



## Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes January 28, 2025

### Attending Members

Harold Fujita (FA)  
Jessica Brown (FA)  
Nicole Adler (SA)  
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

### Members Absent

Andy Imperato (DRC)  
Harold Ashe (FA)  
Julie Neward (FA)  
Lee Bycel (FA)  
Lupe Rodriguez (FA)  
Irene Valdez (FA)

### Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers  
Akshita Goswami  
Austin Murphy  
Beth Hurn  
Christofer Arroyo  
Ibrahim Muttaqi  
Michael Santiago  
Riana Hardin  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Veronica Bravo

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

Committee Chair Harold Fujita called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM.

### 2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was not present.

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

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### 5. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

Committee members reviewed the minutes and did not recommend any edits.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

Due to the absence of a quorum, the approval of the October 2024 meeting minutes was tabled for the next meeting in March 2025.

## 6. **PURPOSE OF LPPC AND OVERVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PROCESS FOR JANUARY THROUGH MARCH**

Deputy Director Christofer Arroyo provided members with an overview of the Committee’s purpose and presented key information about upcoming budget and legislative activity. This presentation included an overview of the legislative process in California, focusing on events taking place January through March, such as the legislators’ return to Sacramento, the introduction of bills that will be championed this year, and the new bill introduction deadline of February 21st. Committee members were informed that new rules limit legislators to filing 35 bills each session.

Deputy Director Arroyo informed members that they will review proposed legislation during the March 2025 meeting and make recommendations to the Council. The committee also discussed the budget process from January through March, noting that a constitutional deadline on June 15th requires the legislature to agree on a budget, which is then sent to the Governor for approval.

Committee member Nicole Adler raised a question about the cause of the lengthy process. In response, Deputy Director Arroyo emphasized the importance of transparency in the legislative process, noting that while it can slow decision-making, this approach allows for valuable public input.

For further details, the full presentation can be accessed at the following link: [Legislative and Budget Process Presentation.](#)

## 7. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Deputy Director Arroyo presented updates on the 2024 legislative outcomes and the Council’s 2025 legislative priorities. Topics discussed included updates from the 2024 “There Should Be a Law” contest, a summary of the Governor’s January 2025-26 proposed budget, and an overview of legislative bills being tracked. Members were encouraged to

review and provide feedback on key bills at the March 2025 meeting

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

Members were provided with an update on Council activities and links to review updates on the Master Plan for Developmental Services, DDS Taskforce and Workgroups, and the Self-Determination Program. Committee Chair Harold Fujita noted that updates on the DDS Taskforce would be removed from future meetings until further notice due to inactivity.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers addressed the committee regarding Medicaid-related topics, emphasizing the importance of continued advocacy to ensure accessibility and support for individuals with disabilities. He provided insights into potential policy shifts and funding considerations that could impact Medicaid services and the broader developmental services landscape.

## **9. MEMBER UPDATES**

Committee members shared individual updates. Wesley Witherspoon highlighted the significant impact of recent fires on the community, emphasizing the urgent need for mental health support and emergency preparedness. Committee member Jessica Brown expressed appreciation for the actionable information shared during the meeting, while Committee member Adler discussed ongoing housing developments and community initiatives for individuals with disabilities. Committee Chair Harold Fujita acknowledged the anxiety within the autism community regarding upcoming health policy changes and reaffirmed the committee's commitment to advocating for necessary services.

## **10. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The next LPPC meeting will take place March 11, 2025. Additional meetings are planned for June or July (TBD) and October 28, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 1:59 PM.

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