may consider setting clearer limits or guidance. She reiterated that the goal is not to limit the program, but to protect and strengthen it. She also noted plans to collaborate with stakeholders to identify ways to make the program easier to navigate and understand. In addition, DDS is proposing changes to the Quality Incentive Program for direct service providers. The proposal would require providers to meet certain requirements to qualify for the additional 10% funding available through the program.

Executive Director Carruthers then presented an update on the Council's budget. He reminded Councilmembers that the proposed budget was introduced at the March Council meeting, and that he would present changes made since then before asking for a vote to adopt the final budget. He reported that the Council's budget remained in strong shape and that the Council had received its anticipated federal funding. He also relayed that the State Plan Committee met in April and recommended pausing funding for Cycle 48 community program development grants in the upcoming fiscal year. He explained that this recommendation was based on three primary reasons. First, shifting national priorities,

especially around Medicaid, have required staff to reallocate their time and focus. Second, the Committee emphasized the need for flexibility, recognizing that new priorities may require funding for efforts the Council cannot yet predict. The third reason was to avoid passing the uncertainty in federal funding onto the community. Instead, the Committee recommended pausing the grant cycle and shifting those funds into external contracts to provide the Council with greater flexibility to respond to community needs as they arise. He also reported a change to the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program to reflect that unused funds from the current year will be available next year. He shared that while federal funding remains uncertain, the Council's budget planning assumes no change in next year's funding levels. Executive Director Carruthers then reviewed the Council's proposed budget. He reported that the Council's prudent reserve had been restored to \$1.75 million with the arrival of federal funds. He added that funding remains unchanged for the Quality Assessment Project at \$4.21 million and the Clients' Rights Advocates Volunteer Advocacy Program at \$1.69 million. For the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program, he explained that it was originally funded with a one-time \$5 million allocation from the state. Although the program was expected to end by June, some activities are still underway, and \$847,000 will carry over to support those efforts. Lastly, he reported that the Council's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year is \$15.1 million.

Debra Adler provided a public comment regarding the Self-Determination Program (SDP). She expressed concern about common misunderstandings related to Self-Determination budgets, specifically the idea that participants are overspending. She relayed that all Self-Determination budgets are developed by Regional Centers and are intended to reflect the services an individual would receive through traditional service delivery. Any increase in spending is often due to rising provider rates, increased cost of living, or unmet needs finally being addressed. She emphasized that the conversation should focus on how funds are being spent, not whether they should exist. She also mentioned inconsistencies in how the program is implemented across California's 21 Regional Centers, which has led to confusion, frustration, and some individuals being wrongly denied services. She called for improved communication among financial management services, Regional Centers, and participants, and urged for clearer, more consistent guidelines.

The full budget presentation and supporting documents can be accessed at https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/.

Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [S.A]/ Ponton [S.A.]) and carried to adopt the 2025-2026 SCDD budget as presented. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Due to time limitations, the Council chose to skip this item. Executive Director Carruthers noted that his report would be made available for members to review at their convenience.

9. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council meeting will be held on Zoom on July 22, 2025. Chair Gaona adjourned the meeting at 12:58 P.M.

Name	Vote 1	Vote 2
Acton, Ana	Aye	Aye
Adler, Nicole	Aye	Aye
Ashe, Harold	Aye	Aye
Bolourian, Yasmin	Aye	Aye
Brown, Jessica	Aye	Aye
Bycel, Lee	Aye	Aye
Fujita, Harold	Aye	Aye
Gaona, Julie	Aye	NP
Garnica, Julio	Aye	Aye
Gates, Michi	Aye	Aye
Grove, Jessica	Aye	Aye
Imparato, Andy	Aye	Aye
Jones, Sonia	Aye	NP
Liu, Cathay	Aye	Aye
McNair, Joyce	Aye	Aye
Neward, Julie	Aye	Aye
Nieves, Nestor	Aye	Aye
Ponton, Kara	Aye	Aye
Reyes, Alex	Aye	Aye
Ryan, Rosie	Aye	Aye
Stahmer, Aubyn	Aye	Aye
Valdez, Irene	Aye	Aye
Wavrin, Nick	Aye	Aye

AGENDA ITEM 6. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chair Report and Committee Reports

Council Chair Julie Gaona will provide Councilmembers with an oral report about her recent activities and current priorities for the Council.

SCDD Committee reports have been provided for informational purposes.

Attachments

The Executive Committee met on 06/17/25.

The Statewide Self-Determination Committee (SSDAC) met on 06/24/25.

The Membership Committee met on 07/08/25.

Handout

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) will meet on 07/21/25.

AGENDA ITEM 6A.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 17, 2025

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on June 17, 2025. The meeting included a staff spotlight, program spotlight, two sponsorship requests, three conflict-of-interest waiver requests, an SCDD budget update, an update on the Executive Director evaluation process, and the Executive Director's report. Executive Director Carruthers presented updates on federal and state policy, Council initiatives, and internal operations. He reported that the U.S. Senate had introduced a Medicaid proposal with potentially deeper cuts than the House version, prompting over 2,100 individuals to share personal stories in the "Tell Your Story" campaign. He also noted that a new State Plan survey would launch in July to gather input from the community for the Council's next five-year State Plan. At the state level, he reported that the Legislature approved the 2025–26 budget, which included major funding increases for developmental services and rejected several of the Governor's proposed cuts. For SCDD, the budget extends the time to use about \$800,000 in remaining funds from the Supported Decision-Making program and increases the amount the Council can be reimbursed for QA contract costs. Additionally, he shared a set of proposals to help Councilmembers build community, including virtual guided sessions, a buddy system, informal social spaces, and an in-person retreat. He concluded with administrative updates, including new contracts with DDS, a national funding proposal from President Trump for DD Councils, and a farewell to Deputy Director Tania Morawiec.

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the April 2025 meeting minutes.
- Approved sponsorship requests from the Arc of California (Congreso Familiar) and the University Center Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CEDD) at the MIND Institute at the University of California, Davis.
- Approved conflict resolution plans from Regional Center Board Members Mariana Murillo, Ramon Hooper, and Patrick Ruppe.

Future Meeting Date: August 19, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 6b.

STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSDAC) SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 24, 2025

Meeting's Focus

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) held its first hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting in Los Angeles on June 24, 2025. The meeting began with Co-Chairs reporting on several Self-Determination Program (SDP) related items, including the release of updated Trailer Bill Language, the submission of the SSDAC's written works to DDS, and the SSDAC Workgroup's activities since the February 2025 meeting.

DDS Director Pete Cervinka and DDS staff then provided members with an update on SDP-related activities, including relevant updates on Trailer Bill Language, recent directives, future areas of focus, and updated enrollment and ombuds office data.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on SCDD's SDP-related activities which included SDP Orientation data, an update on proposed cuts to Medicaid funding and SCDD's "Tell Your Story" community letters, and the July 2025 release of SCDD's statewide survey to collect community input on the next 5-year State Plan.

Following lunch, select SSDAC members provided presentations on promising practices or projects at their regional centers to the Committee. The committee then split into groups to discuss how promising practices/projects can be expanded or improved and implemented at other regional centers.

Item's Acted Upon

Approval of the February 2025 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will take place on September 9, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 6C

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

April 1, 2025 & July 8, 2025

Meeting Focus

The Membership Workgroup met on April 1st to review applications for Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) and Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees (SDAC). Workgroup members approved twenty-one new RAC appointments, three local SDAC appointments, and nine RAC reappointments.

The Membership Committee met on July 8th to discuss expiring 1st term seats and review applications to fill expiring 2nd term and vacant Council seats. Members selected six candidates to move forward to the interview phase.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the February 2025 Meeting Minutes.
- The Committee acted to move applicants 917 (North State), 926 (Sacramento), 930 (North State), 944 (Los Angeles), 946 (San Bernardino), and 947 (San Bernardino) forward to the interview phase of the appointment process for Council seats.
- The Committee acted to hold applicants 916, 931, 940, and 063, pending further review.

Future Meeting Dates

TBA



July 22, 2025 Membership Committee Report to the Council

SEC 1. Existing Vacancies

Seat	Date Seat Became Vacant	Months Vacant Asterisk (*) indicates vacancy of more than 4 months
At Large 4	February 2025	*
Central Coast	October 2024	*

SEC 2. Expired Appointments

Seat	Date Appointment Expired Number of Months Expired Asterisk (*) indicates eligible for reappointment	
At Large 1	*	
At Large 7	*	
Bay Area	*	
Non-Governmental		

SEC 3. Upcoming Terms Set to Expire

Seat	Date Appointment Will Expire Asterisk (*) indicates eligible for reappointment
At Large 2	
At Large 5	*
North Coast	
North State	
Sacramento	
San Bernardino	

SEC 4.	Recommendations Solicited			
Has a solicition distributed?	•	e recommendatio	ons for Council appoint	ment been
⊠ Ye	es	□ No		
Agencies So	olicited		Date	_
SCDD Website			Continuous	
	•	Iber Terms Each Members T I No	erm Attached?	

SEC 6. Nominees

Number of candidates forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration: 6 (At Large 1, At Large 4, At Large 7, Bay Area, Central Coast, Non-Governmental)

Number of candidates the Membership Committee moved forward to the interview process: 6 2 (North State), 2 (San Bernardino), 1 (Sacramento), and 1 (Los Angeles).

AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is a project of the Council. Members will hear updates from Councilmember Rosie Ryan on recent activities.

Attachment

June 2025 SSAN Update Report

July 22, 2025 AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATION ITEM



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Summary of June 2025 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

SSAN Meeting Date and Location: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) held virtual meetings on June 4 & 5, 2025, over Zoom.

Summary of Meeting:

Day one began with members providing updates on local self-advocacy efforts and sharing strategies they use to help them manage difficult times. Highlights of member advocacy efforts included: attending rallies to protect Medicaid, meeting with members of the legislature, sharing stories on social media, hosting/ attending self-advocacy groups, and presenting at conferences. Coping strategies members shared included: deep breathing, planning (breaking goals into steps), playing video games, going to the beach, talking with friends and family, going to the gym, and listening to music.

Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director, provided members with updates on proposed federal changes to Medicaid/Medi-Cal. Proposed changes include work requirements, provider taxes, and requiring more eligibility reviews. Members were encouraged to participate in the Agency's "Tell Your Story" Campaign and to motivate others to share their stories.

Albert Feliciano, SCDD Advocate for the Los Angeles Regional Office, provided members with an overview of the Service Delivery Codes Website Project. This is a collaborative effort to create an accessible online resource listing regional center services and their service codes. Members suggested that there should be a way to search for codes based on location and/or regional center. Members expressed interest in beta testing the tool once it is ready.

SSAN Secretary and North Bay Regional Office Member, Ellen Sweigert, gave a presentation on creating a personal platform based on life-changing experiences. There are three parts to creating a personal platform. First, you need to know what you want to tell others about your story and experience. Next, you need to know what helped you during your journey. The last part is to think about how your experience can help others going through something similar.

SSAN San Diego Regional Representative, Viri Salgado, and UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD Representative, Robert Levy, presented on the history of self-advocacy. They traced the modern self-advocacy movement from Sweden in the 1960s, to its growth in North America during the 1970s and 1980s highlighting the rise of People First groups, and the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

July 21, 2025 AGENDA ITEM 7. INFORMATION ITEM



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Summary of June 2025 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

The first day closed with Chris Arroyo, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, presenting the second segment of Systemic Advocacy Leadership Academy (SALA) trainings. This agenda item focused on the importance of critical thinking and problem-solving. The five-step process for making decisions includes: 1) determine your question; 2) collect information to help inform your decision; 3) consider the information you gathered, 4) consider the impact of your decision; and 5) consider/understand other points of view.

Day two began with members sharing things that help them when experiencing stress. Strategies included: going on walks, deep breathing, listening to music, and talking with friends and family.

During the Future of SSAN discussion, members reflected on SSAN accomplishments over the years and their ideas for what SSAN could do looking forward. Some accomplishments included presenting at conferences and schools, sharing information with local advocacy groups, writing articles in newsletters, participating in the development of the Master Plan on Developmental Services, and planning outreach events. Ideas for future work included: hosting local advocacy activities, connecting with youth with disabilities, learning from other self-advocacy groups, hosting more public-facing activities, increasing use of social media, and participating in statewide/regional projects between meetings. Members would like to see SSAN grow by inviting more groups like People First of California, CalTASH, and cross-disability groups to join the network. Members will be receiving a survey link to share more ideas in the coming weeks.

Nicole Patterson, the Department of Department of Developmental Services (DDS) SSAN Representative shared that DDS is looking for 40 self-advocates from across California to be a part of their Lived Experience Advisory Committee (formally known as the consumer advisory committee). An update on the progress of the Master Plan on Developmental Services will be given in September.

Day two closed with Eric Aguilar, SSAN Vice-Chair, and San Bernardino SSAN Representative providing members with tips and resources to help plan and prepare for heat waves. Tips included paying attention to weather forecasts and alerts, staying hydrated, wearing loose/light colored clothes, staying in the shade, and avoiding being outdoors during the hottest parts of the day.

Visit the <u>SSAN Page</u> on the SCDD website for updates on meeting dates and group activity.

Actions Taken

• Approved March 2025 Meeting Minutes

AGENDA ITEM 8. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Update on Medicaid

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide Councilmembers with a federal update on Congressional budget cuts primarily targeting Medicaid.

Handout(s)

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Budget Principles

SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo will present a draft set of principles that will guide staff in their advocacy on budget-related issues. Councilmembers will vote on whether to adopt the guiding principles for future budget-related efforts.

Handout(s)

May be handouts the day of the meeting.

Action Recommended

Consider and approve the Budget Principles.

AGENDA ITEM 10. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Executive Director Report and Staff Reports

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide Councilmembers with an oral report regarding recent Council activities. Additionally, SCDD Staff reports have been included in the packet for informational purposes.

Attachments

Chief Deputy Director Report C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report QA Project Update Report

Handouts

Executive Director Report
Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report

Chief Deputy Director Report – July 2025

Rihana Ahmad

Overview:

The Chief Deputy Director (CDD) continues to oversee operational functions in collaboration with staff, while identifying tools and strategies to strengthen organizational effectiveness. Recent efforts have focused on engaging with staff, leadership, and external partners to support program development, policy implementation, and operational alignment.

Key initiatives include implementation and oversight of the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP), along with collaborative discussions with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on the Quality Assurance (QA) program, Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientations and Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) projects.

Core administrative responsibilities are being prioritized, including executive oversight of the agency's budget development and monitoring processes, contract and procurement oversight, personnel management, interagency coordination, and day-to-day operational support across the organization.

The following sections highlight recent activities and accomplishments from some of the operational and program support units under the Chief Deputy Director's oversight.

Personnel:

- ✓ The State Personnel Board (SPB) Compliance Review Audit began at the end of May 2025. The audit covers a compliance from May 1, 2023 – June 2025. HR has worked diligently on submitting requested items to the SPB, but the review of compliance has not yet been completed.
- ✓ Conducted 26 recruitments in FY 2025 (July 1, 2024 present), with 10 active recruitments currently ongoing
- ✓ CalHR Delegation Monitoring Report Card for SCDD score is 3.94 out of 4.00. Delegation has been renewed for 2025-2028.
- ✓ Hired 15 staff members in FY 2025, with 2 new hires since May
- ✓ New Hires include:
 - Los Angeles Regional Office Manager Dennis "DJ" Tomko
 - QA Project Coordinator Nancy

Budget:

- ✓ Conducted year-end preparation
- ✓ Continued development of 2025–26 Regional Office budgets
- ✓ Met with CDSS facilities regarding lease renewals
- ✓ Provided operational support for new Chief Deputy Director
- ✓ Continued to support Program Managers with operational analyses and inquiries

IT:

- ✓ Participated in DOR's Assistive Technology Advisory Committee to stay informed on emerging assistive technology needs and resources
- ✓ Launched the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) Resource Library in collaboration with the SDM-TAP team and UCLA
- ✓ Currently developing Service Code Descriptions webpages to enhance accessibility and clarity of service information
- ✓ Met with CDSS regarding the rollout of Teams Calling and Soft Phones to improve agency communication systems
- ✓ Oversaw the IT Refresh Cycle, including upgrades to laptops and software licenses, ensuring staff have access to up-to-date technology
- ✓ Partnered with the Public Policy Team on the "Share Your Story" initiative to support digital storytelling efforts
- ✓ Provided ongoing technical support to staff to resolve IT issues and maintain smooth operations

Business Supports:

- ✓ Processed invoices and purchase orders to ensure timely payments and compliance with procurement requirements
- ✓ Processed travel claims and reimbursements for Councilmembers and staff, ensuring accuracy and adherence to state travel policies
- ✓ Met with DGS and CalVet to improve SB/DVBE procurement practices and ensure compliance with state requirements
- ✓ Initiated the drafting and revision of internal process and guidance documents to support knowledge transfer and promote consistent application of best practices

Committee Supports:

✓ On June 24th the SSDAC held its first hybrid (in-person and virtual) meeting, marking the first time members have convened in-person since the pandemic.

- Committee members shared promising practices and reviewed recently amended SDP Trailer Bill Language
- ✓ The SSDAC submitted three (3) written works as deliverables for the 2024-25 contract year, which included two reports of recommendations to DDS and a committee-developed resource for navigating the Self-Determination Program Budget Development process (all have been translated to Spanish and are available on the SSDAC webpage)
- ✓ Membership Committee met on July 8th and reviewed over 25 Councilmember applications for 4 seats terming in August

State Plan:

- ✓ Updated the timeline and created an outreach strategy for the launch of the State Plan Development Survey to inform the 2026–2029 State Plan
- ✓ Conducted research and began drafting the narrative sections for the Portrait of State Services section for the State Plan Development process.
- ✓ Reviewed, edited and approved Activity Reports from regional staff covering the reporting period from October 1, 2024 June 30, 2025
- ✓ Monitored progress on three grant projects: one from Cycle 46 and two from Cycle 47, ensuring alignment with State Plan goals and compliance with grant deliverables

Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP):

- ✓ Ongoing implementation and grant management with the Supported Decisionmaking Technical Assistance Program team and external partners
- ✓ Grantees have held over 475 events statewide in 15 languages (English, Spanish, Tagalog, Traditional Chinese, Mam, Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Cantonese, Korean, Arabic, Vietnamese and ASL)
- ✓ SDM-TAP resource library, developed in partnership with UCLA, went live on the SCDD website in April 2025 and UCLA released a policy briefing that identifies SDM resource needs: Addressing Gaps in Digital Supported Decision-Making (SDM) Resources for the Disability Community in California.
- ✓ SDM-TAP grantees are also gathering success stories to illustrate the meaning of their work and how SDM can promote positive change.
 - Over the past year, a determined Latina parent and immigrant that resides in the Inland Empire—worked with Disability Voices United to help her son regain control over his life. The turning point came when her son was able to present his case.... the heartfelt presentation, convinced the judge to end his conservatorship.
- ✓ An evaluation survey has been released by UC Davis for participant feedback as part of SDM-TAP grantee activities throughout California. The survey will collect data

on outcomes and persons reached through the program to inform a report of the program's accomplishments and identifying future needs and policy recommendations.

Self-Determination Program Orientation Project

- ✓ Between January and April 2025, we held 34 SDP Orientation sessions in six languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Armenian, Hmong, and Farsi. Altogether, these sessions reached 1,689 participants from across the state.
- ✓ In June, we introduced a new AI translation tool during our English sessions, with participants using it in Spanish, Arabic, Chinese, and French—an exciting step forward in making all sessions more accessible to California's diverse language communities.
- ✓ We continue to collaborate closely with DDS on updates to the SDP Orientation curriculum. The revised version will reflect the most recent Trailer Bill Language (TBL) and improve clarity around regional center options, along with other key areas identified across the SDP landscape.
- ✓ Participated in the VMRC Resource Fair and have plans for an upcoming training with WRC, as well as a conference partnership with SGPRC this fall.

State Plan Activities from the Regional Offices and HQ

SCDD staff have been working on statewide and regional activities during this fourth year of the State Plan (Federal Fiscal Year 2025).

Activities conducted so far this year include:

- ✓ Delivering 385 trainings to
 - 1,347 Self-Advocates
 - 4,632 Family Advocates
 - 2,587 Others (including Professionals)
- ✓ Preparing 188 Self-Advocates and 53 Family Advocates to be trainers, meeting facilitators, presenters
- ✓ Organizing or participating in 94 events
- ✓ Providing technical assistance (TA) to 3,813 individuals

State Plan Highlights from the Regional Offices and HQ

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy



- ✓ In anticipation of Disability Pride month, the Council hosted its Joyful Pride statewide Self-Advocacy chat by Zoom.
- ✓ Held a 2-day virtual Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) meeting in June. For a summary of what happened at the meeting is included in the July Council Packet.
- ✓ SSAN's Self-Advocate Virtual Engagement (SAVE) workgroup has been planning another event on July 29th, entitled Still Rising: 35 Years of Rights & Pride. Registration for this upcoming event may be completed online: https://bit.ly/2025-SSAN-Disability-Pride.
- ✓ SCDD has been a proud ongoing sponsor of the annual CHOICES Conference (CHOICES 2025: Our Voices, Our CHOICES), which was held this year at the San Joaquin County Office of Education, with 500 people in attendance, including self-advocates, family members, educators, regional center staff, and others. Futures Explored recorded the event. The sizzle reel from the 2025 event can be found at:



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fPVxXBArzjo

It was the best CHOICES conference ever, I always learn a lot and love seeing my friends! - Self-Advocate from Amador County

My son is getting ready to leave the school system and we didn't know what was next - all the resources we got today (from SCDD during a resource fair) gave me hope that there are options! - Parent Advocate from Stanislaus County

✓ The Council supported six (6) self-advocates in creating and delivering a
presentation (Real Voices, Real Choices: Evolving Together with HCBS) for
providers during the monthly Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Power
Hour. These presenters, who shared examples about how community access and
HCBS services have impacted their lives, were also asked to give future
presentations at both San Diego Regional Center's (SDRC) annual resource fair and
another Power Hour.

Goal 2: Systems Change

- ✓ Through the Council's outreach and work in underserved communities, it was found that the Indigenous community, specifically in Monterey County, may have been undercounted and not have had equal access to SARC (San Andreas Regional Center, RC) services. These Indigenous people may not speak Spanish, often speaking distinctly variant languages, and typically do not identify as either Hispanic or Latino, although they may come from Mexico or other Latin/South American countries.
- ✓ SCDD's Central Coast regional staff initiated a meeting with Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO), SARC, and Special Kids Connect FEC/FRC to establish a coalition and lay groundwork for collaboration with Indigenous communities. This effort helped to inform regional center staff about unique needs within the Mixteco, Triqui, and Zapoteco communities and resulted in some significant outcomes:
 - **1.** SARC and SCDD have been invited to CBDIO's first *Cultivating Indigenous Knowledge* Conference in more than a decade;
 - **2.** SARC has now established a working and contractual relationship with CBDIO; and,
 - 3. SARC has contacted DDS about updating data collection practices to ensure that people can select multiple demographic categories and identify detailed ethnic information, in recognizing Indigenous people through broader categories.
- ✓ In preparation for the Democratic National Convention (DNC), SCDD's Orange County regional staff met with U.S. Congressional member, Luis (Lou) Correa, sharing information on proposed Medicaid cuts and the negative impacts for people with I/DD. SCDD also provided a 1-page factsheet for distribution during the DNC and emailed an introduction between Congressman Correa and the Council's Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers.
- ✓ SCDD collaborated with VMRC (Valley Mountain Regional Center) to plan the first Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Self-Determination resource fair on April 28th, 2025. Council staff provided Self-Determination orientations in English and Spanish, along with resources and service agencies and Fiscal Management Services (FMS) participation. A self-advocate was hired to put together a video collection of personal stories from people

participating in the Self Determination Program (SDP), which may be found at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Dv6KyFb-n67n1GEHJMjLFUaW12B51ip/view.

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- √ Two (2) of the Council's ALAS graduates were recently appointed as members of Local Volunteer Advocacy Committees (LVAC) in Los Angeles-based regional centers.
- ✓ One (1) SALA graduate has been appointed to the Council's Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee (RAC).
- ✓ Three (3) ALAS graduates were recently appointed to SCDD's Orange County Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and/or their Local Volunteer Advocacy Committees (LVAC) in Orange County-based regional centers.
- ✓ One (1) SALA graduate has been appointed as a committee member for the DDS Master Plan project.
- ✓ SCDD's continued engagement and systems change efforts have helped to reinvigorate the Siskiyou County SELPA Community Advisory Committee (CAC), strengthening systems supporting local advocacy and collaboration.
- ✓ In the Orange County region, the Council developed and has partnered in a long-standing systems change and capacity-building relationship with the Dayle McIntosh Center (DMC), engaging in such projects as the Aging and Vision Loss Program, the Orange Co. Collaborative to End Abuse of Individuals with Disabilities, emergency preparedness workshops and conferences, the Disability Rights Workshop on Census and Voting, and numerous resource fairs and outreach events – all highlighting the intersectionality of disabilities and civil rights issues.



- ✓ In collaboration with San Andreas Regional Center (SARC) staff members, including one who is the Peer Relations Advocate, the Council has provided four (4) Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) trainings to law enforcement in two (2) Central Coast counties. Officers shared that they found having a training team member with lived experience was incredibly valuable. SCDD will be reaching out to another self-advocate with ASD to determine his interest in recording a video to become part of future presentations.
- ✓ With the Council's encouragement, a self-advocate and former RAC member has applied and was accepted to serve a 2-year term on the DDS Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG).
- ✓ In response to a report by a job developer, SCDD engaged in systems advocacy by educating an employer about their reportedly discriminatory hiring exclusions of people with disabilities, a clear violation of the Fair Employment and Housing (FEHA) and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Acts. Although the employer blamed the insurance company for this discriminatory exclusion, Council staff provided

- information about protected classes and requested contact information for the insurer. As a result of SCDD's effective systems advocacy, the employer has since corrected the original statement, informing the Council and the job developer that their insurance provider does not prevent the hiring of people with disabilities and that they appreciated the information, resources and education provided, and they would ensure staff fully understands the law and will not discriminate against people with disabilities, moving forward.
- ✓ The Council's extensive work in providing information, resources, and technical assistance to individuals and families preparing for or already engaged in administrative hearings often results in establishing, expanding, and/or changing case law in ways that may benefit others with disabilities and their family members to understand, access, and protect their rights to necessary supports and services. These 'quiet' efforts often go unrecognized or overlooked in the Council's ongoing work on behalf of people with intellectual and/or developmental and other disabilities and their families throughout the state. SCDD would like to recognize and applaud the tremendous effort by these individuals, families and the Council's own hardworking staff to change and enhance systems for people with disabilities in California.

Goal 3: Capacity-Building

- ✓ The Council enlisted the assistance of both Eric Aguilar (subject matter expert, self-advocate, and SBRO RAC member) and a Suisun fire marshal (Jose), who provided a hybrid (online & in-person) emergency preparedness training for more than sixty (60) self-advocates, professionals, and others. This important class provided not only resources and information, but it also gave in-person participants the opportunity to practice hands-on fire suppression techniques and build their skills and confidence.
- ✓ After the closure of Mare Island, a major naval base in the Bay Area, both the city of Vallejo and its school district struggled on the edge of bankruptcy, leaving residents underserved as the local population declined. SCDD collaborated with North Bay Regional Center (NBRC), the Vallejo City Unified School District (VCUSD), a representative from Senator Cabaldon's office, and more than twenty (20) vendors to sponsor and hold the City of Vallejo Resource Fair, which was attended by approximately 130 people.
- ✓ ALAS is a Council statewide Spanish-speaking training program for family advocates to learn together and develop knowledge and skills to positively impact systems that serve individuals with disabilities. ALAS trains family advocates (FA) about why they should get involved in systemic change (the 'rules of the game'), what the 'rules' are for, how society functions (how to 'play the game'), and the tools and strategies to 'change the game.'

- 1. An ALAS graduate recently published a disability-themed book in Spanish, titled Amor para el Dolor (Love for the Pain), which shares a story of resilience and transformation, drawn from personal life experiences, including the journey of supporting a son with a disability. This, in turn, described how pain gave way to strength, healing, and love. Through this book, the author hopes to reach and support other families who are new to the world of disabilities and connect them with valuable resources, including those offered by the Council.
- 2. An ALAS graduate now hosts a weekly, hour-long program on an international, internet radio station (https://www.radiomifortaleza.com/). This program is dedicated to raising disability awareness through personal interviews with mothers of children with special needs, many of whom are also ALAS graduates. The show includes a spiritual component on healing, hope, and encouragement. SCDD staff have participated in interviews and supported the introduction of the ALAS graduate to a station contact, who then provided an opportunity for this mother to launch her own program focused on the unique needs of people with disabilities.
- 3. Two ALAS graduates recently opened up their own LLCs, one of which is providing community integration, independent living skills services, and parent mentorship and coaching (https://raadconsulting.net/). The second is a parent-peer mentorship and support network (https://www.padresmentores.org/).

Thank you to the State Council for the tireless work, throughout these months of ALAS, and for every training you provide to our Latino community, where we face barriers and situations that unfortunately limit our opportunities to access resources and services. Your dedication and commitment through these workshops help us learn how to eliminate these barriers and give us hope by showing us that - sí se puede – yes, it is possible. - An ALAS Parent

- ✓ In the aftermath of the L.A. wildfires, SCDD facilitated the distribution of 9,166 donated items, valued at approximately \$338,000, including sensory kits, incontinence supplies, menstrual products, infant formula, air purifiers, durable medical equipment, \$50 gift cards, and other essential resources.
- ✓ Two (2) family advocates, both of whom received extensive technical assistance (TA) from SCDD, successfully won their appeals against the regional center. As a result, the people that they supported were given access to critical services. In one case, the individual was approved for four (4) different essential services.
- ✓ One family advocate, who received TA from SCDD regarding unmet needs through the Self-Determination Program, successfully won an appeal against the regional center. As a result, the individual's SDP budget was significantly increased to more accurately reflect their substantial and ongoing support needs.

- ✓ SCDD published a new booklet on Inclusive Education, which has already reached over 3,000 individuals and was used to train more than 50 family advocates. With additional training planned, the booklet is expected to reach and support even more families and self-advocates.
- ✓ In a project that has already served 75 families in Orange County, Council staff collaborated with the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center (ELDR) founding attorney, Brooke Weitzman, and his associate, Rebecca France, the Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC) clinical team to establish a 2-year limited conservatorship and alternatives clinic, staffed by ELDR staff, law students, and pro bono attorneys. Due to the success of this model, the Elder Law and Disability Rights Center is also providing free estate planning assistance, including Special Needs Trusts, for families in need.
- ✓ Following earlier collaborative work, SCDD staff delivered Individualized Education Plan (IEP) training for a Tribal community in Siskiyou County at the invitation of the Northern California Indian Development Council. In following weeks, a family advocate shared her success story, highlighting the impact of SCDD's technical assistance. Her personal experience underscored the importance of considering both cultural and neurodivergent perspectives and improving communication with school administrators can support emotional wellbeing and ensure that 'least restrictive' placement options for Tribal youth and teens with disabilities are provided.
- ✓ Near the Oregon border, the Council has forged a relationship with the Tolowa Dee Ni' Nation and, in partnership with DREDF (Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund), Legal Services of Northern California, OCRA (Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy), Northern California Indian Development Council, and a private education advocate, and provided a listening session, as well as training and a technical assistance clinic on special education. Additional work is underway to include the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the Hoopa Valley Tribe, and the Round Valley Indian Tribe in Covelo in ongoing and future Council training, outreach, and advocacy efforts.

SCDD Staff Recognized for their Work

✓ The University of New Hampshire's National Center for START Services® (within its Institute on Disability) has recommended one of the Council's Regional Managers, Sheraden Nicholau, for the START Network Partner (Adult Services) Award, in full recognition of "her exceptional contributions and embodiment of the START mission."

The START program provides crisis prevention and response services through a regional center referral for those who are 6 and older and have intellectual/developmental disabilities and behavioral health needs.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities CRA/VAS Council Report for July 2025 Summary Reporting Period: May and June 2025

CRAVAS Team: Judi Muirhead (VAS at PDC), Maria Arredondo (CRA at PDC), Robbin Puccio (CRA at CS/DS), Julie Hillstead (VAS at CS/DS) and, Holly Bins CRA/VAS Manager

This summary highlights the essential advocacy, transition, and systemic change efforts made by CRA/VAS staff to promote person-centered care, uphold rights, and remove barriers to successful community integration for individuals residing in and transitioning from DDS State Operated Facilities: Porterville Developmental Center (PDC), Canyon Springs Community Facility (CS) and Desert STAR (DS).

Resident Support and Transition Highlights

- Resident Placements to community settings: PDC: 6 individuals, CS: 2 individuals, DS: 3
- Transition Meeting Participation:
 CRA/VAS staff attended and facilitated over 170 combined transition, IPP, and special meetings,
 helping individuals express preferences, navigate psychiatric care, and overcome placement
 barriers.
- Notable Impacts:
 - Advocated for improved feminine hygiene product availability at PDC.
 - Supported hospitalized individuals and ensured continuity of advocacy across facilities.
 - o Facilitated reengagement of individuals with families and public defenders.
 - Advocated for individuals' rights during new visitor screening policy implementation at PDC.
 - Provided targeted support to individuals at risk of homelessness or psychiatric crisis.

Systemic Barriers Identified

- Delays in Community Placement: Staffing shortages, licensing holdups, and lack of qualified providers hindered timely transitions.
- Employment Gaps: Limited job support services; CRA/VAS encouraged use of Dept. of Rehabilitation and Easter Seals resources.
- Communication Challenges: Inconsistent phone access for SLS clients; regional center coordination delays; SSA P&I benefit delays postplacement.
- Community Preparedness: Homes often unprepared for behavioral challenges; insufficient clinical guidance (e.g., BCBA uncertainty, seizure risks due to unmanaged nutrition intake).

Training & Outreach

- Staff completed mandatory DDS security and HIPAA training modules.
- Delivered Rights Training to over 25 facility staff and facilitated People First/Self-Advocacy groups.
- Onboarded and supported volunteer advocates across sites and participated in job fairs to recruit more.
- CRA led advocacy training for San Bernardino Valley College psych tech students.

Census (as of July 1, 2025)

• PDC STA: 172 clients, CS General Population: 30 clients, DS (Desert Star Unit): 5 clients



Quality Assessment Project (QAP) Report July 2025

Cycle: In-Person Survey (IPS)

The targets for each of the twenty-one (21) Regional Centers have been met with 8,627 individuals and/or their proxies surveyed statewide by SCDD QA staff and over 200 independent contractors. The target for all 21 regional centers remained at 400 each, for a statewide goal of 8400 surveys. The IPS cycle was open for approximately 7 months, starting December 2024 and ending June 30, 2025. See Figure 1 for Regional Center breakdown of completed surveys.

Surveys continued to be conducted with individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) and/or proxies who have been identified as knowing the individual well. Proxies can include family members, friends, and service providers. Those eligible to participate in the survey are adults who receive at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management. Participation in these surveys remains voluntary.

Surveys were conducted in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Hmong, Russian and various other languages. Throughout this cycle, SCDD offered the choice to have the surveys completed by video conference or face to face at the location preferred by the respondent. Statewide, 57% of respondents preferred to have surveys completed by video conference, while 43% chose the option of face to face.

Progress by Race/Ethnicity:

For the 2024-2025 cycle, DDS chose to enhance data collection with a focus on obtaining a sample from each regional center that has proportionate representation from five ethnicity groups (i.e., African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic, White, and Other). To ensure balanced representation of individuals who are receiving services from all 21 regional centers is obtained, the regional center sample of 400 was divided among the five ethnicity categories based on the percentage of the regional center population that is identified as a member of that group. See Figures 2, 3, 4, and 5 for regional center progress by Race/Ethnicity.

Figure 1: IPS Completed by Regional Center

Regional Center Progress as of 07/01/2025

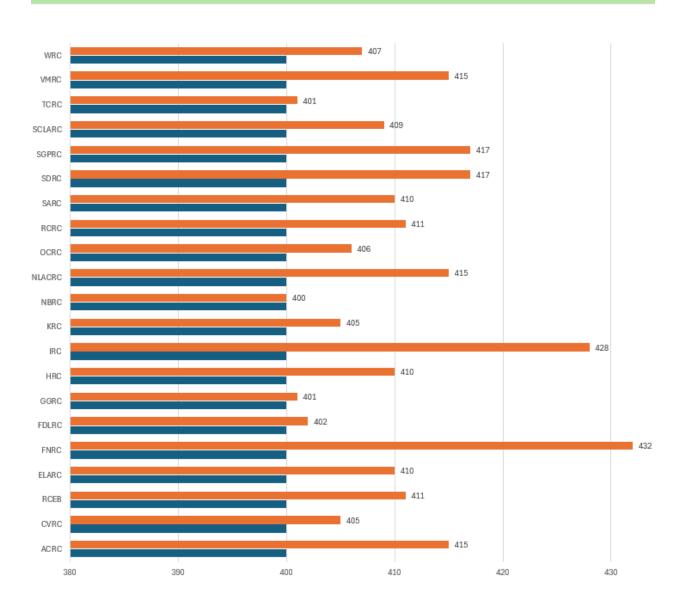


Figure 2: IPS Completed by Race Ethnicity as of 07/01/2025

	Goal	Complete	% Goal
Alta California	400	415	
Asian	36	37	103%
Black	52	58	112%
Hispanic	64	64	100%
Other	31	33	106%
White	217	223	103%
Central Valley	400	405	
Asian	25	25	100%
Black	29	29	100%
Hispanic	205	206	100%
Other	13	15	115%
White	128	130	102%
East Bay	400	411	
Asian	69	70	101%
Black	88	88	100%
Hispanic	70	70	100%
Other	22	22	100%
White	151	161	107%
Eastern LA	400	410	
Asian	52	53	102%
Black	7	8	114%
Hispanic	281	288	102%
Other	10	10	100%
White	50	51	102%
Far Northern	400	432	
Asian	8	8	100%
Black	11	14	127%
Hispanic	42	44	105%
Other	19	20	105%
White	320	346	108%

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Figure 3: IPS Completed by Race/Ethnicity as of 07/01/2025 (Continued)

Frank D. Lanterman	400	402	
Asian	58	60	103%
Black	37	37	100%
Hispanic	158	158	100%
Other	8	8	100%
White	139	139	100%
Golden Gate	400	401	
Asian	109	109	100%
Black	39	39	100%
Hispanic	75	76	101%
Other	23	23	100%
White	154	154	100%
Harbor	400	410	
Asian	54	54	100%
Black	52	53	102%
Hispanic	152	157	103%
Other	34	36	106%
White	108	110	102%
Inland	400	428	
Asian	17	20	118%
Black	53	53	100%
Hispanic	183	194	106%
Other	21	26	124%
White	126	135	107%
Kern	400	405	
Asian	12	12	100%
Black	39	41	105%
Hispanic	182	184	101%
Other	18	18	100%
White	149	150	101%
North Bay	400	400	
Asian	25	25	100%
Black	46	46	100%
Hispanic	76	76	100%
Other	29	29	100%
White	224	224	100%

Continued on next page

Figure 4: IPS Completed by Race/Ethnicity as of 07/01/2025 (Continued)

North LA County	400	415	
Asian	25	27	108%
Black	43	45	105%
Hispanic	172	174	101%
Other	9	10	111%
White	151	159	105%
Orange County	400	406	
Asian	63	64	102%
Black	10	13	130%
Hispanic	115	115	100%
Other	39	39	100%
White	173	175	101%
Redwood Coast	400	411	
Asian	6	6	100%
Black	11	12	109%
Hispanic	42	46	110%
Other	27	31	115%
White	314	316	101%
San Andreas	400	410	
Asian	86	86	100%
Black	12	12	100%
Hispanic	138	138	100%
Other	24	24	100%
White	140	150	107%
San Diego	400	417	
Asian	31	36	116%
Black	30	32	107%
Hispanic	158	160	101%
Other	24	28	117%
White	157	161	103%
San Gabriel/Pomona	400	417	
		53	104%
Asian	51		
Asian Black	29	33	114%
			114% 102%
Black	29	33	

Continued on next page

Figure 5: IPS Completed by Race/Ethnicity as of 07/01/2025 (Continued)

South Central LA	400	409	
Asian	5	7	140%
Black	123	123	100%
Hispanic	247	251	102%
Other	9	11	122%
White	16	17	106%
Tri-Counties	400	401	
Asian	16	16	100%
Black	11	11	100%
Hispanic	151	151	100%
Other	15	15	100%
White	207	208	100%
Valley Mountain	400	415	
Asian	34	40	118%
Black	38	39	103%
Hispanic	133	138	104%
Other	20	21	105%
White	175	177	101%
Westside	400	407	
Asian	20	20	100%
Black	110	113	103%
Hispanic	132	134	102%
Other	31	31	100%
White	107	109	102%
	Goal	Complete	% Goal
Report Totals	8400	8627	103%
Asian	802	828	103%
Black	870	899	103%
Hispanic	2985	3038	102%
Other	446	471	106%
White	3297	3391	103%

AGENDA ITEM 11. INFORMATION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The Council's next meeting will be held in person on September 23, 2025, in Sacramento.