



Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes March 11, 2025

Attending Members

Andy Imparato (DRC)
Irene Valdez (FA)
Jessica Brown (FA)
Julie Neward (FA)
Lee Bycel (FA)
Lupe Rodriguez (FA)
Nicole Adler (SA)

Members Absent

Harold Fujita (FA)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Akshita Goswami
Barbara Imle
Beth Hurn

Others Attending (cont.)

Brian Capra
Christofer Arroyo
Ibrahim Muttaqi
Lynn Villoria
Robin Maitino-Erben
Sabrina Epstein
Veronica Bravo

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Committee designated Julie Neward [FA] to act as Chair pro tempore for the remainder of the meeting. Chair Pro Tem Julie Neward called the meeting to order at 10:34 AM.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo provided public comment to inform committee members about Senate Bill 422. This bill, which came to staff's attention after the meeting agenda was finalized, would require the California Workforce Development Board to submit a report to the Governor and Legislature detailing existing workforce recommendations within the developmental services system. Due to Bagley-Keene open meeting rules, SB 422 will be presented

directly to the Council instead of the committee. Members were encouraged to review the bill independently.

A written statement was read on behalf of Kristie Sepulveda-Burchit with the non-profit organization Educate. Advocate., requesting that the Committee change its position on AB 350 from “support” to “watch.” She expressed concern about the lack of informed consent for fluoride treatment during dental visits and referenced a recent federal court ruling regarding fluoride’s potential health risks to children. She provided the following link for reference: <https://fluoridealert.org/content/federal-court-rules-that-water-fluoridation-poses-an-unreasonable-risk-to-children/>.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers clarified that AB 350 would expand fluoride treatment as a covered Medi-Cal benefit and that, as with all healthcare services, informed consent would still be required. Deputy Director Chris Arroyo confirmed that the bill’s focus is coverage expansion under Medi-Cal, not altering consent procedures.

5. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Imparato [DRC]/Rodriguez [FA]) and carried to approve the October 2024 meeting minutes. (Motion passed with three abstentions: Brown, Bycel, Valdez. [See page one for a record of members present]).

It was moved/seconded (Rodriguez [FA]/Brown [FA]) and carried to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a record of members present]).

6. OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS FOR MARCH THROUGH JUNE

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo provided an overview of the legislative and budget processes, informing members about bill introduction deadlines, spot and intent bills, and the importance of policy and fiscal committees. The full presentation can be found at the following link: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2025/03/Legislative-and-Budget-Overview-Updates-Presentation.pdf>

7. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Chris Arroyo reminded committee members of the Council's 2025 legislative priorities and highlighted the annual theme of "Taking Charge." The theme reflects the principle of self-determination, emphasizing that people with disabilities should lead the way in deciding what changes they want to see in the systems and policies that affect their lives. He also provided updates on priority initiatives developed through the Council's "There Should Be a Law" contest, including efforts to address medical underservice, chronic absenteeism, and plain language access in state communications.

The following 2025 bills were introduced to the committee for consideration:

- SB 470 (Laird) Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act: Teleconferencing
- AB 1225 (Bennett) State parks and state beaches: Accessibility Advisory Committee
- AB 784 (Hoover) Special education
- SB 244 (Grayson) Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments
- SB 389 (Ochoa-Bogh) Pupil health: individuals with exceptional needs: specialized physical health care services
- AB 277 (Alanis) Behavioral health centers, facilities, and programs: background checks
- AB 308 (Ramos) The Family Urgent Response System
- AB 315 (Bonta) Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives (HCBA) Waiver
- AB 350 (Bonta) Health care coverage: fluoride treatments
- AB 517 (Krell) Medi-Cal: complex rehabilitation technology: wheelchairs
- AB 951 (Ta) Health care coverage: behavioral diagnoses
- AB 974 (Patterson) Medi-Cal managed care plans: exemption from mandatory enrollment
- SB 363 (Wiener) Health care coverage: independent medical review
- SB 660 (Menjivar) California Health and Human Services Data Exchange Framework
- AB 617 (McKinnor) Aging and Disability Resource Connection program: No Wrong Door System

- AB 1099 (Bryan) Developmental services: initial intake: assessment
- AB 1172 (Nguyen) Adult Day programs: administration of inhalable emergency antiseizure medications
- AB 1335 (Gonzalez, Jeff) Habilitation services
- SB 471 (Menjivar) Office of the Lanterman Ombudsperson
- SB 671(Cervantes) Pedestrian crossing signals

It was moved/seconded (Bycel [FA]/Imparato [DRC]) and carried to recommend that the Council support the following bills: SB470, AB 1225, AB 784, SB 244, SB 389, AB 308, AB 315, AB 350, AB 517, AB 951, AB 974, AB 363, AB 617, AB 1099, AB 1172, and SB 671. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a list of members present]).

8. **UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Chair Pro Tem Julie Neward [FA] departed prior to the conclusion of the meeting. Lee Bycel [FA] assumed the role of Chair Pro Tem to lead the committee through the final two agenda items.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided an update on federal budget activity related to Medicaid. He explained that the U.S. House and Senate have introduced conflicting budget resolutions, with the House version proposing up to \$2 trillion in spending cuts. While Medicaid is not named explicitly, proposed instructions directing the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut \$880 billion strongly indicate that Medicaid-funded programs such as Medi-Cal, IHSS, and Regional Center services may be impacted.

Mr. Carruthers noted that approximately 43% of Californians rely on Medicaid-funded services, and reductions of this scale could severely limit access or reduce available supports. He shared that SCDD has trained over 1,600 individuals statewide to advocate through storytelling and highlighted available tools, including a printable story link and the SCDD Storytellers blog. He emphasized that advocacy remains essential as the federal reconciliation process continues and public input can still influence the outcome.

9. **MEMBER UPDATES**

Chair Pro Tem Lee Bycel invited members to share personal updates or concerns and expressed feeling overwhelmed, while praising team members for their contributions and engaging presentations.

10. **2025 MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The committee will meet on a to-be-determined date in June or July, and again on October 28th. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 PM.