



**State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Sequoia Regional Office**



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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**Sequoia Regional Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Regional Advisory Committee Minutes**

March 12, 2025 - Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Becker, Sherry Huggins, Lisajo Narcisse

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Ahumada (E), Rebecca Donabed (E), Michael Esquibel (E), Matt Gjerde(E), Nicole Renee Mensch (A), Thao Tran (A), Susan Wells (E)

STAFF PRESENT:

Yolanda Cruz, Regional Manager
Veronica Magallanes, CPS II
Heather Kroencke, Office Technician

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Heather Kroencke facilitated the online meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the March 12, 2025, Regional Advisory Online Meeting.

The official roll call was conducted by Heather Kroencke and there was not a quorum.

We tabled the approval of the January 8, 2025 minutes until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Rebecca Donabed shared about the upcoming Winter Symposium being held on Zoom on February 18th and 19th from 10am-11am.

Susan Graham of HEARTS Connection reported that they served 1700 individuals during their 2023/2024 year.

Monica Becerra introduced herself, she is a CVRC client and works for ARC. She updated the RAC on the Aktion Clubs dance happening on January 24th. They are also planning to do Candy Grams in February and will have a Lanterman Committee to address the changes for 2025.

"The Council advocates, promotes & implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity & inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families."

Perla Elizarraraz De Leon introduced herself. She has a 3 year old daughter who is in Pre-K in Bakersfield and has Down Syndrome. She also has an 8 yr old son, as well as a 12, 23, 24 and 29 year old daughters.

Chris Arroyo – SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs:

Chris Arroyo introduced himself, he has worked for SCDD for 25 years now. He was recently promoted to the position of Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs. He works with the Legislative team both at HQ and within the regional offices. He shared his PowerPoint presentation with the RAC that he has been presenting statewide.

STAFF REPORT:

Yolanda Cruz's updated that we are still working with Ally Comprehensive services to put on needed trainings. We are also super excited to be bringing a new training course to the Central Valley. Yolanda has coordinated with Sober State to put on training for their ID/DD Peer Recovery Program. This is the first program of its kind, and we hope to show them a big turnout. The flyer will be going out soon. Yolanda also spoke about the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Conference that will be held in Denver for Doctorate Students as well as the CIT International Conference that will be held August 11-13 in Anaheim. She encourages anyone who can attend even partially to do so.

Veronica Magallanes reported that at the Kern Regional Center What You Need To Know Townhalls they had 19 attendees at the English Session on March 5th and 37 attendees at the Spanish session on March 6th. It was a really great event with lots of needed conversations.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE:

Janelle Ditommaso from CVRC joined the meeting. She updated the RAC that Regional Center is holding Q&A Sessions for over 1400 Vendors on the New Rate Reform. She encouraged members to attend.

PORTERVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER UPDATE:

Judi Muirhead will update at the next meeting.

STATE COUNCIL UPDATE:

Yolanda Cruz introduced Nick Lutton, our newly appointed State Council on Developmental Disabilities Representative for the Sequoia Regional Office. Nick shared that he has been working with SCDD for over 10 years. He is the parent of an 11 year old with ID/Autism who receives 24 hours supervision and a 5 year old, both receive Regional Center Services. Nick has worked for EPU Children's Center, Family Voices and the UC Mind Institute for 2 years teaching. He also has participated in Advisory Committee's, both State and local as well as with IHSS Fresno and the American Pediatric Editorial Board. We are grateful to have him added to our team.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

GUESTS – Christofer Arroyo, Janelle Ditommaso and Nick Lutton.