



State Plan Committee Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

Attending Members

Jessica Brown, Chair (FA)
Cathay Liu (FA)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Nestor Nieves (SA)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Barbara Imle
Beth Hurn
Brian Hoang
Charles Nguyen

Others Attending

David Delgado
Janet Fernandez
Michelle Padilla
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben

Members Absent

Harold Ashe (FA)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Jessica Brown (FA) called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 2025 MINUTES**

It was moved, seconded (Liu [FA]/Yin [UCEDD]) and carried to approve the October 29, 2025 meeting minutes, as presented. All member present voted to approve. (See Page 1 for the full list of voting members).

6. 2025 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE DRAFT REPORT

Chief Deputy Director Rihana Ahmad, Branch Chief of HQ Operations and State Plan David Delgado, and Manager of State Plan and Self-Advocacy Barbara Imle presented the draft 2025 Program Performance Report (PPR). The presentation highlighted data, outcomes, impact, and anecdotal stories demonstrating what the Council achieved in the federal fiscal year. This overview reflects what will be submitted to the federal government for this year's PPR. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

7. 2027-2031 STATE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Chief Deputy Director Rihana Ahmad and Branch Chief of HQ Operations and State Plan David Delgado presented proposed finalized language for Goals 1 and 3, incorporating federal feedback on language and numerical targets. Staff then led the Committee through development of the remaining objectives. The finalized, approved SPC plan is available [here](#). A detailed discussion for each goal and objective can be found below.

Goal 1 (Self-Advocacy):

Staff presented federal feedback recommending changing "stronger" to "effective" as a more measurable term. Members discussed whether to use "effective" or "more effective," determining that "effective" is preferable as "more effective" would require baseline measurements. Members also removed "more" before "active leaders" for consistency.

Objective 1.1 - Staff explained the target of 10,000 self-advocates was based on current performance and represents a middle ground between the initial 2020 projection and the current target of 15,000. Members agreed on the language below:

“By 2031, the Council will reach 10,000 self-advocates with community-building activities, training, events, projects and resources that build their capacity for self-governance and to become effective, active leaders, peer trainers and mentors.”

Objective 1.2 - The target of 5,000 was based on consultation with the Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations. Members agreed on the language below:

“By 2031, the Council will reach 5,000 self-advocates, representing California's population, to be active in cross-disability and peer networks and groups by providing support and peer advocacy/leadership opportunities.”

Objective 1.3 - No changes were made to this objective.

Goal 2 (Systems Change/Advocacy):

Staff presented federal feedback addressing the phrase "and be" which ITACC found confusing. Members revised the language by removing "and be" and "more" before "fully inclusive." Members agreed on the final goal language below:

“By 2031, the Council will lead, in partnership with family/self-advocates and others, to protect and enhance civil rights and improve statewide and community-based systems to be fully inclusive and supportive of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.”

Objective 2.1 - Members discussed how regional center issues would be addressed through the objective language rather than as a separate focus area. Staff shared a preview of the Regional Center Services website launching January 2026 and noted current trends show more openness to uniformity among regional centers. Members raised concerns about the effectiveness of regional center policy work and emphasized the importance of standardized language and service codes.

Members discussed focus areas using statewide survey data and SCDD staff-prepared analysis. Members identified health/safety, employment, housing, and emerging issues as policy focus areas. Members also discussed adding education to the systems list to ensure the Council can engage in education policy work when needed. Members agreed on the language below:

“By 2031, the Council will develop, improve and/or change 40 practices, 25 policies, and 15 regulations (or guidance) and/or laws in the systems of regional centers, community-based services, education, and government entities. This work will include the areas of health/safety, employment, housing, and/ or emerging issues in ways that will benefit people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and protect their civil rights, promote full inclusion, and/or provide additional supports and services.”

Objective 2.2 - Members identified health/safety, employment, housing, self-determination, and emerging issues as focus areas for systems change projects and professional training. Adding self-determination allows the Council to continue supporting Self-Determination Advisory Committees. Members agreed on the language below:

“By 2031, the Council will support 50,000 people (family/self-advocates and others) by engaging in 20 Statewide/Cross-regional/regional systems change efforts/projects/events in the areas of health/safety, employment, housing, self-determination, and/or emerging issues to:

- 1. Provide them information, skills and/or supports to increase their abilities to become effective advocates.*
- 2. Engage in professional training and/or other efforts to implement systems, demonstrate or support systems change; and/or,*
- 3. Increase services and/or improve supports for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families.”*

Goal 3 (Capacity-Building/Advocacy):

No changes were made to the goal language.

Objective 3.1 – Staff incorporated federal feedback removing language that was difficult to measure and reformatted the objective. Members discussed how the work would be measured. Detailed targets will be included in annual work plans. After discussion, members agreed on the language below:

“By 2031, the Council will increase the capacity of 50,000 people (family/self-advocates/others) with assistance and resources to identify and obtain the supports and services they need, by:

- 1. Providing (staff-led, peer-led and/or collaborative) training,*
- 2. Providing technical assistance (TA)/advocacy clinics and/or resources, and*
- 3. Establishing and/or collaborating with and supporting family-advocate groups/networks”*

Objective 3.2 - No changes were made to this objective.

Discussion on State Plan Flexibility

Members raised concerns about potential federal policy changes. Staff confirmed the state plan can be updated annually without public comment and its language provides real-time flexibility to address unforeseen circumstances.

Staff compiled all finalized language and presented it to the Committee for final review. Staff will format the document for improved readability and prepare a detailed background sheet for Council members.

It was moved/seconded (Yin [UCEDD]/Brown [FA]) and carried to recommend approval of the 2027-2031 State Plan to the full Council at the November 18, 2025 Council meeting. All members present voted to approve. (See Page 1 for a list of members present).

8. **FUTURE MEETINGS & ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting dates for 2026 will be announced soon. Chair Jessica Brown adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.