



# San Bernardino Regional Office

Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Minutes

**October 14, 2025**

**4:00 PM to 6:00 PM**

## **Members Present**

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**

Kelli Guillory

Stephen Donohue

April Sayre

Fanny Cisneros

Chiriece McCorley Smith

Ilona McFerrin

Jocelyn Doucette

Michael "Mike" Wilson

Shannen Mitchell

Lisa William

## **Members Absent**

Dustlyne Beavers, **Chair** (Leave of Absence)

Sandra Diaz

Ryan Nelson

Casey Mitchel

## **SCDD – SBRO Staff**

Patricia Herrera, Regional Manager  
Alondra Castillo, Associate Governmental Program Analyst  
Jose Valle, Office Technician

## **Guest Speaker(s)**

Teresa Anderson - Executive Director, CA Policy Center for  
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
Nicole Rand - Phenix Gateway representative  
Kelli Guillory - Staff Services Manager I, Department of  
Rehabilitation  
David Delgado - Staff Services Manager II, State Council on  
Developmental Disabilities

## **Public Attendees**

Albert Feliciano  
David Delgado  
Mary Casas  
Nancy Nunez  
Nancy Ortega  
Rosario Marquez  
Veronica Juarez

## **English/Spanish Language Interpreter(s)**

N/A

## **Meeting called to order at 4:00 PM**

Welcome from Eric Aguilar, Vice-Chair.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Lisa Williams motioned to approve minutes of the 06/10/2025 meeting. Motioned seconded by Michael Wilson and Kelli Guillory. Unanimously minutes were approved.

## **Agenda/Minutes**

**4:05 PM – 4:20 PM:** Eric Aguilar introduced himself and asked members of the RAC, and SCDD employees to introduce themselves. The meeting began with introductions and updates, including the announcement of new committee members and confirmation that Dustlyne Beavers, Chair, will return the next RAC Meeting. The group confirmed a quorum was present. Patricia Herrera, the Regional Office Manager, introduced herself and explained her role in the community at large. Alondra Castillo, the Community Program Specialist/Associate Governmental Program Analyst, introduced herself and explained her role in organizing virtual trainings and providing technical assistance for those that contact SCDD's San Bernardino Regional Office. Jose Valle, the Office Technician, introduced himself and described his role as the support person of the San Bernardino Regional Office and how he supports the team.

**4:20 PM – 4:25 PM:** Patricia welcomed everyone and introduced Teresa, the executive director of the California Policy Center for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, who was invited to present on a project related to data collection and employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**4:25 PM – 4:55 PM:**

### **Employment Challenges for People with Disabilities**

Teresa presented findings from a study on employment challenges and successes for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California. She shared insights from roundtable discussions with employers, supported employment providers, individuals with disabilities, and regional center employment specialists. Key findings included employers valuing soft skills over disability status and barriers such as fear of discrimination and transportation issues, and the importance of prepared job coaches. The study highlighted the need for better employer engagement, financial management services, and clarification of employment definitions and data collection methods. Mike inquired about the status of employer incentives

for hiring people with disabilities, which Teresa confirmed are still in place.

#### **4:55 PM – 5:10 PM:**

##### **Neurodiverse Employment Program Success**

The meeting focused next on employment opportunities for neurodiverse individuals, highlighting a program run by Phenix Gateway in partnership with Phenix Technology. Nicole Rand, representing Phenix Gateway, shared success stories and discussed challenges in integrating neurodiverse individuals into the workforce, emphasizing the importance of business-to-business mentorship and addressing stigma. Teresa presented recommendations to eliminate barriers and develop employer presentations, while Patricia highlighted the need for continued funding and support for such initiatives. The discussion concluded with Kelli, a parent advocate, sharing her daughter's achievements and emphasizing the importance of providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

#### **5:10 PM – 5:23 PM:**

##### **I/DD Employment Initiatives in the Inland Empire**

The meeting then focused on employment initiatives for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the Inland Empire region. Kelli from the Department of Rehabilitation highlighted their collaborative efforts with Inland Regional Center and local businesses, including a new partnership with KeHE (Food Distributor) for training and potential employment opportunities. Kelli also highlighted the Inland Empire Business Roundtable which consumers and businesses alike have heard more and more about since its inception. Patricia discussed the origins of the Inland Empire Business Roundtable, which aims to connect businesses with I/DD job seekers, emphasizing the importance of job matching and streamlining processes.

#### **5:35 PM – 5:45 PM:**

## **2027 - 2031 State Plan**

Following Kelli's presentation, Patricia opened the floor for SCDD's David Delgado. David introduced the 2027-2031 State Plan and its survey, outlining priorities informed by community input, including increased focus on competitive integrated employment, self-advocacy, and emergency preparedness, with notable progress made in ending subminimum wage practices in California. The goal of the survey is to get as many people within the I/DD community as possible to voice their opinions and let SCDD know what works, what does not, and what is needed going forward. David also spoke about the SALA program, which trains individuals with I/DD to advocate and shape policy, with graduates and family members now mentoring others in their communities. David highlighted the program's impact, including emergency preparedness efforts and the distribution of over a million masks during the pandemic.

## **Report from Regional Manager Patricia Herrera - 5:45 PM**

Patricia emphasized the importance of completing the state plan survey, which has one day remaining, and encouraged committee members to distribute it widely, particularly in Mono and Inyo counties where participation is low.

## **Public Comments on Matters not on the Agenda - 5:50 PM**

- Eric announced October as Emergency Preparedness Month
- Fanny introduced herself as a family advocate from Corona, discussing her work with Cal State University San Bernardino on AI supports for individuals with disabilities.

## **Meeting Adjourned - 6:00 PM**

Eric Aguilar started the motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael Wilson motioned, seconded by Fanny Cisneros.