



## Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes August 26, 2025

### Attending Members

Harold Fujita (FA)  
Andy Imparato (DRC)  
Irene Valdez (FA)  
Jessica Brown (FA)  
Julie Neward (FA)  
Lupe Rodriguez (FA)

### Members Absent

Lee Bycel (FA)  
Nicole Adler (SA)

### Others Attending (cont.)

Austin Murphy  
Bird Sellergren  
Christofer Arroyo  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Veronica Bravo

#### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Legislative and Public Policy Committee Chair Harold Fujita called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

#### 2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

#### 3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee Chair Harold Fujita invited members to introduce themselves and led a moment of remembrance to former Council member Eric Yabarra, honoring his dedication, kindness, and many contributions to the Council's work. Members shared their appreciation for his service and expressed condolences to his family, noting the lasting impact he made on the disability community.

#### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bird Sellergren provided public comment on the work of the Bay Area RIC workgroup, which focuses on addressing intergenerational trauma in undiagnosed autistic families and developing policy recommendations for them. They also highlighted their research on autistic-centered health education aimed to reduce rates of abuse within the autistic community.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2025 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Brown [FA]/Rodriguez [FA]) and carried to approve the March 2025 meeting minutes as presented. (The motion passed with abstentions from Neward [FA] and Valdez [FA]. All other members voted to approve. See page one for a record of members present).

## 6. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo gave a detailed update on recent legislative activity. He reviewed Assembly and Senate bills connected to the Council's priorities, including those related to Medi-Cal coverage, wheelchair repairs, and health access. He also reported that some Council-supported bills have already been signed into law, while others were put on hold or will continue as two-year bills. Deputy Director Arroyo provided a budget update, noting a projected \$11.8 billion shortfall to be addressed through cuts, borrowing, and revenue adjustments. He highlighted reductions to the Self-Determination Program, the conclusion of funding for implicit bias training, and changes to Medi-Cal coverage for undocumented adults beginning in 2026. He also noted new investments, including \$2.1 billion for universal transitional kindergarten and \$30 million over three years for the Special Olympics.

Members raised concerns about the potential long-term costs of limiting Medi-Cal access and the funding allocation for the Special Olympics, while supporting increased early education investments and the preservation of IHSS funding levels.

The presentation and budget summary can be found at the following links: [Presentation](#) & [Budget Summary](#)

## 7. 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLANNING

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo presented the results of the fifth annual "There Should be a Law" contest, highlighting its role in promoting community-driven legislative ideas and predicting potential future action. Proposed ideas included enhancing plain language requirements, addressing chronic school absenteeism, clarifying the authorized representative process, expanding in-home

respite flexibility, and increasing regional center access to special education attorneys. The Committee expressed support for forwarding these legislative ideas to the Council.

Deputy Director Arroyo reported that legislative priorities remain unchanged but recommended that members consider revising the policy theme at the September Council meeting in light of growing stakeholder uncertainty amid the current political climate.

The full presentation can be found at the following link: [Presentation](#)

## 8. **UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS**

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo provided updates on federal and DDS activities. He noted the passage of HR 1 and the continuation of public trainings on its implementation. He also highlighted DDS's upcoming standardized respite tool, scheduled to take effect in January.

Members expressed concern that the proposed cap is not statutory and that exceptions remain undefined. They were encouraged to submit comments through the DDS website before the deadline.

## 9. **MEMBER UPDATES**

Member Julie Neward provided updates on support efforts for sibling caregivers, developments regarding the film Natty and its companion family manual, and the launch of the Disability, Deaf, and Abuse Survey with multilingual and accessible materials.

Committee Chair Harold Fujita shared insights on challenges in his family's conservatorship planning, noting limitations in probate court forms and considerations for long-term planning for his sons with disabilities.

## 10. **NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT**

Committee adjourned the meeting in memory of Eric Yabrra. Members expressed their condolences to his family, and Chair Fujita noted that additional information would be shared as it becomes available, while keeping Eric and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 P.M. The next meeting will be held via Zoom on October 28th.