



# NOTICE/AGENDA

## STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code section [11123.2](#). Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

### MEETING DETAILS:

**TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:**

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

**JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:**

**CALL IN NUMBER:** (888)-475-4499 or  
(877) 853-5257  
**MEETING ID:** 869 4944 6717

**JOIN BY ZOOM:**

<https://bit.ly/SCDDSeptCouncil2025>

**MEETING ID:** 869 4944 6717

**PASSCODE:** 082389

**DATE:** September 30, 2025

**MEETING TIME:** 10:30 AM – 4:00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAIR:**

Julie Gaona

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**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Item 3. SWEARING IN NEW COUNCILMEMBER** Page 4

**Item 4. CHAIR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS** Page 5

*Julie Gaona, Council Chair*

- A. Chief Deputy Director Report
- B. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
- C. Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
- D. C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report
- E. QA Project Update Report
- F. Executive Committee Summary
- G. Legislative and Public Policy (LPPC) Summary
- H. State Plan Committee (SPC) Summary
- I. Statewide Self-Determination Committee (SSDAC) Summary
- J. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Summary

**Item 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS** Page 29

*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.*

**Item 6. APPROVAL OF JULY 2025 MINUTES ** Page 30

*All*

**Item 7. HONORING COUNCILMEMBER ERIC YBARRA** Page 39

*Julie Gaona, Council Chair*

**Item 8. RECOGNIZING OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS** Page 40

**Item 9. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK REPORT** Page 41

*SCDD SSAN Representative Rosie Ryan*

**Item 10. 2026 LEGISLATIVE BILL IDEAS ** Page 44

*Harold Fujita, Chair of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) and Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs*

**Item 11. CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL**

Page 45

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.*

**Item 12. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION**

Page 46

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.*

**Item 13. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

Page 47

*The next Council meeting will be held on Zoom on November 18, 2025.*

**Accessibility:**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Yaritza Sanchez at (916)-207-2856 or [yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov). Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

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

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 3.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Swearing in New Councilmember***

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Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will swear in a new Councilmember.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 4.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Chair Report and Staff Reports***

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

SCDD staff reports and committee summaries have been provided for informational purposes.

***Attachments***

- Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
- Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
- C.R.A./V.A.S. Update Report
- QA Project Update Report
- Executive Committee Summary
- Legislative and Public Policy (LPPC) Summary
- State Plan Committee (SPC) Summary
- Statewide Self-Determination Committee (SSDAC) Summary

***Handouts***

- Chief Deputy Director Report
- Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Summary



# SEPTEMBER 2025 REPORT FROM CHRISTOFER ARROYO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

## Policy Update

### 2025 Legislation

Continued to track Council's package of prioritized legislation. Please see attached Table of Bills for details.

### 2025 There Should Be A Law Contest

Ideas were requested through eblasts, social media, and other outreach, resulting in 151 submitted ideas. See handout, "2025 There Should Be A Law Contest Report".

### Medicaid Trainings

Staff provided trainings as part of a campaign to inform people about HR 1, the impact on Medicaid-funded services, new requirements, and other parts of the bill. These trainings met a profound community need as demonstrated by more than 2500 attendees in the first three presentations provided. Building on the interest and need for this information, staff plan to provide systemic advocacy trainings to equip people with the information and tools they need to advocate for themselves, their positions, and their concerns regarding impacts to their Medicaid-funded services.

### Medicaid Watch

SCDD launched [Medicaid Watch](#) to collect information and provide individuals an opportunity to share their thoughts and feelings concerning their Medicaid-funded services. It was established because SCDD received reports alleging agencies were taking action to reduce or alter services due to concerns about future changes to Medicaid funding, though reductions have not yet happened. While Medicaid Watch won't fix individuals problems, it will assist staff to identify systemic problems rapidly and early, connect people facing similar challenges, and inform reports, testimony, and more.

## Authorized Representation

SCDD may appoint an [authorized representative](#) if an individual with an IDD requests it or if SCDD determines that one's rights would not be protected or advocated without one. An authorized representative may be appointed for free for a variety of reasons, including health challenges, family separation, and other situations that may result in someone no longer being able to access advocacy assistance. Because it has been underutilized since the pandemic and community concerns regarding family separation, staff have promoted this option. Staff [created a portal](#) where people can request an authorized representative to be appointed immediately or contingently in the case of family separation or other circumstances. Within a few weeks of its creation, 25 applications were received and more are expected as further outreach is conducted.

## Leadership Participants Graduated

In collaboration with the SCDD Los Angeles and San Bernardino Regional Offices, staff implemented SCDD's statewide leadership program for Spanish-speaking participants, Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacia Sistemica (ALAS, the Leadership and Systemic Advocacy Academy). Training was provided weekly for four months and focused on developing leaders and the advocacy opportunities that exist within civic processes to disrupt systems to improve them. Forty-four individuals graduated from this third cohort, eighteen of them with distinction and excellence!

## Coalition Meetings

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. Staff assist coalitions in various ways including but not limited to providing feedback and information, connecting them to individuals and resources, and bringing information from the coalitions to others. Notably, SCDD also participates in DDS' Deaf Steering Committee.

## Chronic Absenteeism

SCDD staff participated in a statewide workgroup analyzing policies and practices to increase attendance and consequently reduce chronic absenteeism. Staff provided feedback. CDE then created the [California Attendance Guide](#), which gives schools best practices, focusing on a problem-solving approach in partnership with families, rather than a punitive one. Staff will continue to seek solutions to ensure that students with

disabilities who are chronically absent have similar experiences with local educational agencies (LEAs).

## Communications Update

Generally speaking, outreach reaches 15,000 - 23,000 unique email addresses and frequently includes distribution through social media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and occasionally other platforms).

### Monthly News & Events Email Blasts

Each month, SCDD highlights timely events, awareness campaigns, and Council activities in its statewide email newsletter.

- September: Focused on National Preparedness Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, and California Native American Day, and included information sessions and a Road Show for State Plan Development.
- August: Highlighted National Back to School Month and National Immunization Awareness Month, as well as reminders about Special Education Advocacy Clinics, ongoing Medicaid trainings, and SCDD meetings.
- July: Featured commemorations such as Disability Pride and ADA Day, and promoted the SSAN event *Still Rising: 35 Years of Disability Rights & Pride*.

### Campaigns and Calls to Action (English/Spanish)

Campaigns and alerts provided opportunities for the community to take action, participate in trainings, and stay informed on urgent issues.

- Promoted Emergency Preparedness Month, including training sessions and resources on sensory needs in shelters.
- Issued a dual-language statement on a federal executive order, [“Ending Crime and Disorder on America’s Streets”](#), threatening the rights of people with disabilities by encouraging policies that expand involuntary treatment and restrict housing-first and harm-reduction policies, which save lives.
- Organized and promoted Medicaid 60th Anniversary trainings, including *New Laws and What You Can Do*, *Engaging with Lawmakers*, and general Medicaid education.

- Shared a Caregiver Rules call-to-action indicating an opportunity to provide public comments on proposed federal changes affecting caregiver pay and overtime.
- Disseminated county-specific extreme heat resources and cooling center information.
- Launched the Medicaid Watch campaign to mark Medicaid’s 60th anniversary, identify systemic problems rapidly and early, and gather stories from the community.

### Promotion of Council Initiatives

Council priorities and initiatives were promoted through targeted campaigns, resources, and creative design.

- Launched the 5th Annual *There Should Be a Law Contest* (English/Spanish).
- Released the 4th Annual *Back-to-School Resources Guide* for 2025–2026 (English/Spanish).
- Advanced State Plan Development through flyers, signature lines, and the Real Input/Real Impact campaign, supported by information sessions and a Road Show.
- Shared information on the Authorized Representative Program with an accompanying one-page guide.
- Promoted English/Spanish trainings on How to Engage with Decision Makers, with Spanish interpretation provided.
- Designed creative materials for the Framework for Inclusive Budget Development (SCDD Budget Principles).

### Recruitment and Partner Support

Communications supported staff recruitment efforts and provided design and messaging assistance to Council partners.

- Developed and promoted staff recruitment materials for open positions, including North Valley Hills Regional Office Technician, Sequoia Regional Manager, and Bay Area Regional Manager.
- Provided creative design and messaging support to regional offices, Council HQ, committees, and partners for webinars, trainings, and live in-person events.



## **Deputy Director, Regional Office Operations (DDR00) Report, September 2025**

Sheraden Nicholau

### **Overview:**

The Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations is the lead position fulfilling the department's federal and state mission for systems change and capacity building. This position leads the 12 regional teams to carry out the work of the State Plan, including systemic identification and removal of barriers that keep people with IDD from living integrated lives in the community.

Additionally, this position:

- Represents SCDD externally to build partnerships and advance the work of the SCDD.
- Leverages change management to maximize SCDD's impact.
- Provides leadership and oversight of the programmatic, administrative, and strategic work of the SCDD regional teams.
- Supervises SCDD Regional Managers.

Sheraden Nicholau is the State Council's Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations as of July 31, 2025.

### **Recent Regional Office Team Highlights:**

- ✓ Yolanda Cruz, formerly the Regional Manager for the Sequoia Office, is now the Regional Manager of the San Diego / Imperial Office. She started in this role September 1, 2025.
- ✓ SCDD is recruiting for a Regional Manager position to cover the Sequoia Regional Office and for a Regional Manager position to cover the Bay



Area Regional Office.

- ✓ Data collection for the State Council's next 5-year State Plan is underway, across the state. Data collection is happening through the online survey portal, in meetings, at conferences, in community partner spaces, and in town halls.

#### **Recent External Partnership Highlights:**

- ✓ SCDD DDROO was a featured presenter at the San Mateo County Commission on Disabilities, the Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area's Conference: Empowering Every Stage, and at UCLA's Pediatrics Grand Rounds.

#### **Recent Administrative Highlights:**

- ✓ SCDD DDROO, in partnership with the SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, is updating in-house process flow for Authorized Representative request processing.
- ✓ SCDD DDROO, in partnership with SCDD Regional Managers, is developing a priorities list for updated in-house procedures and best-practices, for effective and efficient regional office operations.
- ✓ SCDD DDROO, in partnership with SCDD Human Resources, is providing personnel and performance expectations support to teams, and is preparing for this fall's performance appraisal summary process.

#### **State Plan Activities Year-to-Date from the Regional Offices & HQ Team Members:**

SCDD staff continue to lead and contribute to a variety of statewide and regional activities, this fourth year of the State Plan (Federal Fiscal Year 2025).



Activities conducted so far this year include:

- ✓ 192 Self-Advocacy activities (Goal 1)
- ✓ 943 Systems Change activities (Goal 2)
- ✓ 558 Capacity-Building activities (Goal 3)
- ✓ Delivering 696 trainings, 2,258 meetings, chats, and clinics, and 276 prep sessions to:
  - 3,216 Self-Advocates
  - 5,578 Family Advocates
  - 13,286 Others (including Professionals)
- ✓ Preparing 401 Self-Advocates and 74 Family Advocates to be trainers, meeting facilitators, presenters.
- ✓ Organizing or participating in 254 events.
- ✓ Providing technical assistance (TA) to 3,028 individuals.

### **A Few Recent State Plan Activities Highlights:**

#### **Goal 1: Self-Advocacy**

- ✓ Self-Advocacy Council 6 (SAC6) hosted their Area Meeting of Self Advocates at Turner Park in San Andreas- Calaveras County. This was facilitated by Crystal Enyeart, of SAC6 and of Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN). The SCDD North Valley Hills Regional Office supported this work. Over 150 self-advocates attended from five counties. Presentations featured: Disaster Preparedness & Transportation barriers. SCDD, Valley Mountain Regional Center, SAC6, DRAIL & CHOICES had resource tables.



## Goal 2: Systems Change

- ✓ The SCDD Sacramento Regional Office serves on the Medi-Cal Dental Advisory Oral Health Equity Ad Hoc Workgroup. The workgroup focuses on building a more inclusive oral health system by equipping Community Health Workers (CHWs) to serve as trusted connectors, ensuring equity and access for people with disabilities and other underserved communities. SCDD staff serves as a subject matter expert on IDD and special healthcare needs communities, and as an advisor for the development of a new online, accessible, multi-module training program. These modules feature embedded disability-informed and culturally responsible practices. Four of the six training modules have been drafted, to-date.
- ✓ At a recent Cupertino City Council meeting, the SCDD Central Coast Regional Office, in addition to others from the IDD community, provided public testimony in support of the development of an affordable and disability-inclusive housing project. Outcome: The project was approved to proceed. This housing project aims to provide 40-units of housing, including 19 units set-aside for residents with IDD, and 20 units for extremely low-income residents.
- ✓ The SCDD North Bay Regional Office successfully launched a 3-county Transition Age Youth (TAY) Consortium, serving Solano, Napa, and Sonoma counties. Word-of-mouth has resulted in seven new stakeholders joining since the recent launch. Goal: Equip transition age youth, families, and agencies with the tools and resources needed to ensure smoother transitions and prevent youth from 'slipping through the cracks'.
- ✓ The Orange County Health Care Task Force is a SCDD Orange County Regional Office established collaborative over the past 30 years, and is made up of executive level administrators of the various stakeholders in the county, including Regional Center of Orange County, Community Legal Aid SoCal, CalOptima, Disability Rights California/Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy, Council on Aging, Help Me Grow, and Family Support Network. The taskforce addresses trending systemic health-related issues affecting



those with IDD and their families. The taskforce's role is as a safe, interagency forum to address barriers, strengthen referrals, and collectively influence policy. Success over time has included influencing state policy, e.g., revisions to Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) appeals forms, and facilitating coordination during system shifts, such as the transfer of ABA coverage from regional centers to insurance.

- ✓ The SCDD Sequoia Regional Office advances disability-informed crisis response education of law enforcement and first responders through Crisis Intervention Training (CIT), CA Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) Learning Domain 37 Training, and Crisis Response and Intervention Training (CRIT). Recent results include: 265 officers and cadets were provided training across Bakersfield Police Department, Kern County Sheriff's Department, and College of the Sequoias. Additionally, SCDD developed CIT California Connects has been meeting quarterly, to strengthen statewide collaboration, exchange of promising practices, and to build alignment, including people with ID/DD in 40-hour trainings.
- ✓ The Far North Neurodiversity & Disability Business Advisory project was recently initiated by a group of leaders from the SCDD North State Regional Office, Butte College, Shasta College, Chico State, NoRTEC (Northern Rural Training & Employment Consortium), and DOR, inspired by the UC Davis Business Advisory Council. This project aims to build a coordinated and inclusive workforce ecosystem that expands access to meaningful, competitive employment for neurodivergent and disabled individuals. The project does this by equipping employers with tools, resources, and a strong support network, while fostering cross-sector collaboration and promoting sustainable employment pathways. Although this project is geared towards the North State, the desire is to cross over into the North Coast region, in time.
- ✓ The SCDD San Bernardino Regional Office convenes and facilitates the Inland Empire Neurodiverse Employment Business Roundtable. The roundtable has established a core group of 12 businesses from the manufacturing and technology sectors.



Meetings feature presentations from companies that are implementing workforce development models focused on organizational wellness and disability inclusion. Companies involved share testimonials, highlighting increased productivity because of their initiatives. Key partners include the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR), Workforce Development Board, the regional center, and employment vendors, with businesses remaining at the center of the effort. In-person meetings average 50–60 participants and rotate between host businesses.

### Goal 3: Capacity-Building

- ✓ As the new school year begins, the SCDD Los Angeles Regional Office and the SCDD North Bay Regional Office are facilitating new statewide weekly clinics, creating a welcoming space to ask questions about special education and learn effective strategies to navigate the system. Questions & Answers on Special Education (in English and Spanish) topics include special education eligibility, strategies for an effective IEP meeting, understanding evaluations, Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), writing SMART IEP goals, inclusion, documentation, and due process and complaints.
- ✓ SCDD participated in the Stanislaus Modesto National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Outreach event. There were several hundred attendees. The SCDD North Valley Hills has been making strides connecting with NAACP in Stanislaus County, by participating in their events and connecting engaged community members to disability services, support, training, and resources.
- ✓ The SCDD North Coast Regional Office participated in five recent events with local indigenous communities/organizations, including Hoopa, Hopland Band of Pomo Indians, Robinson Rancheria, Tribal Housing Council, and Covelo. This aim is to continue building trust and partnership through presence, to educate SCDD staff on



history and cultures of Native communities, and to explore, with these communities, effective ways of supporting/including children and adults with disabilities. SCDD team members are providing these communities with information and strategies for leveraging existing systems of disability support, and for challenging existing systems so they are better positioned to support disabled Native people.

- ✓ The SCDD Central Coast Regional Office held a Special Education Advocacy session for a Spanish-speaking parent support group. Session participants trained included 20 Self-Advocates, 54 Family Advocates and 83 professionals. The parent group leader provided feedback. *“Sra. Jennifer, A usted, muchas gracias!!! Siempre le estaré agradecida por todo su apoyo. De verdad muchísimas gracias!!! Excelente presentación, fue de mucha ayuda. Le deseamos un excelente día, reciba un fuerte abrazo Bendiciones!!! (in English: Ms. Jennifer, Thank you so much!!! I will always be grateful for all your support. Thank you so much!!! Excellent presentation, it was very helpful. We wish you a wonderful day, warm regards. Blessings!!!”.*

Census on September 1, 2025: Canyon Springs (CS): 34 individuals, Desert Star (DS): Facility closed July 15, 2025, Porterville Developmental Center (PDC): 157 individuals

Positive Impacts Reported

- **Family Connection:** Advocates helped individuals write letters/drawings to families, improving emotional ties.
- **Emotional Support:** VAS staff attended a funeral virtually with an individual, offering comfort.
- **Advocacy in Action:** Advocates pressed for needed medical devices (e.g., leg brace) and facilitated training access.
- **Transition Prep:** Individuals encouraged to ask about community jobs and supported during placement.
- **Crisis Support:** Advocates maintained contact during psychiatric hospitalizations and homelessness situations, ensuring continuity of care.
- **Restoration of Rights:** At PDC, CRA negotiated a plan for reinstating denied rights with clear behavioral goals.

Systemic Issues Identified

- **Placement Delays:** Staffing shortages and CDSS licensing approval backlogs caused year-long delays for some transitions.
- **Financial Barriers:** Months-long waits for Social Security disbursements due to administrative delays.
- **Healthcare Coordination Gaps:** Hospitals/psychiatric facilities sometimes discharged individuals without staff/family notice.
- **Visitation Restrictions:** PDC implemented new visitor approval processes, raising concerns about delays and family access.
- **Aging Needs:** Difficulty finding appropriate community services for older individuals.
- **Employment Supports:** Limited vocational opportunities and lack of consistent service provider connections.
- **Communication Challenges:** Internet/phone systems in homes create unreliable contact with individuals.
- **Advocacy Group Disruption at PDC:** “People First” meetings halted since April 2025; relaunching as “Clients Self Advocacy Group” in September 2025.

Activity Highlights

- **Transition Meetings:** 43 (CS), 5 (DS), 52 (PDC)
- **Court Attendance:** 8 (CS)
- **HRC/Behavior Meetings:** 16 (PDC)
- **Training & Staff Development:** All sites completed SCDD/CDSS trainings, including Ableism, Security Awareness; Client Rights trainings provided at both facilities

Why CRA and VAS Advocacy Matters

Protects rights and dignity	Strengthens families
Exposes system gaps	Promotes accountability
Empowers self-advocacy	Plans for aging needs



# Quality Assessment Project (QAP) Report

## September 2025

### **Upcoming Cycle: Family Surveys**

DDS will continue to stratify data collection with a focus on obtaining a targeted sample of 400 surveys from each RC that has proportionate representation from five ethnoracial groups (i.e., African American/Black, Asian, Hispanic, White, and Other). The tables in the following pages are from the UC Davis Population Plan identifying the target sample for each ethnoracial group. See Table 1 for AFS, Table 2 for CFS, and Table 3 for FGS.

For this FY 25-26 cycle, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has elected to sample all eligible families per regional center, per family survey as opposed to a sampling of eligible families for the CFS and AFS. Challenges with collecting updated contact information for family members in previous cycles resulted in extremely low response rates for the FGS for certain regional centers, so this survey has a statewide goal this cycle.

DDS has also elected to examine responses for family members of clients who entered the Self Determination Program (SDP) based on the following criteria: 1) For clients who exited as of 5/7/25: client was enrolled in SDP for at least 6 months or more and 2) For current clients as of 5/7/25: client entered SDP at least six months before the FY25-26 survey cycle launch.

Surveys are offered in a total of 19 languages: Arabic, Armenian (Eastern), Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), English, Farsi, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, Lao, Mien, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese. Survey mailing is anticipated to start around November 2025.

### **Eligibility for Family Surveys**

Family Surveys collect demographic information on both the individual receiving services ('family member') as well as the person who fills out the survey (the 'respondent') and information on services and supports received.

Child Family Survey (CFS): Mailed to families who have a child family member (ages 17 and under) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Adult Family Surveys (AFS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages

18+) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Family Guardian Survey (FGS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives in the community (outside the family home) and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

*Table 1: AFS Target Number of Surveys Returned for Each Regional Center by Ethno-racial Category and Overall*

<b>Regional Center</b>	<b>Asian Sample</b>	<b>Black Sample</b>	<b>Hispanic Sample</b>	<b>White Sample</b>	<b>Other Sample</b>	<b>Total RC Sample</b>
ACRC	46	46	83	187	38	400
CVRC	31	20	250	84	15	400
ELARC	56	4	299	31	10	400
FDLRC	57	27	201	108	7	400
FNRC	14	10	67	290	19	400
GGRC	147	26	107	94	26	400
HRC	60	40	186	76	38	400
IRC	20	47	219	89	25	400
KRC	13	31	231	106	19	400
NBRC	35	44	118	161	42	400
NLACRC	30	42	201	116	11	400
RCEB	94	73	103	104	26	400
RCOC	81	9	147	118	45	400
RCRC	10	12	76	274	28	400
SARC	109	9	165	89	28	400
SCLARC	4	81	302	5	8	400
SDRC	38	25	189	116	32	400
SGPRC	63	18	249	50	20	400
TCRC	20	7	187	167	19	400
VMRC	42	33	174	124	27	400
WRC	20	105	156	82	37	400
Total Statewide Sample	990	709	3710	2471	520	8,400

*Table 2: CFS Target Number of Surveys Returned for Each Regional Center by Ethno-racial Category and Overall*

<b>Regional Center</b>	<b>Asian Sample</b>	<b>Black Sample</b>	<b>Hispanic Sample</b>	<b>White Sample</b>	<b>Other Sample</b>	<b>Total RC Sample</b>
ACRC	57	45	89	128	81	400
CVRC	24	15	264	54	43	400
ELARC	54	5	287	24	30	400
FDLRC	48	30	207	105	10	400
FNRC	11	8	81	255	45	400
GGRC	118	21	144	72	45	400
HRC	49	40	198	42	71	400
IRC	19	28	173	53	127	400
KRC	15	28	265	66	26	400
NBRC	30	29	159	100	82	400
NLACRC	28	39	226	91	16	400
RCEB	98	50	135	62	55	400
RCOC	91	9	142	75	83	400
RCRC	6	10	109	219	56	400
SARC	104	5	192	49	50	400
SCLARC	2	55	323	3	17	400
SDRC	36	16	185	75	88	400
SGPRC	71	14	273	26	16	400
TCRC	10	3	224	127	36	400
VMRC	46	31	199	70	54	400
WRC	19	96	172	70	43	400
Total Statewide Sample	936	577	4047	1766	1074	8,400

*Table 3: FGS Target Number of Surveys Returned for Each Regional Center by Ethno-racial Category and Overall*

<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>	<b>Sample Target</b>
Asian	93
Black	103
Hispanic	223
White	747
Other	58
Total Statewide Sample	1224

## About National Core Indicators

National Core Indicators {NCI} strives to provide states with valid and reliable tools to help improve system performance and better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Through a contract with Department of Developmental Services {DDS}, State Council on Developmental Disabilities {SCDD}, using the NCI Survey tools, collects quantitative data on consumer satisfaction, provision of services, and personal outcomes. Data collection is completed through face-to-face interviews with consumers as well as mail-in surveys from families.

This data collection effort will enable DDS to evaluate the quality and performance of California's developmental disability service delivery system and among all 21 regional centers over time.

For RC results of past surveys go to:

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/reports/>

For more information about the NCI go to:

<https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>

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Scan QR code below to go to QA Project Webpage

[scdd.ca.gov/qap](https://scdd.ca.gov/qap)



## QAC Regional Center Assignments

*QAC: Sarah Wirrig*  
*Support Staff: Vacant*

**Far Northern**  
**Redwood Coast**  
**North Bay**

*QAC: Ron Usac*  
*Support Staff: Valerie Buell*

**East Bay**  
**San Andreas**

*QAC: George Lewis*  
*Support Staff: Vacant*

**Alta California**  
**Central Valley**  
**Valley Mountain**

*QACs: Lia Cervantes-Lerma ■ Vacant ■*  
*Jenny Villanueva*

*Support Staff: Vacant and*  
*Marina Bchtikian*

**East Los Angeles** **Frank D. Lanterman**  
**Harbor**

**North Los Angeles**  
**San Gabriel Pomona**  
**South Central Los Angeles**  
**Westside**

*QAC: Nancy Carlson-Zapata*  
*Priscilla Huang, SSA*  
*Support Staff: Vacant*

**Golden Gate**  
**Orange County**  
**San Diego**

*QAC: Vacant*  
*Support Staff: Jose Valle*

**Inland**  
**Kern**  
**Tri-Counties**

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**AGENDA ITEM 4F.****EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

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***Date of Meeting***

August 19, 2025

***Meeting's Focus***

The Executive Committee met on August 19, 2025. The meeting included a staff spotlight recognizing Legal Counsel Michael Santiago, a program spotlight on the Quality Assessment (QA) Project, two sponsorship requests, nine conflict-of-interest waiver requests, an SCDD budget update, the Executive Director's report, and a closed session to discuss the Executive Director's annual evaluation.

Executive Director Carruthers announced the launch of the State Plan survey under the message "Real Input. Real Impact." with in-person and virtual town halls scheduled over the next two months. He described the Back-to-School toolkit and the addition of technical assistance sessions with targeted outreach to Spanish-speaking families. He highlighted authorized representation as a supported decision-making tool that can help families at risk of family separation or whose rights may otherwise be left unprotected. He also provided an update on Medicaid following recent federal action, ongoing systems change and advocacy trainings, the status of expiring Councilmember terms, and the appointment of Councilmember Bob Twomey. He concluded with staffing updates, noting the departure of SCDD's Travel Coordinator, Ibrahim Muttaqi, and introducing Sheraden Nicolau as Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations, Kevin Rowell as budget officer, and the transition of Yolanda Cruz as the San Diego Regional Manager.

***Items Acted Upon***

- Approved the June 2025 meeting minutes.
- Approved sponsorship requests from the Stanford Down Syndrome Research Center and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CEDD) at the MIND Institute at the University of California, Davis.
- Approved conflict resolution plans for Executive Director Mark Klaus and Regional Center Board Members Shawna Hall, Gordon Cardona,

Ramon Gonzalez, William Lewis, Mike Sawyer, Diane Larson, Valerie De La Rosa, and Mark Wolfe.

***Future Meeting Date***

August 19, 2025

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**AGENDA ITEM 4G.****LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

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***Date of Meeting***

August 26, 2025

***Meeting's Focus***

The Legislative and Public Policy Committee met on August 26, 2025 to receive state legislative and budget updates, to review the status of Council supported legislation and submissions from the annual *There Should Be a Law* contest, and to discuss the Council's annual policy theme.

Members received updates on the bills that the Council supported this year, as well as a summary of the final enacted state budget, which aims to solve the projected 11.8 billion budget shortfall. Members discussed the impact of reduced Medi-Cal access.

Members discussed the proposed policy theme "Better, Stronger, Together" and reviewed submission for the There Should Be a Law Contest, including proposals for plain language requirements for government agencies, chronic absenteeism, in-home respite flexibility, and access to education attorneys. Members reached a consensus to forward the bill ideas to the Council.

Members also received updates on the passage of federal House Resolution (HR) 1, and a proposed standardized tool for respite services.

***Items Acted Upon***

- The Committee approved the March 2025 Meeting Minutes

***Future Meeting Dates***

October 28, 2025.

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**AGENDA ITEM 4H.****STATE PLAN COMMITTEE SUMMARY**

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***Date of Meeting***

August 26, 2025

***Meeting's Focus***

The State Plan Committee (SPC) met on August 26, 2025, to review progress on the current State Plan, and to continue with development of the 2027–2031 State Plan. The Council has met or exceeded all targeted numbers in its Self-Advocacy and Systems Change Goals and is making satisfactory progress toward meeting Goal Three (Capacity Building and Advocacy) targets. Members also reviewed updates to the Objective level language in the 2022-26 State Plan.

Members reviewed the timeline for 2027-2031 State Plan Development, along with draft language for new Goals. The Statewide Survey was launched on August 15<sup>th</sup> and outreach and data collection will continue through October 15<sup>th</sup>. Next steps include data analysis and development of Objectives at the October SPC meeting, and the possible formation of a workgroup for additional drafting support.

***Items Acted Upon***

- The Committee approved the April 2025 Meeting Minutes

***Future Meeting Dates***

October 16, 2025.

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**AGENDA ITEM 4I.****STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SSDAC)  
SUMMARY**

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***Date of Meeting***

September 9, 2025

***Meeting's Focus***

The Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) met via Zoom on September 9, 2024. The meeting began with an update from SSDAC Co-Chairs, who informed members about the completion of two of the Committee's projects; an SSDAC Member Orientation Resource and a letter and report sent to DDS to request guidance on Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees' role in training regional center Service Coordinators. Members were also informed about updates to the SSDAC Best Practices Platform and efforts to track the progress of SSDAC recommendations to DDS.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on SCDD's SDP related activities which included updates on SCDD's SDP Orientations, the release of SCDD's statewide survey to collect community input on the next 5-year State Plan, upcoming training on systems change, and SCDD's new online portal for requesting authorized representation.

Following lunch, staff from DDS provided members with an update on SDP-related activities, including SDP enrollment and Ombuds data and upcoming areas of focus. Members then shared the ongoing and emerging SDP-related issues that they would like to see the Department address at future meetings.

The meeting concluded with an open discussion about the goals and priorities that members would like the SSDAC to address over the next two years. Members were encouraged to provide input about projects that the Committee can engage in to accomplish its goals. Staff will synthesize this information and provide it to the SSDAC workgroup for analysis and determination of next steps.

***Item's Acted Upon***

Approval of the June 2025 meeting minutes.

***Future Meeting Dates***

The next meeting will take place on December 2, 2025.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 5.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Public Comments***

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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.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 6.**

**ACTION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Approval of July 2025 Minutes***

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The draft minutes from the July 22, 2025, Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

***Attachment***

July Council Meeting Minutes

***Action Recommended***

Approve the July 2025 Council meeting minutes.



**DRAFT**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**July 22, 2025**

**Members Attending**

Alex Reyes (S.A.)  
Ana Acton (CDA)  
Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)  
Cathay Liu (F.A.)  
Harold Fujita (F.A.)  
Irene Valdez (F.A.)  
Jessica Brown (F.A.)  
Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)  
Joyce McNair (F.A.)  
Julie Gaona (S.A.)  
Julio Garnica (S.A.)  
Kara Ponton (S.A.)  
Larry Yin (UCEDD)  
Lee Bycel (F.A.)  
Liz Laugeson (UCEDD)  
Lupe Rodríguez (F.A.)  
Maria Aliferis-Gjerde (DOR)  
Michi Gates (DDS)  
Nestor Nieves (S.A.)  
Nick Lutton (F.A.)  
Nicole Adler (S.A.)  
Noelia Hernandez (CDE)  
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)  
Shannon Cogan (DRC)  
Sonia Jones (S.A.)

**Members Absent**

Debra Cooper (CHHS)  
Eric Ybarra (S.A.)  
Harold Ashe (F.A.)  
Julie Neward (F.A.)

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Amethyst E  
Ap Johnson  
Austin Murphy  
Barbara Imle  
Beth Hurn  
Brian Hoang  
Chris Arroyo  
David Delgado  
Debra Adler  
Dena Hernandez  
DJ Tomko  
Eric Aguilar  
Hannah Dunham  
Jennifer Lucas  
Kevin Mintz  
Lisa Hooks  
Lynn Villoria-Uyeda  
Maureen Fitzgerald

**Others Attending (cont.)**

Michael Santiago  
Michelle Cave  
Mozh Akbari  
NLACRC Administration  
Patricia Herrera  
Renee Bauer  
Riana Hardin  
Rihana Ahmad  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Scarlett VonThenen  
Sheraden Nicholau  
Veronica Bravo  
Yaritza Sanchez  
Yolanda Cruz

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Julie Gaona called the meeting to order at 10:33 A.M.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Debra Adler provided a public comment. She thanked the Council for providing an informative presentation on next steps following the signing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. She acknowledged Executive Director Carruthers for presenting the material and shared that she had attended the first session, which had more than one thousand participants. She noted the community’s interest in receiving guidance from the Council and thanked the Council for providing constituents with the information.

**5. APPROVAL OF MAY 2025 MINUTES**

**Action 1**

It was moved/seconded (Lutton [F.A]/ Rodriguez [F.A.]) and carried to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

**6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Julie Gaona recognized July as Disability Pride Month, celebrating the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act signed on July 26, 1990. She shared that the Acting Governor issued a proclamation highlighting the state’s commitment to inclusion, accessibility, and opportunity for more than seven million Californians with disabilities. She noted that SCDD Communications Manager Michelle Cave had provided Councilmembers and staff with a Disability Pride Zoom background and invited members to attend SSAN’s virtual event Still Rising: 35 Years of Disability Rights & Pride on July 29. She also reminded Councilmembers to complete the Executive Director evaluation by August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Additionally, Chair Gaona welcomed her husband, Rigo, home from the hospital after he had undergone multiple medical procedures. She expressed gratitude to have him home and recovering.

She then recognized outgoing Councilmembers Nicole Adler and Julie Neward for their service and dedication to the Council. Members honored Nicole’s compassion, advocacy, and contributions to the Council, as well as Julie’s strong commitment to raising awareness of important issues.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate  
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available  
DNP = Did Not Participate

Nicole thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve and for the friendships she had formed during her time. Chair Gaona concluded her report by thanking Nicole and Julie for their work and expressed her hope of seeing them and other outgoing Councilmembers at the September Council meeting.

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.

Kevin Mintz provided a public comment. He thanked Councilmember Nicole Adler for helping him get oriented to the Council and wished her well.

## 7. **STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT**

SCDD SSAN representative Rosie Ryan provided Councilmembers with an update from SSAN's meeting on June 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The next SSAN meeting will be in September 2025 on Zoom.

## 8. **UPDATE ON MEDICAID**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided an update on the federal Medicaid law that President Trump signed on July 4, 2025. He explained that the law included \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, raised the federal debt limit by \$5 trillion, and reduced total federal spending by about \$1.5 trillion over the next ten years. Spending for healthcare and food assistance would be reduced by \$1.3 trillion. This included about \$270 billion in cuts to SNAP (also known as CalFresh in California), which could cause up to three million people to lose food benefits. Medicaid and other healthcare programs would be cut by about \$1 trillion, which could result in 17 million people in the United States losing health insurance, including about 3.4 million in California.

Mr. Carruthers shared that over the past several months, the Council reached more than 7,700 people in the community through presentations on the proposed changes, encouraging attendees to share their stories about Medicaid. A total of 2,600 stories were submitted, many with photos, highlighting the impact of potential cuts. He stated that while the budget cuts passed, the stories shared mattered, and the Council would continue to advocate for people with developmental disabilities.

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Executive Director Carruthers then outlined several key parts of the bill. He relayed that it extended federal tax cuts from Trump’s first term that were set to expire at the end of 2025 and added more tax cuts, including no taxes on tips and overtime pay, an increase to the child tax credit by \$200 per child, and provisions that would help Californians with expensive home loans. The richest would receive about 72% of the tax cut, or about \$66,000 per person, while the poorest would receive 0%, or about \$40 per person. He also cited that nearly 60% of Americans would pay more due to price increases than they would gain from the tax cuts.

Furthermore, he highlighted the cuts to Medicaid and other services. The largest item was the new Medicaid work requirement policy, which was projected to save the federal government \$317 billion over ten years. He explained that the policy mandates an 80-hour monthly requirement of work, volunteering, or schooling for childless adults and parents of children over 14 to qualify for Medicaid, with exemptions for certain groups, including people with disabilities. Other changes would reduce the extent to which states could rely on provider taxes to cover their share of Medicaid costs, introduce more paperwork such as added eligibility checks and re-verifications that could cause people to lose coverage, limit how states use taxes on managed care plans, reduce federal payments for emergency care provided to undocumented immigrants, cancel a planned rule that would have increased nursing home staff, add a \$35 copayment for low-income adults insured through Covered California, make lawful immigrants wait five years to qualify for Medicaid, and require ACA enrollees to verify their income more often with penalties for incorrect reporting. Finally, it creates a new Home and Community-Based Services waiver with \$6.6 billion set aside over the next ten years to help states with waitlists.

Executive Director Carruthers assured Councilmembers and the public that the changes would not happen immediately and that the Council would have opportunities to advise the Governor and Legislature when proposals were developed at the state level. In the meantime, the Council would provide advocacy trainings and launch “Medicaid Watch,” a tool for people to report service changes, issues, and delays. Medicaid Watch would help identify trends, inform reports, create solutions, and hold systems accountable. He concluded by emphasizing that the Council would keep showing up and continue working to make California the best place to live for people with developmental and other disabilities.

The full presentation can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>. The Medicaid Watch tool can be accessed at [bit.ly/SCDDMedicaidWatch](http://bit.ly/SCDDMedicaidWatch).

Maureen Fitzgerald provided a public comment on this item. She stated that Executive Director Carruthers and Council staff had done an excellent job informing the community about the new law. She emphasized that the Council was demonstrating its leadership role and stressed the importance of continuing to amplify the message and its impact on families.

## 9. BUDGET PRINCIPLES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Chris Arroyo presented proposed budget principles for the Council's consideration. He explained that the principles were created to guide the Council's work when engaging with the Legislature and state agencies on Medicaid-related budget decisions. He noted that the framework was built on federal and state law, SCDD's core values, and the California Health and Human Services Agency's guiding principles.

He outlined the guiding principles in detail. These included making equity central to all decisions, removing barriers so that identity did not determine health or opportunity, and actively listening to the community through town halls, advisory committees, and workgroups. He emphasized that data should be used to understand needs, measure results, and prevent unintended harm. He urged decision makers to "see the whole person" through person-centered planning and encouraged innovation and collaboration across agencies. Mr. Arroyo asked the Council to adopt these principles to help guide its advocacy work.

Councilmember Lee Bycel noted that the principles reflected what the Council already does and questioned the need for a formal vote. He also recommended revising the language to include economic position alongside identity under the equity section. Mr. Arroyo responded that formally adopting the principles would restate the Council's principles and strengthen the Council's advocacy with legislators and state departments, and he agreed that staff could edit the document.

The full presentation can be accessed at <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>.

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## Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Bycel [F.A]/ Ponton [S.A.]) and carried to adopt the budget principles as presented, with the addition of 'economic position' under the equity section. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

### 10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers began his report by congratulating SCDD's Quality Assurance (QA) team and more than 200 independent contractors for exceeding their annual goal by completing 8,627 surveys statewide. He announced that the Council would launch a statewide survey in August to gather community input for the next five-year state plan, which will run from October 2026 through September 2031. The survey results would be analyzed and presented to the State Plan Committee to draft goals and objectives for the Council's approval.

Mr. Carruthers also provided updates on the Council's Medicaid trainings, noting that 10,297 people participated statewide. He highlighted a partnership with Ryder's Room, founded by Faith Evans and her son Ryder, and shared feedback from the Autism Society of the San Francisco Bay Area, which praised the trainings for bringing back hope, creating space for community connection, and highlighting the value of personal stories. Additionally, he reported that the "Tell Your Story" campaign collected 2,600 stories between March and July, which were submitted to Congress to show the human impact of Medicaid-related policy and budget decisions.

He then provided a summary of the 2025–26 state budget. Funding for regional center services increased to \$18.5 billion, a \$3 billion increase from the previous year. The Legislature rejected proposals to cap overtime for in-home supportive services (IHSS) providers, eliminate IHSS for undocumented Californians, and remove long-term care and IHSS for adults with an unsatisfactory immigration status. It also restored the Medi-Cal asset limit to \$130,000 rather than the proposed \$2,000. Within DDS, the Legislature preserved the Direct Service Professional Workforce Training and Development program, approved requiring developmental services providers to meet certain mandates to qualify for payment incentives, moved the provider hold harmless by four months, and adjusted funding at Porterville Developmental Center to match recent spending. For SCDD, the budget reappropriated unspent Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program funds and expanded

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reimbursement authority for the National Core Indicator Quality Assurance contract.

Furthermore, the Executive Director announced that SCDD would promote the process of Authorized Representation for individuals with regional center cases who are at risk of family separation or whose rights may not be protected. He explained that appointing an Authorized Representative could help protect rights and maintain services with minimal disruption during difficult and traumatic events.

He concluded by sharing that SCDD's budget remained healthy, balanced, and well-managed. He welcomed DJ Tomko as the new Los Angeles Region Manager and thanked Deputy Director Tania Morawiec for her service as she departed from the Council.

Amethyst provided a public comment, inquiring how a community member could become an authorized representative. Executive Director Carruthers responded that the first step is to contact her local regional office.

#### 11. **NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next Council meeting will be held on September 23, 2025. Chair Gaona adjourned the meeting at 1:29 P.M.

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Vote 1</b>	<b>Vote 2</b>
Acton, Ana	Aye	Aye
Adler, Nicole	Aye	NP
Aliferis-Gjerde, Maria	Abstain	Aye
Billingsley, Joseph	NP	Aye
Brown, Jessica	Aye	Aye
Bycel, Lee	Aye	Aye
Cogan, Shannon	Aye	Aye
Fujita, Harold	Aye	NP
Gaona, Julie	Aye	Aye
Garnica, Julio	Aye	Aye
Gates, Michi	Aye	Aye
Hernandez, Noelia	Aye	Aye
Jones, Sonia	Abstain	Aye
Laugeson, Liz	Aye	Aye
Liu, Cathay	Aye	Aye
Lutton, Nick	Aye	Aye
McNair, Joyce	Aye	Aye
Nieves, Nestor	Aye	Aye
Ponton, Kara	Aye	Aye
Reyes, Alex	NP	Aye
Rodriguez, Lupe	Aye	NP
Ryan, Rosie	Aye	Aye
Stahmer, Aubyn	Aye	Aye
Valdez, Irene	Aye	Aye
Yin, Larry	Abstain	Aye

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Honoring Councilmember Eric Ybarra***

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The Council will honor the life and service of Councilmember Eric Ybarra, who recently passed. This agenda item will provide an opportunity for Councilmembers and members of the public to share reflections and pay their respects. Council Chair Julie Gaona will present a tribute highlighting Councilmember Ybarra's advocacy and lasting impact.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 8.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Recognizing Outgoing Councilmembers***

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This item is to recognize the service of Councilmembers Nicole Adler, Lee Bycel, Julio Garnica, Joyce McNair, Julie Neward, and Rosie Ryan whose second terms on the State Council are expiring in 2025.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 9.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report***

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

***Attachment***

September 2025 SSAN Update Report

**September 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 9.  
INFORMATION ITEM**



**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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

**SSAN Meeting Date and Location:** The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) held virtual meetings on September 3 & 4, 2025, over Zoom.

**Summary of Meeting:**

Day one began with a moment of silence for former Councilmember Eric Ybarra. Following the moment of silence, members provided updates on local self-advocacy efforts and their summer highlights. Highlights included: advocating for greater representation of people with disabilities within their organizations workforce, implementing recommendations from the Master Plan on Developmental Services, participating on panels, regional center board meetings, hosting advocacy meetings, going on cruises, going to concerts, competing in Special Olympic events, and enjoying fireworks.

Wesley Witherspoon, Project Coordinator and SSAN Representative for USC Children’s Hospital UCEDD, trained members on medical advocacy. Training materials for this agenda item were from [Oregon office on Disability and Health](#). This training covered: making an appointment, finding transportation, planning with your support person, understanding copays, what you should bring to your appointment, communicating with your doctor, making choices about your health, and following up after your appointment.

Members had an opportunity to share more about upcoming projects and opportunities for collaboration and support. RICV will be hosting a 12-week leadership training. The Sacramento Regional Office of SCDD will host monthly virtual self-advocacy chats on a variety of topics. Members expressed interest in working to improve access to medical services and the accessibility of public transportation. There was a collective concern about the level of participation in self-advocacy activities because of fear of being targeted and concern about the new work requirements for people receiving Medicaid. Several members are planning to meet with their legislators about their concerns and members encouraged each other to vote and educate others about the power of their voice and their vote.

Chris Arroyo, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, presented the third segment of the Systemic Advocacy Leadership Academy (SALA) training for SSAN members. This item focused on explaining the difference between advocating for your own needs and advocating to improve the system or process for others, as well as the tools used to collect feedback and data from the community to support your systems-change efforts.

**September 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 9.  
INFORMATION ITEM**



**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

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

Day two began with members sharing things that they are looking forward to in the fall. Members mentioned cooler weather, spending time with friends and family, football, the time change, Halloween, apple picking, and comfort food.

Members reviewed the latest edition of the “Voices of SSAN” Newsletter. After reviewing the current edition, members shared their ideas about what types of articles they would like to write for the next edition.

Eric Aguilar, SSAN Vice-Chair and San Bernardino SSAN Representative, along with Wesley Witherspoon, USC Children’s Hospital UCEDD Representative, shared tools and strategies to help members stay safe during wildfires and floods. This agenda item explained how wildfires can create conditions that lead to floods, and things you should remember when creating your evacuation plan.

Nicole Patterson, DDS Advocacy & Self-Advocates Liaison Specialist and DDS Representative to SSAN, updated members on the progress of implementing recommendations from the Master Plan on Developmental Services Committee. DDS hopes to design a portal similar to health care portals where clients can review their IPP, money spent so far on their services, and other details. DDS plans to gather information from clients on what they would like to see in the portal. DDS continues to take public input during this 10-year implementation process, so stay tuned for future developments.

David Delgado, SCDD Branch Chief of Headquarters Operations, and Chris Arroyo, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, provided members with updates on SCDD activities since the June SSAN meeting. Agency updates included the following: SCDD continues to educate communities about the agency’s ability to act as [authorized representatives](#), the agency is currently encouraging people to participate in the development of their next 5-year State Plan, and members were asked to share the [2027-2031 SCDD State Plan Survey](#) with their communities. SCDD will be hosting in-person town halls across the state to hear from community members on their needs. Members were encouraged to share the [2025-2026 SCDD Back-to-School Resource Guide](#) and encourage people to apply to serve on the SCDD Council.

Visit the [SSAN Page](#) on the SCDD website for updates on meeting dates and group activities.

**Actions Taken**

- Approved June 2025 Meeting Minutes

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 10.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***2026 Legislative Bill Ideas***

---

Chair of the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) Harold Fujita and Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Chris Arroyo will provide Councilmembers with an overview of the submissions from the 5th Annual *There Should Be a Law* contest along with a review of recent legislative trends and emerging themes.

The Council will discuss proposed bill ideas for 2026, vote on whether to support the identified ideas as a legislative package and consider authorizing staff to work with legislative offices to secure bill authors.

***Action Recommended***

Approve the identified legislative ideas as a package and authorize staff to work with legislative offices to secure bill authors.

***Handouts***

2025 There Should Be a Law Report

Legislative Bill Ideas Presentation

May be additional handouts the day of the meeting

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 11.**

**ACTION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Closed Session: Personnel***

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 12.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Reconvene Open Session***

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

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**SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**

**AGENDA ITEM 13.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Next Meeting Date and Adjournment***

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The Council's next meeting will be held on Zoom on November 18, 2025.