



**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**

November 12, 2025 - Zoom

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Samantha Ahumada (A), Kristy Clark (A), Carolyn Huffstutler (E), Sherry Huggins (E), Lisajo Narcisse (E).

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheraden Nicholau, Deputy Director of SCDD
Veronica Magallanes, Community Program Specialist II
Heather Kroencke, Office Technician

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Michael Esquibel facilitated the online meeting. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the November 12, 2025, Regional Advisory Online Meeting.

The official roll call was conducted by Heather Kroencke and there was a quorum.

Heather asked if there were any proposed additions/changes to the November 12, 2025, agenda as e-mailed.

M/S/C to approve the November 12, 2025, Agenda as emailed.

Heather asked if there were any proposed additions/changes to July 9, 2025 and September 10, 2025 Minutes as e-mailed.

M/S/C to approve the July 9, 2025 and September 10, 2025, Minutes as emailed.

"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."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Julie Peeler introduced herself as a community member with an 8 year old with Autism.

Rebecca Donabed announced her promotion to ADA Coordinator at Resources for Independence Central Valley. She also updated the committee on a project she is working on with three other to create a Bill with Senator Callbero.

Matt Gjerde and Susan Graham updated on the success of the Buddy Walk in October. They are now looking forward to the Autism Walk that will take place in April.

Yenifer Gallegos-Mejia, Program Director of CA START Central Valley introduced herself and spoke about her Mental Health Clinic that takes place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Anyone interested can contact her at Yenifer.Gallegos@yai.org.

Old Business:

Heather Kroencke reminded the RAC of the proposed 2026 meeting dates of: January 14, 2026, March 11, 2026, May 13, 2026, July 8, 2026 and September 9, 2026. Discussion was had to verify if the November Meeting should be held on November 4th (one week early) to accommodate Veterans Day that falls on the Second Wednesday of November in 2026. RAC Members approved the date of November 4th, 2026.

STAFF UPDATES:

Sheraden Nicholau provided information on the Supplemental Food Supports and Resources that individuals and families can access. There are 5.5 million Cal-Fresh recipients in California.

Sheraden also discussed WIC 4541 which is the Authorized Representative Process. This is a program that SCDD Staff can participate in. The Representative Process is designed to assist an individual in support to speak up, participate in the IPP process, and advocate for their rights. This is not intended for staff to speak for the individual. The representative cannot sign Legal Documents. The representative can also be a family member or a volunteer, and the role is similar to a Supported Decision Role.

Veronica Magallanes, shared her updates on the trainings and events she has been doing, including at the Central Valley Training Center in Merced with Jim Becker. September was Emergency Preparedness Month, on Sept 17 there was a Statewide Virtual Trainings and on September 20 she attended the Preparedness and Safety Fira with Fresno County EOS. She has attended several Resource Fairs including in Tehachapi. On October 22nd and 23rd was the CA Native American Indian Symposium. November 5th was the Porterville Adult School Collage and Resource Fair and November 8th was the Passport to the World event hosted my CVRC in Madera.

Veronica also shared the State Plan Survey results for our region. We can always use additional responses, but we were happy to receive input from all our counties.

Veronica also shared some upcoming trainings at the Central Valley Training Center on November 24th – Moving from friend to partner. She is also scheduling the Healthy Relationships Series for 2026.

Another project for 2026 is in development, a Information Hour Series that will be held virtually to highlight agencies and companies in the State. More information will be emailed out as it becomes available.

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL CENTER UPDATE:

CVRC Staff will update at the next meeting.

PORTERVILLE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER UPDATE:

PDC will update at the next meeting.

STATE COUNCIL UPDATE:

Sheraden Nicholau provided updates on State Council Committee Meetings. At the last meeting outgoing members were acknowledged and they welcomed 6 new members. Biographies are available at SCDD.ca.gov for each member. The next SCDD Meeting is scheduled for November 18 as a Hybrid online/in person. SCDD is also hosting Self-Determination Orientations in November and December. She also distributed a Council Priorities Handout.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

GUESTS – Julie Peeler, Yenifer Gallegos and Susan Graham