



**Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2025**

Attending Members

Bob Twomey (FA)
Jessica Brown (FA)
Julie Neward (FA)
Lupe Rodriguez (FA)
Nicole Adler (SA)

Members Absent

Andy Imparato (DRC)
Harold Fujita (FA)
Irene Valdez (FA)
Lee Bycel (FA)

Others Attending

Austin Murphy
Brian Hoang
Christofer Arroyo
David Delgado
Robin Maitino-Erben
Samindra Wijesiriwardane
Veronica Bravo

1. CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of Committee Chair Harold Fujita [FA], Deputy Director Christofer Arroyo appointed Lupe Rodriguez [FA] to act as Chair pro tempore for the remainder of the meeting. Chair Pro Tem Lupe Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments from members of the public.

Manager of Business Ops and Committee Supports, Robin Maitino-Erben introduced Samindra, the new Business Operations

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

and Logistics Analyst, who shared his background in retail management spanning over 23 years.

5. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2025 MEETING MINUTES

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

6. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo presented an end-of-year review of all bills the Council had taken positions on during the first year of the legislative session, organized by subject area. The Council took positions on 19 bills, supporting 18 and opposing one.

Bills signed into law included:

AB 784, AB 951, AB 1172, SB 373, SB 389, SB 470, and SB 671.

Bill(s) vetoed:

AB 1225.

Bill(s) Council opposed:

SB 84, died in committee

Bills that did not advance or became two-year bills included:

AB 308, AB 315, AB 350, AB 517, AB 974, AB 1099, AB 1220, SB 244, SB 363, and SB 422.

During discussion, members asked about the Governor's veto message for AB 1225, and Mr. Arroyo indicated he would look it up and provide it to the committee.

There was no budget update, as no new information had been received since the previous meeting.

7. 2026 LEGISLATIVE PLANNING

There Should Be a Law Contest Report

Deputy Director Arroyo reported on the fifth annual contest, which received over 150 submissions, and noted that the contest timeline

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

was moved earlier based on legislator feedback that ideas should be presented by late October or early November. The Council approved six legislative and policy ideas: plain language materials from government agencies, chronic absenteeism in schools, clarifying the authorized representative process under the Lanterman Act, protected paid leave for sibling bonding, fingerprinting requirements for off-campus student work programs, and the SSI marriage penalty.

Members commended the earlier timeline and asked how staff prioritize ideas from such a large pool. Deputy Director Arroyo explained the process includes alignment with the State Plan, Council core values, community survey data, and pragmatic factors such as likelihood of passage and available resources.

2026 Policy Priorities

Deputy Director Arroyo presented the updated policy priorities document for the committee's review and consideration to the Council. The document included minor corrections and a new section titled "Ensuring Federal Policies and Laws Advance Inclusion and Self-Determination," grounded in the federal DD Act.

Members raised concerns about the lack of inclusive education for students with IDD and emphasized the importance of building alliances with school site councils and local leaders. Deputy Director Arroyo discussed strategies including capacity building, legislative advocacy, and collaboration with the Department of Education.

It was moved/seconded (Twomey [FA]/Brown [FA]) and carried to recommend that the Council adopt the 2026 policy priorities document as presented. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a record of members present]).

2026 Policy Theme

Deputy Director Arroyo facilitated a discussion on the 2026 theme, presenting several options. Members expressed support for "Better, Stronger Together" as the strongest and most accessible option.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

It was moved/seconded (Neward [FA]/Adler [SA]) and carried to recommend "Better, Stronger Together" as the 2026 theme to the Council for approval. (Motion passed unanimously. [See page one for a record of members present]).

8. UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Deputy Director Arroyo confirmed that the policy priorities document and theme recommendation would be presented to the Council at the November meeting. He reported that the federal government shutdown was the primary concern, with SNAP (CalFresh) expected to be impacted. Staff were preparing an e-blast and connecting with local food bank resources. He also noted that NACDD had issued a statement condemning the Federal Department of Education's lack of enforcement regarding special education.

Staff member Maitino-Erben directed members to the hyperlinks in the packet for DDS initiative updates and informed the committee that SB 471 was signed into law on October 1. Mr. Arroyo noted DDS's ongoing work on a new data collection system.

9. MEMBER UPDATES

Committee member Julie Neward [FA] reported on her work with the San Diego County Committee for Persons with Disabilities, which is prioritizing emergency response services. She also noted plans to collaborate with the local SCDD office following Yolanda Cruz's relocation to San Diego.

Committee member Jessica Brown [FA] shared that she attended a Regional Center meeting about replacing the LOIS data system. Key community feedback included the need for transparency in service request workflows, a portal similar to MyChart for tracking requests, and searchable provider directories with filters for location and services. The replacement system will be statewide and developed by an outside vendor.

10. 2026 MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pro Tem Lupe Rodriguez stated that the 2026 LPPC meeting dates would be announced soon. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 PM.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California