

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Executive Director Report

January 27, 2026

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Overview

- Quote
- SCDD Sponsored Legislation
- Legislative Briefing
- Little Hoover Commission Hearing
- SCDD Administration and Announcements



Quote

“We cannot afford to regard as normal the presence of injustice, inhumanity, and violence.”
--Bernice King



“The starting point of social movements stems from deep pain and intolerance towards loss already incurred and any gain – including just voicing the injustice – empowers the movement and everybody else around them.”
--Padmapriya Janakiraman



SCDD Sponsored Legislation

- Senator Lena Gonzales to author SCDD sponsored legislation to revise authorize representation
 - Chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus
 - Represents Long Beach
- This legislation would make clear that SCDD can appoint an Authorized Representative if regional center families are suddenly separated
 - “Contingent appointment”
- Still seeking other authors
- Bill introduction deadline: February 20



Little Hoover Commission Hearing

- Jan 22, 2026, Little Hoover Commission held a hearing on the DD Service System
 - Follow up to 2023 report “*System in Distress: Caring for People with DD*”
 - Purpose: check status of recommendations
- SCDD submitted written testimony
 - “While many of the Commission’s recommendations are beginning to take shape, most individuals served and their families are not yet experiencing these changes in their daily lives.”
 - DDS has taken action, steady movement, optimistic
 - Recurrent issues remain



Little Hoover Commission Hearing

- Recurrent remaining issues
 - Need direct advocacy support for navigating and obtaining services
 - Problems with provider availability and cultural fit
 - Regional center internal review process for service decisions is unpredictable and disconnected
 - Lack of IPP implementation deadlines
 - Need compensatory services when delays in approvals
 - Need centralized, portable information
 - Research pandemic's impact on racial disparities
- Provided solutions for these issues



SCDD 2025 Impact

- Submitted the Program Performance Report (PPR) to the Administration on Community Living **on time**
 - This matters because it is evidence of our work for the funding SCDD receives from the federal government
- **In 2025**, SCDD's impact was strong! Our team of 50
 - Directly reached **137,355 people**, including...
 - **Met with 11,800 people** individually to help them with their problems
 - 37% people with I/DD, 29% families, 34% others
 - **Trained 34,000 people**, families, and professionals
 - ...including 10,600 for HR 1, who then wrote 2,600 letters
 - In **15 languages**, including ASL
 - Advocated for policy and practice changes impacting **3,040,000**

Legislative Briefings

- SCDD hosted a briefing for Legislative Staff
 - “4,200 Community Members Spoke, Here’s What They Said”
 - Featured analysis of State Plan Survey data
 - 5 biggest challenges?
 - Within CA’s service systems, what are the most impactful barriers?
 - What resources would make an important difference in your life?
 - Are there any new issues we should know about? Any old issues?
 - People consistently reported barriers in housing, health, safety, employment
 - 35 offices attended, including Senate pro Tem, Speaker, Budget & policy committees
- Aging and Disability hosted a Leg Staff briefing



SCDD Administration and Announcements

- Council budget is solid and in good standing
- President Trump and Congress propose “level funding” for DD Councils nationally
 - “Level funding,” means same amount as last year
 - \$81 million, CA \$8 million
 - Level funding is good and bad
 - Congress adopt 2026 budget
- SCDD All-Staff In-Person Training February 2026
 - Funded by Council in August 2022



THANK YOU

