



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



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, Governor

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

May 14, 2025 - Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Diana Aiello, Rebecca Donabed, Michael Esquibel, Matt Gjerde, Nicole Renee Mensch, Thao Tran

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Ahumada (A), Jim Becker (A), Kristy Clark (A), Sherry Huggins (E), Lisajo Narcisse (E), Veronica Rubio (A), Susan Wells (E)

STAFF PRESENT:

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

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Michael Esquibel facilitated the online meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. He welcomed everyone to the May 14, 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 and March 12, 2025 minutes until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jessica Lehman introduced herself. She is a Disability Organizer. She is looking for individuals to share their story. She will forward information on upcoming events for us to share.

Rebecca Donabed shared that we will need to help recruit a new Regional Representative for the SSAN as she has been promoted to the Chair. An email will be sent soon.

NEW SEQUOIA RAC MEMBERS:

"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."

We are happy to announce we have had 5 new appointments to the Sequoia RAC. Diana Aiello introduced herself. She represents Kings County. She is the Director of Programs and Services at a Family Empowerment Center and has a background in Special Education as a School Psychologist.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE:

Aaron Olsen from CVRC joined the meeting. He updated the RAC that Regional Center is still holding Q&A Sessions for over 1400 Vendors on the New Rate Reform. He also reminded the RAC of the upcoming Bridging Horizons event we are partnering with in October. The save the date has been sent out and they anticipate the full registration to be available in July.

PORTERVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER UPDATE:

Judi Muirhead updated that Cal-Fire has hand crews on the campus doing their trainings. They are also still working on bringing back community outings for the 6500 clients. The Secure Treatment area is currently at a population of 177. There have been several retirements on the DDS side of PDC so there will likely be some adjustments in the coming months. She also mentioned there have been rattlesnakes on campus so that has been interesting!

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 added him to our team.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

GUESTS – Susan Graham, Aaron Olsen, Jessical Morales, Jessica Lehman