



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL MEETING

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code section [11123.2](#). Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

MEETING DETAILS:

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:

SCDD LA REGIONAL OFFICE
411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 620
Glendale, CA 91203

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

CALL IN NUMBER: (888)-475-4499 or
(877) 853-5257
MEETING ID: 860 6867 3170

JOIN BY ZOOM:

<https://bit.ly/SCDDCouncilJuly2026>

MEETING ID: 860 6867 3170

PASSCODE: 082389

DATE: July 21, 2026

MEETING TIME: 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAIR:

Julie Gaona

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Page 4

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Additionally, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

**Item 5. APPROVAL OF MAY 2026 MINUTES **

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All

Item 6. CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Page 12

Julie Gaona, Council Chair

- A. Executive Committee
- B. Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC)
- C. Membership Committee
- D. Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)

**Item 7. DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA:
THEN & NOW**

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Sascha Bittner, Self-Advocates Advisory Committee Chair

Item 8. SCDD UPDATES & STAFF REPORTS

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Aaron Carruthers, Executive Director

- A. Federal Budget
- B. State Budget
- C. SCDD Budget
- D. Chief Deputy Director Report
- E. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
- F. Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
- G. RAP Project Report
- H. QA Project Report

**Item 9. POLICY PLATFORM: REVIEW & APPROVAL **

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Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

**Item 10. POLICY POSITION: FACILITATED COMMUNICATIONS AS
AN INCLUSIVE PRACTICE **

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Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

Item 11. CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.

Item 12. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

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Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

Item 13. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

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The next Council meeting will be in person on September 29, 2026.

Accessibility:

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Yaritza Sanchez at (916)-207-2856 or yaritza.sanchez@scdd.ca.gov. Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 4.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Public Comments

This item is for members of the public to provide comments and/or present information to this body on matters not listed on the agenda. There will be up to 20 minutes allocated to hear from the public with each person allotted up to 3 minutes to comment.

Separately, there will be up to 10 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each Council agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

JULY 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Approval of May 2026 Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 27, 2026 Council meeting have been included in the packet for review. Councilmembers will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Attachment

May Council Meeting Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the May Council meeting minutes.



DRAFT
Council Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2026

Members Attending

Aubyn Stahmer (UCEDD)
Azucena Garcia-Ferro (S.A.)
Cathay Liu (F.A.)
Debra Cooper (CHHS)
Eric Aguilar (S.A.)
Harold Ashe (F.A.)
Harold Fujita (F.A.)
Irene Valdez (F.A.)
Jessica Brown (F.A.)
Joseph Billingsley (DHCS)
Julie Gaona (S.A.)
Kara Ponton (S.A.)
Kim Rothschild (F.A.)
Larry Yin (UCEDD)
Liz Laugeson (UCEDD)
Maria Aliferis-Gjerde (DOR)
Melissa Fitch (F.A.)
Michelle Padilla (S.A.)
Nestor Nieves (S.A.)
Noelia Hernandez (CDE)
Sascha Bittner (S.A.)
Wesley Witherspoon (DRC)

Members Absent

Ana Acton (CDA)
Bob Twomey (F.A.)
Lupe Rodriguez (F.A.)
Michi Gates (DDS)
Rosanna Ryan (S.A.)
Sherry Johnson Alvarez (F.A.)
Sonia Jones (S.A.)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Austin Murphy
Charles Nguyen
Christofer Arroyo
David Delgado
Debra Ponton
Dena Hernandez
DJ Tomko
Gregory Gonzalez
Jennifer Lucas
Kevin Rowell
Michael AV
Nick Lutton

Others Attending (cont.)

Oscar AV
Patricia Herrera
Renee Bauer
Riana Hardin
Rihana Ahmad
Robin Maitino-Erben
Rondale Holloway
Sam Wijesiriwardane
Scarlett VonThenen
Sheraden Nicholau
Yaritza Sanchez
Yolanda Cruz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Julie Gaona called the meeting to order at 10:32 A.M.

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

N/A = not available
DNP = Did Not Participate

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3. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

5. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 2026 MINUTES**

Action 1

It was moved/seconded (Bittner [S.A.]/ Aguilar [S.A.]) and carried to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes as presented. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

6. **CHAIR REPORT AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Julie Gaona invited committee chairs to provide updates on the Council's committee work. Membership Committee Chair Kara Ponton reported that the Membership Committee met on April 7, 2026, to review Council vacancies, demographic information, upcoming term expirations, and applications for vacant and expiring seats. The Committee recommended that the Governor reappoint Councilmembers Nestor Nieves, Jessica Brown, and Sonia Jones to second terms and voted to move two applicants to the interview phase.

Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee Co-Chair Nestor Nieves reported that the SSDAC met on May 5, 2026, and received updates from the Co-Chairs and the Department of Developmental Services regarding Self-Determination Program implementation, enrollment, orientation changes, statewide consistency, and oversight. He also reported that members discussed the Governor's proposed elimination of implementation funding and advisory committees, the potential impact on the program, SCDD-sponsored legislation, the orientation curriculum, and the potential effects of federal funding cuts.

Self-Advocates Advisory Committee Chair Sascha Bittner reported that SAAC met on May 18, 2026, and discussed civic participation and accessible voting. She reminded members to vote and emphasized the importance of voters with disabilities making their voices count.

7. **COUNCILMEMBER CAPITOL DAY DISCUSSION**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers invited Councilmembers who attended the California Disability Leadership Alliance Day of Action at the State Capitol to share their reflections, feedback, and takeaways. During

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the Day of Action, Councilmembers met with Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula to discuss the importance of plain language and later met with staff from Senate and Assembly budget and policy committees. Councilmembers shared appreciation for the opportunity to connect in person with community partners and legislative staff on important issues affecting people with disabilities. In addition, members discussed the importance of being concise during legislative meetings, so all members have a chance to speak. They also prioritized self-advocate voices.

8. **ADOPT SCDD 2026-27 BUDGET**

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers presented updates to the proposed SCDD 2026-2027 budget. He explained that the Council had already reviewed the full budget in March, so the focus was on changes made since then. Mr. Carruthers reported that the proposed changes included transferring \$7,000 in federal Basic State Grant funds from printing and postage to in-state travel to support additional in-person advocacy opportunities. He also reported a \$35,000 reduction to the information technology budget, a \$44,000 increase for personal services, and an overall \$9,000 increase in federal dollars.

Mr. Carruthers stated that SCDD's budget maintained a prudent reserve of \$1.75 million to help protect operations in the event of any delays or disruptions in federal funding. He also reported that \$144,000 in prior-year unexpended funds would be used to help balance the federal budget, including increased salary and benefit costs resulting from updated state benefit estimates.

Action 2

It was moved/seconded (Ponton [S.A.]/ Bittner [S.A.]) and carried to adopt the 2026 – 27 SCDD Budget. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

9. **GOVERNOR'S MAY REVISE UPDATE**

Deputy Cabinet Secretary Richard Figueroa from the Governor's Office and Department of Developmental Services Director Pete Cervinka provided an update on the Governor's May Revise for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Mr. Figueroa thanked Councilmembers for their service and provided an overview of the state budget process, including the Legislature's June 15 budget deadline and the trailer bill process.

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Mr. Cervinka reported that the May Revise proposed a \$2.9 billion increase for developmental disability services compared to the current year, largely due to continued caseload growth. He stated that DDS expected to add almost 39,000 people to the system in the next year and emphasized that the proposal did not include cuts or limits to services. He also reported that improved data matching helped identify nearly half a billion dollars in additional federal funding that could be claimed for services provided to individuals and families.

Mr. Cervinka also highlighted several proposals, including moving the new grievance process implementation from July to February, funding regional center operation costs to support more service coordinators, rent support for more accessible regional center offices, community resource development, and long-term efforts to improve statewide consistency in eligibility and needs assessment. He clarified that DDS was not proposing changes to the definition of eligibility or substantial disability but was seeking clearer statewide guidelines so access to services does not depend on which regional center serves a person.

Councilmembers raised questions and concerns regarding Medi-Cal eligibility, federal funding, asset limits, In-Home Supportive Services, emergency backup services, SSI overpayments, rural health care access, service coordinator turnover, caseload ratios, service disparities, provider capacity, and inclusive higher education. Mr. Figueroa and Mr. Cervinka responded that the state was working to reduce paperwork barriers, maximize Medi-Cal coverage and federal funding, protect home and community-based services, improve regional center staffing and funding models, build a statewide provider directory, and use data to identify service gaps.

10. **MEDICAL FAIR SHARE CONTRIBUTION**

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Chris Arroyo presented information on the Medi-Cal Fair Share Contribution, a Senate proposal intended to help protect Medi-Cal funding. He explained that some workers do not have affordable employer-provided health care and instead qualify for Medi-Cal. He stated that 42% of people who receive Medi-Cal are full-time workers and noted that Medi-Cal is paid for by taxpayers. He explained that when employers do not provide affordable health care, the cost shifts to the public and may reduce available funding for health care, regional center services, In-Home Supportive Services, and other needed services.

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Mr. Arroyo explained that the proposal would require large companies to pay annual fees toward the cost of Medi-Cal when their workers use it. He stated that small and medium-sized companies would not have to pay the fees and that the proposal was estimated to create \$5 billion to \$8 billion in funding. The proposal was intended to help keep Medi-Cal funded, address the budget shortfall, and encourage large employers to increase pay and improve health care benefits.

Action 3

It was moved/seconded (Bittner [S.A.]/ Aguilar [S.A.]) and carried to support the Medi-Cal Fair Share Contribution and direct SCDD staff to undertake advocacy activities. (See last page for a voting record of members present)

11. REGIONAL CENTER SERVICES WEBSITE LAUNCH

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers announced the official launch of SCDD's Regional Center Services webpage, which was designed to help people served by regional centers, families, advocates, and community partners better understand regional center services and support more informed conversations with regional center service coordinators. SCDD developed the website in partnership with Disability Rights California and the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. The tool allows users to search for regional center services by topic area, keyword, service code, or age range. Each service entry includes the service code number, plain-language description, and real-life examples of when the service may be used. He noted that the webpage is a living resource, and SCDD will continue gathering feedback, making revisions, expanding accessibility and language access features, and developing a "how to" video tutorial.

12. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT & STAFF REPORTS

Due to time constraints, item 12 was not presented orally. A written report is available to members and the public.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

The next Council meeting will be held on Zoom on July 21, 2026. Chair Gaona adjourned the meeting at 3:32 P.M.

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Name	Vote 1	Vote 2	Vote 3
Aguilar, Eric	Aye	Aye	Aye
Aliferis-Gjerde, Maria	Aye	Aye	Abstain
Ashe, Harold	Aye	Aye	Aye
Billingsley, Joseph	Aye	Abstain	Abstain
Bittner, Sascha	Aye	Aye	Aye
Brown, Jessica	Aye	Aye	Aye
Cooper, Debra	NP	Abstain	NP
Fitch, Melissa	Aye	Aye	Aye
Fujita, Harold	Aye	Aye	Aye
Gaona, Julie	Aye	Aye	NP
Garcia-Ferro, Azucena	Aye	Aye	Aye
Hernandez, Noelia	Aye	Aye	Aye
Laugeson, Liz	Aye	Aye	Aye
Liu, Cathay	Aye	Aye	Aye
Nieves, Nestor	Aye	Aye	Aye
Padilla, Michelle	Aye	Aye	Aye
Ponton, Kara	Aye	Aye	Aye
Rothschild, Kim	Aye	Aye	Abstain
Stahmer, Aubyn	Aye	Aye	Aye
Valdez, Irene	Aye	Aye	Aye
Witherspoon, Wesley	Abstain	Abstain	Abstain
Yin, Larry	Aye	Aye	NP

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Chair Report and Committee Reports

Council Chair Julie Gaona will provide her story as part of July Disability Pride Month.

SCDD committee summaries have been provided for informational purposes.

Attachments

Executive Committee Summary 6/16/26

Legislative and Public Policy Committee Summary 6/23/26

Membership Committee Summary & Report 6/10/26 & 7/7/26

Handout

Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Summary 7/20/26

AGENDA ITEM 6A

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 16, 2026

Meeting's Focus

The Executive Committee met on June 16, 2026. The meeting included a Statewide Self-Determination Program (SDP) spotlight, seven sponsorship requests, one conflict resolution plan, an SCDD budget update, an ED evaluation process update, and a report from the Executive Director. Executive Director Carruthers reported that SB 1052 (Gonzalez), SCDD's Authorized Representation bill, was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee and would not move forward this year. He also reported that AB 2360 (Arambula), SCDD's Plain Language bill, passed out of the Assembly and will be heard by the Senate Government Organization Committee on June 23. SCDD continued budget advocacy on proposed trailer bill language related to Regional Center oversight, the grievance process, and remote services. SCDD's recommendations focused on stronger representation and support for people served and family members on Regional Center boards, improved board member training, and safeguards to ensure remote services remain an option without replacing needed in-person services. Additionally, he highlighted the relaunch of SCDD's Self-Determination Program Orientation, noting that SCDD is the only provider of the mandated orientation. Lastly, he reported that SCDD was exploring AI enhancements to the Regional Center Services webpage to provide users with self-contained technical assistance.

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the February 2026 meeting minutes.
- Approved sponsorship requests from the Community Living Campaign, Family Resource Network, Special Needs Resource Foundation of San Diego, Arc of California, Defeating Epilepsy Foundation, and the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (CEDD) at the UC Davis MIND Institute.
- Approved a conflict resolution plan for Regional Center Board Member Liza Krassner.

Future Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6B

LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 23, 2026

Meeting's Focus

On June 23, 2026, the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) met to receive updates on the bills the Council has taken positions on for the 2026 legislative session and to consider revisions to the Council's Policy Platform.

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo provided an overview of the legislative process from June through September and reviewed the current status of each bill the Council is supporting or opposing, noting which measures are advancing through their second house and which did not survive committee.

Members reviewed proposed changes to the Policy Platform to align it with the 2027-2031 State Plan and bring the Council's legal principles, policy positions, and guiding principles together in a single document. Members were invited to provide changes, make additional changes, or seek clarification.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided federal updates, including a recent U.S. Department of Justice opinion concerning the integration mandate associated with *Olmstead v. L.C.* The opinion addresses the scope of the integration mandate and the related federal regulations. Mr. Carruthers reviewed the opinion's potential implications for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, including those residing in California's developmental centers, and noted that staff will continue to monitor any developments.

Item's Acted Upon

- The Committee approved the March 2026 Meeting Minutes.
- The Committee acted to recommend that the Council adopt the revised 2027-2031 Policy Platform, which would take effect October 1, 2026.

Future Meeting Dates

September 10th & October 13th, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 6C

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE & WORKGROUP SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

June 10th & July 7th, 2026

Meeting's Focus

The Membership Workgroup met on June 10th to review applications for Regional Advisory Committees (RAC) and Local Self-Determination Advisory Committees (SDAC). Workgroup members approved ten RAC and five local SDAC appointments.

The Membership Committee met on July 7th to review and make recommendations on candidates to fill the North Coast Region's expired seat.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers and Committee Pro Tem Harold Ashe led the Committee in their review of four applications for the North Coast Region. Following their review, members acted to move two of the four applicants to the next phase of the appointment process.

Items Acted Upon

- The Committee acted to move applicants 1043 (North Coast) & 1047 (North Coast) to the next phase of the process for Council seats.

Future Meeting Dates

To be announced.



July 7, 2026

Membership Committee Report to the Council

SEC 1. Existing Vacancies

Seat	Date Seat Became Vacant	Months Vacant Asterisk (*) indicates vacancy of more than 4 months
At Large 1	August 2025	*
Sequoia	August 2025	*

SEC 2. Expired Appointments

Seat	Date Appointment Expired Number of Months Expired Asterisk (*) indicates eligibility for reappointment
North Coast	11
North State	11

SEC 3. Upcoming Terms Set to Expire

Seat	Date Appointment Will Expire Asterisk (*) indicates eligibility for reappointment
None	

SEC 4. Recommendations Solicited

Has a solicitation for multiple recommendations for Council appointment been distributed?

☒ Yes

☐ No

Agencies Solicited

Date

SCDD Website

Continuous

SEC 5. Councilmember Terms

Appointment Roster Listing Each Members Term Attached?

☐ Yes

☒ No

SEC 6. Nominees

Number of candidates the Membership Committee moved forward to the next phase: 2

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Disability Rights Movement in California: Then & Now

July 26, 2026, marks the 36th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Each July, Disability Pride Month is observed to recognize the ADA and celebrate the contributions, history, and rights of people with disabilities.

SAAC Chair Sascha Bittner will provide the Council with an overview of the Disability Rights Movement in California and lead a discussion about ways the Council can support and strengthen disability rights protections.

Handout

PowerPoint Presentation

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCDD Updates & Staff Reports

The California Legislature and Governor adopted the 2026–27 State Budget, which includes changes to the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' budget.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will provide an overview of the 2026–27 budget, including state and federal budget changes affecting SCDD, and next steps.

Attachments

SCDD Budget
Chief Deputy Director Report
Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations Report
RAP Report
QA Project Report

Handouts

Executive Director Report
Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Report
May be additional handout(s) on the day of the meeting



State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Fiscal Year 2026-27 Proposed Budget
July 2026

	Council Budget	Department Budget - Other Programs				
Categories	*Basic State Grant	Quality Assessment	Rights and Advocacy Program	Special Projects and Reimbursements	Special Education Parent Action Network	TOTAL
	Federal Grant	State Contract	State Contract	State Contract	General Fund	
1. Personal Services:						
Net Salaries & Wages	\$ 4,349,182	\$ 1,674,000	\$ 833,000	\$ 511,000		\$ 7,367,182
Temporary Help / Honorarium	\$ 106,223	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106,223
Staff Benefits	\$ 2,588,590	\$ 904,000	\$ 417,000	\$ 291,000		\$ 4,200,590
Less 9% Salary Savings from Vacancies	\$ (618,845)					\$ (618,845)
Total Personal Services	\$ 6,425,000	\$ 2,578,000	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 802,000	\$ -	\$ 11,055,000
2. Operating Expense and Equipment:						
General Expense	\$ 125,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 168,000
Printing	\$ 31,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 70,000
Communications	\$ 76,000	\$ 73,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 9,000	\$ -	\$ 168,000
Postage	\$ 6,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 47,000
Travel-in-State :	\$ 182,000	\$ 40,000	\$ 32,000	\$ 17,000		\$ 271,000
Out-of-State Travel	\$ 7,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000
Training	\$ 25,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 53,000
Facilities Operations (Rent)	\$ 633,000	\$ 266,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 17,000	\$ -	\$ 940,000
Utilities	\$ 8,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000
Interdepartmental Services	\$ 100,000	\$ 140,000	\$ 134,000	\$ 757,000	\$ -	\$ 1,131,000
External Contract Services	\$ 360,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 172,000		\$ 710,000
Information Technology	\$ 168,000	\$ 166,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 66,000	\$ -	\$ 445,000
Statewide Cost Allocation Plan (SWCAP)	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Other Items of Expense	\$ 5,000	\$ 980,000	\$ 132,000	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 1,132,000
Total Operating Expense and Equipment	\$ 1,751,000	\$ 1,935,000	\$ 410,000	\$ 1,079,000	\$ -	\$ 5,175,000
3. Community Grants / Other Projects	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4. Total SCDD Budget by Source	\$ 8,176,000	\$ 4,513,000	\$ 1,660,000	\$ 1,881,000	\$ 2,400,000	\$ 18,630,000
5. Total Basic State Grant Award	\$ 8,032,000					
6. Difference between Total Council Budget and Basic State Grant Award	\$ (144,000)					
*Footnotes						
3 Month Reserve	\$ 1,750,000					
Estimated Unexpended Funds Available	\$ 169,000					



Chief Deputy Director Report

July 2026

Rihana Ahmad

Overview:

The Chief Deputy Director (CDD) continues to oversee operational functions in collaboration with staff, while identifying tools and strategies to strengthen organizational effectiveness. Recent efforts have focused on engaging with staff, leadership, and external partners to support program development, policy implementation, and operational alignment.

Key initiatives include implementation and oversight of the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP), along with collaborative discussions with the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on the Quality Assurance (QA) program, Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientations and Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC) projects.

Core administrative responsibilities are being prioritized, including executive oversight of the agency's budget development and monitoring processes, contract and procurement oversight, personnel management, interagency coordination, and day-to-day operational support across the organization.

The following sections highlight recent activities and accomplishments from some of the operational and program support units under the Chief Deputy Director's oversight.

Personnel:

- ✓ Conducted 24 recruitments in FY 2026 (July 1, 2025 – present), with 3 active recruitments currently ongoing.
- ✓ Hired 16 staff members in FY 2026, with 1 new hire since May
 - HQ SDM-TAP, Barbara Imle, July 1

Budget:

- ✓ Completed payroll projection and BSG cashflow analysis
- ✓ Successfully disputed SCIF audit findings resulting in savings
- ✓ Reviewed and approved CalATERS travel claims before year-end cutoff

- ✓ Completed IA renewal analysis for SSDAC and SDM-TAP
- ✓ Delivered ad hoc analysis for year-end expenditure decisions
- ✓ Provided operational support for Chief Deputy Director

IT:

- ✓ SCDD IT Staff continues to prepare its annual compliance and risk reports to CDT for the year in addition to its ongoing support and maintenance of agency technology and hardware.
- ✓ Teams Calling deployment has been delayed and IT staff will be working with DSS later this month to finalize migration requirements and ensure readiness

Business Operations and Committee Supports:

- ✓ Following its Council and Committee Support and Planning Staff training in the Spring, the BOCS unit continued to refine and finalize foundational Strategic operation procedures that will ensure alignment on committee, council planning, and key business operations including:
 - SCDDs “Small Business and Disabled/ Veteran Business Enterprise (SB/DVBE) First Procurement Policy”. This policy will be rolled out across the agency in late 2026 and ensures continued compliance with AB 2019 mandated procurement goals.
- ✓ BOCS staff also continued to process invoices, purchase orders, travel claims, and reimbursements for Councilmembers and staff, to ensure timely payments and compliance ahead of the close of the State Fiscal Year

State Plan:

- ✓ State Plan staff began preparing final materials for the submission of the 2027-2031 State Plan which include Council Staff’s Annual Work Plan, an updated Evaluation Plan, and Comprehensive review and analysis of available disability services across the state.
- ✓ State Plan Staff continued their submission of impact stories to the Information and Technical Assistance center for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ITACC) and three more of the Council’s projects were selected and featured on ITACC’s impact page.

Self-Advocacy:

- ✓ SAAC held a meeting on July 20th where committee members provided feedback on Council Policy Priorities and Platform changes and honored the 35th anniversary of the American’s with Disabilities Act.

Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC):

- ✓ SSDAC staff have been working with SSDAC Co-chairs to review 2026-2027 SDP trailer bill language and prepare updates for the committee ahead of their upcoming August 10th meeting.
- ✓ Staff completed and submitted 2025-26 SSDAC reports which can be found in both English and Spanish at [SDP Reports | SCDD](#).
- ✓ SSDAC staff have also been working with the Council's Budget officer and DDS to prepare an updated scope of work and budget in anticipation of SSDAC's 2027 interagency renewal date.

Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP):

- ✓ The grant-funded phase of the SDM-TAP program officially concluded on June 20th, 2026, and SDM-TAP staff are reviewing the Evaluation report created by UC-Davis in preparation for SCDD's internal implementation of SDM-TAP activities.
- ✓ A new SDM-TAP Program supervisor was hired to oversee the internal implementation phase of SDM-TAP at SCDD and is developing the internal workplan for the program for the next 5 years.

Self-Determination Program Orientation Project

The SCDD Statewide Self-Determination Program (SDP) Orientation Project is a long-term Interagency Agreement with the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to conduct the required first step of the Self-Determination Program: the SDP Orientation. Since July 2022, SCDD has offered these sessions statewide in multiple languages to anyone interested in learning about SDP. The project is carried out by SCDD staff working alongside co-trainers who are family members of SDP participants and SDP participants themselves, bringing lived experience to the training.

What's new:

Beginning April 1, 2026, SCDD launched a redesigned statewide SDP Orientation in partnership with DDS. The orientation now consists of two parts, Part A and Part B. Each session is two hours long, and participants must complete both before beginning the SDP transition process. The new curriculum was developed collaboratively by SCDD and DDS to bring greater consistency to orientation content and align with statute and policy updates.

The SCDD webpage has been updated to include registration for both parts, along with resources and recordings for Part A and Part B in English/ASL and Spanish. Live Zoom attendance of the full two-hour session is required to qualify for a certificate.

In addition to regular monthly English and Spanish sessions, SCDD offers live AI translation for English-language sessions. From April through June 2026, this tool supported attendees in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Persian (Farsi), Russian,

Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese. SCDD will soon expand the updated curriculum into all contracted languages, pending translation completion.

Participation: From July 2022 through March 2026, under the prior single-session curriculum, SCDD trained 14,422 participants. Since the two-part curriculum launched, attendance has substantially exceeded prior levels: 1,207 participants in April (825 in Part A, 382 in Part B), 1,739 in May (914 in Part A, 825 in Part B), and 1,564 in June (1,036 in Part A, 528 in Part B).

Attendee feedback:

You're both great together and made it fun. Thank you for all your help and information. - P. H.

I love these little questions, really keeps you engaged and helps you make sure you understand what's going on. - R.H.

Great presentation today. Dense with much-needed information. - E.M.

This session was more helpful in my opinion because it had more details of how to do this and what to expect. - A. M.



Deputy Director, Regional Office Operations (DDROO)

Report, July 2026

Sheraden Nicholau

Overview:

The Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations is the lead position fulfilling the department's federal and state mission for systems change and capacity building. This position leads the 12 regional teams to carry out the work of the State Plan, including systemic identification and removal of barriers that keep people with IDD from living integrated lives in the community.

Additionally, this position:

- Represents SCDD externally to build partnerships and advance the work of the SCDD.
- Leverages change management to maximize SCDD's impact.
- Provides leadership and oversight of the programmatic, administrative, and strategic work of the SCDD regional teams.
- Supervises SCDD Regional Managers.

Recent Regional Office Highlights:

- ✓ SCDD Regional Offices, in partnership with SCDD Communications and IT, have kicked off this month's SCDD themed-month content for Disability Pride 2026, to include new Storytellers blogs and a statewide panel featuring experts with lived-experience.
- ✓ An additional four SCDD Regional Managers have completed California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Academy Instructor Certification Course (AICC) certification, adding to the State Council's capacity to meet the increased demand for high quality crisis

intervention team training, law enforcement academy training, and general safety and service training for first responders across the state. These trainings help build disability-informed law enforcement and first responder units, with the aim to improve service, safety, and respect for all Californians with I/DD and other disabilities.

- ✓ SCDD regional team members have kicked off the planning of a new statewide SCDD leadership academy for family advocates. This academy will be the third statewide SCDD leadership academy to launch, joining the existing Systemic Advocacy & Leadership Academy (SALA) for English-language advocates with I/DD, and Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacía Sistémica (ALAS) for Spanish-language family advocates.
- ✓ Two CA counties partnered, through their Joint Developmental Disabilities Councils' Annual Awards, to honor SCDD team member Ron Usac with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of service and his contributions to and support of the I/DD community.

Recent External Partnership Highlights:

- ✓ SCDD DDROO was a keynote speaker, moderator, or presenter at recent conferences, trainings, and events:
 - Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) sessions, for law enforcement and first responders across counties

Recent Administrative Highlights:

- ✓ SCDD regional teams and HQ teams continue to collaborate on updating in-house procedures and best-practices, for effective and efficient regional office operations.



- ✓ Seven SCDD regional teams are in process of renewing their regional office lease or evaluating new lease options.

State Plan Activities Year-to-Date from the Regional Offices & HQ Team Members:

SCDD team members continue to lead and contribute to a variety of statewide and regional activities in this final year of the current State Plan.

Activities conducted and reported on to-date this fiscal year include:

- ✓ 245 self-advocacy activities (Goal 1), impacting 4,051 individuals
- ✓ 902 systems change activities (Goal 2), impacting 19,398 individuals
- ✓ 499 capacity-building activities (Goal 3), impacting 21,383 individuals
- ✓ Delivering a total of 419 trainings / events, and 1,227 meetings, chats, and clinics
- ✓ Preparing 427 self-advocates and 22 family advocates to be trainers, facilitators, and presenters across 272 prep sessions
- ✓ Developing 78 curricula and resources, updating 45 curricula and resources, and translating 12 curricula and resources
- ✓ Reaching 12,096 **new** individuals with SCDD's work

A Few Recent State Plan Activities Highlights:



(L) Attendees attend a presentation from SCDD at an Emergency Services Volunteer (ESV) training. (R) A SCDD Central Coast Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) member works with ESVs on a training exercise for emergency response.



(L) SCDD team members from the Bay Area Regional Office and the North Valley Hills Regional Office host a resource table and present at the 'Escuchen Mi Voz' event, serving Spanish-language community members. (R) Participants from a peer-led Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference, where Sac6 members served on the planning committee and provided presentations, with assistance and technical support from SCDD's North Valley Hills Regional Office.



(L) A t-shirt from the recent Region 2 People First Conference and Information Fair in Anderson, CA. (R) Supplies from a recent 'Healthy U – Living Your Best Life' training, led by self-advocate leaders and supported by SCDD's North State Regional Office.

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy

- ✓ The SCDD Sequoia Regional Office partnered with self-advocates to provide training around healthy relationships, consent, boundaries, public v. private communication, and other related topics. The aim of these trainings and technical assistance is to prevent abuse, uphold individual rights, foster open communication, and to normalize sexuality as a natural part of human development. 138 people participated, recently. Additionally, agencies from outside of CA have recently joined these trainings, seeking to bring this approach and these resources to community members in their state. As a result, participants have a better understanding of boundaries and other components of health relationships. Additionally, participants have the knowledge and safe space to advocate for themselves and practice healthy boundary setting in relationships.



- ✓ The SCDD North State Regional Office supported the Region 2 People First Conference in Anderson, CA. The theme was, 'We're All in This Together'. SCDD hosted a resource table and supported a training session during the conference on: 'Healthy U- Living Your Best Life!', as led by a trainer with lived-experience. The activities increased awareness of services, rights, health and wellness resources, and self-advocacy opportunities for individuals with I/DD, families, and professionals. Through information sharing, peer learning, and interactive discussion, participants gained knowledge, confidence, and practical tools to access supports, made informed choices, and advocated for their health, well-being, and community participation. Attendees from all over the state attended, 80 of them engaging with SCDD at the resource table, and 45 attending the training. Through the conference and information resource fair, participants increased their awareness of SCDD resources, advocacy opportunities, rights under the Lanterman Act, and available services and supports. Through interactive discussion and the sharing of lived experiences, attendees gained confidence in identifying personal goals, communicating their needs, accessing supports, and taking actionable steps to improve their health, well-being, and quality of life.
- ✓ The SCDD North Valley Hills Regional Office provided support , session development, and technical assistance to the Self Advocacy Council 6 (SAC6) members and a Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) member to provide four sessions at the Statewide Self Advocacy Conference. These leaders with lived experience presented the following sessions: 'Preparing for your IPP- Individual Personal Plan', 'My Life Story', 'Story of Me', and 'A New Hope: How to Face Mental Health and Addiction'. There were 140 total attendees. This peer-led conference is an annual event in Sacramento; SAC6 is a respected member of the planning team. Attendees from across the state receive valuable information and resources from peers, in a supportive setting.



Goal 2: Systems Change

- ✓ The SCDD San Diego Imperial Regional Office hosted a California CIT Connects meeting, bringing together 55 participants representing law enforcement, behavioral health professionals, people with disabilities, family advocates, regional centers, developmental disability service providers, advocates, and crisis response community partners. This convening expands opportunities for information sharing and future collaboration to improve community-based crisis response and reduce justice system involvement for people with disabilities. This convening also facilitates cross-sector discussions on crisis response and I/DD, the sharing of promising practices and successful crisis intervention strategies. The meeting focused on improving inclusive crisis services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), enhancing law enforcement training, and identifying strategies to reduce unnecessary arrests and incarceration. Optimum Behavioral Health presented, with a speaker focused on supporting individuals with I/DD, military families, and underserved communities. Additionally, participants exchanged resources and identified opportunities for ongoing statewide collaboration. As a result of the meeting, statewide partnerships between law enforcement, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities stakeholders were strengthened, and awareness of effective and inclusive crisis response strategies for individuals with I/DD increased.
- ✓ The SCDD Bay Area Regional Office presented at the Golden Gate Regional Center Legislative Breakfast. This event brought together approximately 120 advocates with I/DD, family members, regional center staff, community partners, service providers, and legislators to talk about issues that matter to community members with I/DD. The event gave advocates the opportunity to share their personal stories, discuss legislative priorities, and build relationships with policymakers. Legislators or members of their office that attended include San Francisco Supervisor Mandelman, State Senator Wiener, State Congressman Mullin, and Redwood City Council Member Howard. SCDD gave remarks at this event, highlighting the lasting impact of the



Lanterman Act and the continued work needed to strengthen rights for the I/DD community. Councilmember Bittner also spoke at this event. Attendees learned about current policy issues, connected with one another, and helped increase lawmakers' understanding of the needs and experiences of the I/DD community. As a result, the event strengthened partnerships, encouraged continued advocacy, and helped ensure that the voices of people with I/DD and their families are included in conversations about future policies and services.

- ✓ The SCDD Los Angeles Regional Office convened a statewide Independent Facilitator meeting, as a part of a monthly roundtable, to share Self Determination Program (SDP) updates, discuss systemic issues, exchange best practices, and identify concerns related to regional centers and Financial Management Services (FMS) providers. The Independent Facilitator (IF) Roundtable brought together 47 Independent Facilitators from across California to share information, discuss emerging issues, and collaborate on solutions related to SDP. Participants, additionally, received updates on Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) directives, regional center Local Volunteer Advisory Committee (LVAC) activities, and policy developments impacting SDP implementation. Through peer collaboration and information sharing, the group helps strengthen advocacy efforts and improve outcomes for individuals and families participating in SDP. This effort aims to increase Independent Facilitators' knowledge, collaboration, and capacity to effectively support Self-Determination Program participants and address implementation challenges. This work strengthens statewide Self-Determination Program implementation by improving access to information, reducing barriers, and advancing person-centered supports and services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

- ✓ The SCDD North Bay Regional Office recently met with both regional and statewide legislators to discuss inclusion and policy impacting Californians with I/DD and other disabilities. Meetings included those with Solano County Board Supervisor Cassandra

James and Assemblymember Lori Wilson. The discussions included topics like the barriers affecting individuals with I/DD, disability policy priorities, opportunities for collaboration, and the importance of including the perspectives of people with lived experience throughout the legislative process. These connections support future advocacy efforts, strengthen cross-system communication, and create additional opportunities to elevate the voices of individuals with lived-experience in public policy discussions. Continued engagement with regional and statewide legislators aim to further elevate the needs and recommendations of the region's disabilities communities, to advance SCDD's role as a trusted source for policy and technical assistance and to expand opportunities for meaningful systems change throughout the North Bay region.

- ✓ The SCDD Orange County Regional Office continues to support systems change and public policy efforts through its role as a Board of Supervisors-appointed Public Agency Representative on the Orange County Child Care and Development Planning Council (LPC). As part of this commitment, SCDD participates in the LPC Civic Engagement Ad-Hoc Committee, which focuses on strengthening advocacy efforts related to early childhood and childcare issues, monitoring policy developments, and keeping Council members informed of legislative and regulatory changes that may impact children and families. During the committee's recent meeting, members finalized a series of early childhood and childcare policy questions to be distributed on behalf of the LPC to California gubernatorial candidates. Members also discussed establishing a response deadline and disseminating candidate information to stakeholders during the summer, pending Steering Committee approval. In support of the committee's legislative awareness efforts, SCDD provided updates on several disability- and inclusion-related bills that may be relevant to the LPC's work, including:
 - AB 2468, which would expand and refocus the Supporting Innovative Practices program to promote inclusion within general education settings.

- AB 2241, which would require inclusive playground design standards for schools utilizing state or local funding.
- AB 2526, which would establish a dedicated special education funding add-on within the state's education funding structure.

Through its participation, SCDD ensures that disability inclusion, accessibility, and equitable educational opportunities remain part of broader early childhood policy discussions and civic engagement efforts within Orange County.

Goal 3: Capacity-Building

- ✓ The SCDD San Bernardino Regional Office supports twelve Academia de Liderazgo y Abogacía Sistémica (ALAS) Leadership and Systems Advocacy Academy graduates. These graduates formed an alliance to address emerging issues impacting Latino communities across the Inland Empire, Inyo, and Mono Counties. These graduates, primarily Spanish-speaking, focus on systems improvement, policy influence, and advancing inclusion regionally. The leadership academy and this alliance of regional graduates seek to strengthen systems change by developing informed community leaders in the region who actively participate in decision-making with government agencies, schools, and service systems, ensuring lived-experience voices are represented. These efforts contribute to strengthened self-advocacy and family leadership among the regional Latino community, sustained leadership through mentoring and peer development, stronger collaboration across systems in the region, and expanded advocacy capacity for equitable services and supports.
- ✓ The SCDD Central Coast Regional Office served in a variety of roles for the 'Ins and Outs of Informed Decision Making Conference'. SCDD staff participated in conference planning and implementation activities, including delivering opening remarks,



presenting two breakout sessions on Supported Decision-Making and alternatives to conservatorship, and staffing an SCDD resource table throughout the event.

Additionally, SCDD sponsored the event, to promote informed decision-making, self-advocacy, and self-determination for people with I/DD. The conference, held in Oxnard, was attended by nearly 220 self-advocates, family advocates and community partners. Approximately 10 agencies hosted resource tables, providing attendees with information on available services and supports. Breakout sessions were offered on topics including relationships & sexuality, supported decision-making, disaster preparedness, and more. Entrepreneurs with lived-experience showcased and sold their artwork during the event, providing an opportunity to share their talents and earn income. Overall, the event increased access to information and resources, promoted self-advocacy and informed decision-making, and strengthened connections among self-advocates. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with comments including,

- *'This is the best event'*
- *'I hope we can do this again.'*

- ✓ The SCDD Sacramento Regional Office, as a result of identified needs and trends, completed a 56-hour Peer Counselor Domestic Violence Training. This training, under California Evidence Code 1037.1 and Section 13750(a), provides essential tools to support survivors, strengthen community response, and address key areas such as safety planning, coercive control, strangulation awareness, human trafficking, and cultural considerations. Completion of this comprehensive training strengthens SCDD's ability to share safety planning information, identify risks, and provide trauma informed, culturally responsive, and other aligned technical assistance--safely and appropriately within domestic violence cases involving individuals with I/DD. As an early result, the knowledge and resources from this training have been leveraged to support community members with technical assistance, and SCDD's partner agencies, including a Regional Center and a Family Justice Center.



- ✓ The SCDD North Coast Regional Office, in partnership with a regional center Client Advocate, is sourcing materials for West Business Development Center on best practices for hiring and retaining people with disabilities. West Business is one of several Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) for this region, serving primarily Mendocino County. West Business provides professional support to businesses that receive catalyst funds through Redwood Region RISE. This work is an extension of SCDD's role on the region's Equity Council to ensure historically underrepresented people are included in the economic development of the North State region. Because of SCDD's role on the Equity Council, a board member of West Business, a well-known business leader in the region, has become an advocate for the importance of full inclusion of people with disabilities in the work force. This board member now speaks up on behalf of this initiative. RISE initially provided nine million dollars in catalyst funds to 19 projects. An additional \$2.5 million in private funds were provided for six additional projects. All projects benefit the North Coast Region (Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte). An intended outcome of this work is to further advance inclusive hiring practices through SBDCs serving this area.

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Rights and Advocacy Program (RAP) Council Report

Reporting Period: May – July 2026

Submitted by: Holly Bins, RAP Manager

RAP Team: Robbin Puccio, Rights Advocate at Canyon Springs · Julie Hillstead, VAS Coordinator at Canyon Springs · Judi Muirhead, VAS Coordinator at Porterville DC · Maria Arredondo, Rights Advocate at Porterville DC

Program Census Overview — June 1, 2026

CANYON SPRINGS	PDC Secured Treatment
37	165

Program Highlights — What Went Well

This reporting period reflects meaningful advocacy wins across all RAP programs. Advocates protected individual rights in high-stakes situations, supported successful community transitions, strengthened family connections, and elevated systemic issues that resulted in concrete policy changes.

✓ Medical Advance Directive Honored

PDC RA and VAS Coordinator collaborated across disciplines to capture an individual's updated end-of-life wishes when their capacity to sign documents changed. Their preferences were formally documented and communicated to the interdisciplinary team at a pre-bioethics meeting—ensuring the individual's voice guided decision-making without a new signed directive.

✓ 3 Community Placements Completed

After zero placements in May, CS RAP participated in three successful community placements in June. Advocates attended all transition meetings, coordinated with Regional Centers, and provided continuity of support for each individual.

✓ 5 Individuals on Track for Community Transition

CS RA Robbin Puccio is actively supporting five individuals progressing toward community placement, including one 7505 committed individual accepted and in the beginning stages of transitioning. RA has attended seven court hearings and maintains ongoing contact with public defenders to protect individual legal rights.

Abuse Report Filed — Protective Services Branch Notified



PDC RA Maria Arredondo completed a General Event Report on behalf of an individual who reported physical abuse by staff. The individual received immediate emotional support, Protective Services Branch was notified, and an investigation was opened—demonstrating rapid, effective rights protection.

Smooth Hospital-to-Home Transition Through Medical Crisis



PDC VASC Judi Muirhead met with new providers for an individual undergoing a medical crisis, providing detailed history and advocacy training. The individual successfully transitioned from the hospital to a new home, with continued communication maintained with both the individual and new provider.

Family Connection and Emotional Wellbeing



CS RAP Advocates helped individuals create correspondence and stay connected to family members who had become unreachable. An advocate's candid explanation of how the family dynamic affects an individual's behavior at a special meeting was praised by Canyon Springs staff—noting it was impactful coming from an external voice.

Employment and Community Integration Advocacy



CS VAS Coordinator Julie Hillstead and her advocates consistently raised employment opportunities in IPP meetings, prompting Regional Centers to begin locating job vendors. At least one individual secured work shortly after moving into a community home as a direct result. CS General Admission confirmed Desert ARC as a work site, with RA encouraging expansion to additional off-site work opportunities.

Community Outings Fully Restored — PDC



Community outings resumed January 7, 2026, and have remained consistently scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month throughout this period. Participation is described as positive, with individuals demonstrating strong anticipation and engagement.

New Advocate Mentorship



PDC VASC Judi Muirhead facilitated training for a new advocate in the North Bay area, providing mentorship and personally introducing her to the individuals now in her caseload—strengthening the volunteer advocate pipeline.

13 CS Staff Trained on Individual Rights



CS RA Robbin Puccio delivered rights training to thirteen staff members during block and orientation training, directly strengthening the facility's rights-respecting culture.

Payphone Failures Resolved — PDC



A systemic failure of multiple payphones on PDC units—directly impacting individuals' communication rights—was documented, reported, and resolved. Alternative telephone access was arranged during repairs, and the issues were subsequently addressed.

WIC § 4731 Complaint — Policy Wins at PDC



RA Maria Arredondo filed a formal § 4731 complaint after an individual was held in restrictive isolation following a suicide attempt. PDC accepted all recommendations: revised least-restrictive policies, mandatory Lanterman Act training for staff, daily clinical review requirements, and restored access to fresh air and meaningful interaction. Two nursing/policy documents (FB181 & NP58) have already been updated.

Why It Matters

These outcomes represent more than individual wins. They reflect a rights advocacy model that is proactive, responsive, and systemic—protecting dignity, enabling community life, and creating lasting policy change for individuals with developmental disabilities in these DDS state facilities.

Cross-Program Activity Summary — May and June 2026

Activity	CS VAS	CS RA	PDC VAS	PDC RA
IPP / Special Meetings	34	9 (6 IPP + 3 annual)	13	23
Transition Meetings	34	22	53	4
HRC / BMC Meetings	0	2	0	14
Incident Action Review (IAT)	0	—	2	17
Court Hearings	—	7	2	0
DOR Reviews	0	4	0	8
Escort Review Committee	0	—	1	9
Bioethics Committee	0	—	1	1
Self-Advocacy / People First	2	4	1	1
Regional Project Meetings	1	1	1	—
New Employee Orientations	0	2	0	2 (26 staff)
Staff Rights Trainings	—	1 (13 staff)	—	—



Quality Assessment Project (QAP) Report

July 2026

Current Cycle: Family Surveys

The NCI Family Survey Cycle collection continues with a total of 15,768 completed surveys received in the mail and directly entered online by family members.

The online data entry system is available to English speaking family members only, but DDS plans on making the system available in the future in multiple languages. SCDD mails each survey in the language identified by the Regional Center. The breakdown of these completed surveys by regional center and survey type can be found in the following pages.

Surveys are offered in a total of 19 languages: Arabic, Armenian (Eastern), Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), English, Farsi, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, Lao, Mien, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Ukranian, and Vietnamese.

Additional surveys were mailed to eligible individuals/families for each regional center and survey type not yet at the established goal in June.

Eligibility for Family Surveys

Family Surveys collect demographic information on both the individual receiving services ('family member') as well as the person who fills out the survey (the 'respondent') and information on services and supports received.

Child Family Survey (CFS): Mailed to families who have a child family member (ages 17 and under) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Adult Family Surveys (AFS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages

18+) who lives with the respondent and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Family Guardian Survey (FGS): Mailed to families who have an adult family member (ages 18+) who lives in the community (outside the family home) and receives at least one regional center funded service in addition to case management.

Each regional center goal is 400 of each survey type for AFS and CFS. There is a statewide goal of 1,224 for FGS.

About National Core Indicators

National Core Indicators {NCI} strives to provide states with valid and reliable tools to help improve system performance and better serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Through a contract with Department of Developmental Services {DDS}, State Council on Developmental Disabilities {SCDD}, using the NCI Survey tools, collects quantitative data on consumer satisfaction, provision of services, and personal outcomes. Data collection is completed through face-to-face interviews with consumers as well as mail-in surveys from families.

This data collection effort will enable DDS to evaluate the quality and performance of California's developmental disability service delivery system and among all 21 regional centers over time.

For RC results of past surveys go to:
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/rc/nci/>

For more information about the NCI go to:
<https://www.nationalcoreindicators.org/>

Scan QR code below to go to QA Project Webpage
scdd.ca.gov/qap



QAC Regional Center Assignments

QAC: Sarah Wirrig
Support Staff: Jennifer Rosenfeld
**Far Northern
Redwood Coast
North Bay**

QAC: Ron Usac
Support Staff: Valerie Buell
**East Bay
Golden Gate**

QAC: George Lewis
Support Staff: Valerie Telles
**Alta California
Central Valley
Valley Mountain**

QAC: Esteban Ortiz
Support Staff: Vacant
**Inland
Kern
San Diego**

QAC: Jenny Villanueva
**San Gabriel Pomona
Frank D. Lanterman
North Los Angeles**

QAC: Lia Cervantes-Lerma
**Eastern Los Angeles
South Central Los Angeles
Harbor**

QAC: Patricia Jackson
Westside

*Support Staff: Michele Wagner and
Marina Bchtkian*

QAC: Nancy Carlson-Zapata
Support Staff: Vacant
**San Andreas
Orange County
Tri-Counties**

Table 1: AFS Total Completed Surveys as of 07/03/2026

Regional Center	Total
AFS Alta California	664
AFS Central Valley	472
AFS East Bay	502
AFS Eastern Los Angeles	320
AFS Far Northern	193
AFS Frank D Lanterman	271
AFS Golden Gate	211
AFS Harbor	369
AFS Inland	937
AFS Kern	223
AFS North Bay	280
AFS North Los Angeles	535
AFS Orange County	744
AFS Redwood Coast	111
AFS San Andreas	556
AFS San Diego	799
AFS San Gabriel / Pomona	341
AFS South Central Los Angeles	378
AFS Tri-Counties	472
AFS Valley Mountain	254
AFS Westside	228
AFS Default Group	75
Total	8935

Table 2: CFS Total Completed Surveys as of 07/03/2026

Regional Center	Total
CFS Alta California	455
CFS Central Valley	376
CFS East Bay	387
CFS Eastern Los Angeles	222
CFS Far Northern	148
CFS Frank D Lanterman	207
CFS Golden Gate	176
CFS Harbor	252
CFS Inland	568
CFS Kern	215
CFS North Bay	165
CFS North Los Angeles	416
CFS Orange County	348
CFS Redwood Coast	91
CFS San Andreas	305
CFS San Diego	558
CFS San Gabriel / Pomona	258
CFS South Central Los Angeles	269
CFS Tri-Counties	279
CFS Valley Mountain	273
CFS Westside	145
CFS Default Group	29
Total	6142

Table 3: FGS Total Completed Surveys as of 07/03/2026

Regional Center	Total
FGS Alta California	33
FGS Central Valley	20
FGS East Bay	43
FGS Eastern Los Angeles	24
FGS Far Northern	35
FGS Frank D Lanterman	10
FGS Golden Gate	37
FGS Harbor	6
FGS Inland	5
FGS Kern	7
FGS North Bay	2
FGS North Los Angeles	82
FGS Orange County	11
FGS Redwood Coast	13
FGS San Andreas	168
FGS San Diego	123
FGS San Gabriel / Pomona	49
FGS Valley Mountain	5
FGS Westside	8
FGS Default Group	10
Total	691

JULY 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 9.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Policy Platform: Review and Approval

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs will present a revised policy platform, which aligns with the 2027-2031 State Plan. The policy platform makes clear the Council's role, core values, priorities, and principles.

The Council has adopted policy platforms in the past to translate its values, priorities, and goals into clear guidance for action. The platform provides staff with a consistent framework for evaluating legislation, budget proposals, regulations, administrative policies, and other emerging issues. It also guides the development of Council positions, advocacy, public comments, communications, and partnerships, helping ensure that the Council's policy work remains consistent, transparent, and aligned with the 2027–2031 State Plan.

Attachments

Policy Platform

PowerPoint Presentation

Handout(s)

May be additional handout(s) on the day of the meeting.

Action Recommended

Adopt the policy platform as presented.



CA STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WORKING TO MAKE CALIFORNIA THE BEST PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

POLICY PLATFORM 2027-2031

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families have a right to exert control and choice over their own lives, hold decision-making roles in policies and programs, and be fully integrated into the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of California.¹

Guided by our core values of self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, inclusion, advocacy, protection, and quality of life, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) removes barriers, strengthens systems, and expands opportunities so people with I/DD can live, work, and thrive in their communities. We work to make California the best place for people with I/DD and their families through advocacy, capacity-building, and systems change.

SCDD's State Plan provides a five-year roadmap, identifying the goals, objectives, and activities to advance meaningful change across California's systems of services and supports in partnership with people with I/DD and their families. This Policy Platform complements the State Plan by translating SCDD's values, priorities, and legal principles into a public policy framework that guides our advocacy, education, partnerships, and engagement with state and federal decision-makers:

PROTECT AND ENHANCE CIVIL RIGHTS

Federal and state laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, affirm that people with I/DD have the right to equality of opportunity, self-determination, full participation, independent living, and freedom from discrimination in all areas of life.

For people with I/DD, these civil rights ensure protection from discrimination and unequal treatment across all areas of life, including but not limited to education, employment, housing, health care, public services, and community life, and require that systems provide equal access, reasonable accommodation, and meaningful opportunities for participation and decision-making.

¹ Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, (Public Law 106-402; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 15001 et seq.) Section 101

SCDD will advance civil rights by promoting equity across systems, identifying and addressing disparities and discriminatory practices, and ensuring meaningful participation of people with I/DD and their families in policy development and systems change.

GUARANTEE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide students with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education, including access to inclusive educational opportunities, individualized supports, and full participation in school programs that promote independence, self-determination, and lifelong success.

For students with I/DD, this means receiving the supports needed to learn alongside typically developing peers, to access and benefit from their education, and to be prepared for further education, employment, and independent living.

SCDD will identify and address systemic barriers in educational systems to ensure students with I/DD have equal access to an appropriate, inclusive education.

REMOVE BARRIERS TO EQUAL EMPLOYMENT

Federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, affirm the right of people with I/DD to equal opportunity in employment, including access to competitive integrated employment, reasonable accommodations, and supports necessary to obtain and maintain meaningful work.

Employment provides opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, independence, community inclusion, and career growth. Access to competitive integrated employment enables individuals to earn fair wages, build meaningful relationships, contribute their talents, and pursue personal and professional goals.

SCDD will advance policies and systems-change efforts that expand access to competitive integrated employment, reduce barriers to workforce participation, and increase opportunities for people with I/DD to obtain and retain meaningful employment.

PROMOTE ACCESS TO QUALITY SERVICES AND SUPPORTS IN THE COMMUNITY

Federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, and California's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) framework, establish the right of people with I/DD to receive the services and supports necessary to live, learn, and work in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs.

Access to services and supports such as in-home assistance, personal care, transportation, assistive technology, and other community-based services is essential to living independently and participating fully in community life. These supports make it possible to exercise choice, maintain health and safety, and be included in the community. These supports reduce reliance on costly institutional models of care that can separate people from family, community, and everyday life.

SCDD will advocate for policies that expand, strengthen, and improve access to high-quality, person-centered services and supports, reduce barriers to eligibility and delivery, and ensure that services are responsive to the needs and choices of people with I/DD and their families.

IMPROVE ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

Federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and Medicaid requirements, ensure that people with I/DD have the right to equal access to health care services, reasonable accommodations, and care without discrimination.

For people with I/DD this means having access to affordable, accessible, and coordinated health care that meets both physical, behavioral, and specialty health needs, with providers who are trained to support disability-related needs, and in health care settings that are equipped to serve patients with disabilities. Access to quality health care is essential to maintaining health, preventing avoidable complications, and supporting independence and community participation.

SCDD will advocate for policies that improve access to equitable, high-quality, and coordinated health care for people with I/DD, address disparities in care, and promote systems that are responsive to the needs and preferences of individuals and their families.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

People with I/DD have the right to live free from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination and to receive the supports necessary to live safely and fully participate in their communities, consistent with the protections afforded by the California Constitution, the Lanterman Act, and federal disability rights laws. Public safety requires disability-informed law enforcement and first responders, emergency planning, communication, evacuation, shelter, recovery, and continuity of essential services and supports.

This means having accessible environments, services, and supports that prevent harm, respect personal autonomy, and ensure that safety concerns are identified and addressed promptly. It also means having a voice in decisions that affect personal safety and emergency preparedness, and access to protections when harm, risk, disaster, or service disruption occurs.

SCDD will advocate for policies that advance public safety and emergency response for people with I/DD and their families. SCDD will work to improve public safety and emergency preparedness for people with I/DD and their families by identifying emerging concerns, providing training and other capacity-building, promoting accessible and inclusive emergency planning, supporting continuity of essential services and supports, and ensuring meaningful inclusion of people with I/DD and their families in the development of policies, programs, and solutions that affect them. This includes advancing flexible, person-centered approaches when traditional service models do not meet a person's needs or are insufficient to support safety, autonomy, emergency response, recovery, and community inclusion.

IMPROVE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY LIVING

People with I/DD, like all people with disabilities, have the right to live in the community of their choice. Federal law, including the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, recognizes that people with disabilities have a right to receive services in integrated community settings. California law further affirms that people with I/DD are entitled to live with the services and supports they need in the least restrictive and most integrated setting appropriate to their needs and preferences.

Community living depends on access to affordable, accessible, safe, and inclusive housing, together with the services and supports necessary to remain connected to family, community, work, school, and everyday life. Housing policy should expand integrated, community-based housing opportunities that allow people with I/DD to

choose where and with whom they live, exercise autonomy, and fully participate in community life.

SCDD will advocate for policies and engage in systems-change efforts that expand affordable, accessible, and inclusive housing opportunities, reduce barriers to community living, and promote the services and supports necessary for people with I/DD to live in the community of their choice.

RESPOND TO EMERGING ISSUES

People with I/DD and their families are affected by changing laws, policies, budgets, programs, technologies, emergencies, and social conditions that may create new opportunities, barriers, or risks. SCDD must be able to respond to emerging issues that affect the rights, services, supports, safety, inclusion, and quality of life of people with I/DD and their families.

Emerging issues may arise across any system that affects people with I/DD, including education, employment, housing, health care, community services, civil rights, public safety, emergency preparedness, transportation, technology, and state or federal policy. These issues may require timely analysis, public education, policy engagement, partnerships, training, technical assistance, or systems-change activities.

Consistent with the State Plan, this Policy Platform, and SCDD's core values, SCDD may identify, monitor, analyze, and respond to emerging issues as they arise. This authority includes undertaking activities necessary to protect rights, address barriers, improve services and supports, and advance self-determination, independence, integration, inclusion, and quality of life for people with I/DD and their families.

For more information, contact: scdd@scdd.ca.gov | 916-263-7919

July 21, 2026
Council Meeting
Agenda Item #10

Policy Platform: Review & Approval

Background – June 23rd LPPC Meeting

On June 23, the Legislative and Public Policy Committee met to consider consolidating the Council's multiple existing policy resources into a single resource. used to determine whether staff can take action on policy-related projects.

Results

- Improves alignment between the State Plan and policy/legislative activities.
- Clearly states the Council's positions and guiding principles.
- Provides staff with a framework for evaluating policy issues and guides the development of positions, advocacy, comments, communications, and partnerships.
- Ensures policy work is consistent and transparent.
- Simplifies and streamlines the resources used to guide policy work.

Legislative Policy Platform - 8 Priority Areas

Where We Focus:

- Civil Rights
- Education
- Employment
- Community Services and Supports
- Health Care
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
- Housing and Community Living
- Emerging Issues

Proposed Policy Platform 2027 - 2031



CA STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

WORKING TO MAKE CALIFORNIA THE BEST PLACE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

POLICY PLATFORM 2027-2031

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families have a right to exert control and choice over their own lives, hold decision-making roles in policies and programs, and be fully integrated into the economic, political, social, cultural and educational mainstream of California.¹

Guided by our core values of self-determination, independence, productivity, integration, inclusion, advocacy, protection, and quality of life, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) removes barriers, strengthens systems, and expands opportunities so people with I/DD can live, work, and thrive in their communities. We work to make California the best place for people with I/DD and their families through advocacy, capacity-building, and systems change.

SCDD's State Plan provides a five-year roadmap, identifying the goals, objectives, and activities to advance meaningful change across California's systems of services and supports in partnership with people with I/DD and their families. This Policy Platform complements the State Plan by translating SCDD's values, priorities, and principles into a public policy framework that guides our advocacy, education, partnerships, and engagement with state and federal decision-makers:

PROTECT AND ENHANCE CIVIL RIGHTS

Federal and state laws, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, affirm that people with I/DD have the right to equality of opportunity, self-determination, full participation, independent living, and freedom from discrimination in all areas of life.

For people with I/DD, these civil rights ensure protection from discrimination and unequal treatment across all areas of life, including but not limited to education, employment, housing, health care, public services, and community life, and require that systems provide equal access, reasonable accommodation, and meaningful opportunities for participation and decision-making.

SCDD will advance civil rights by promoting equity across systems, identifying and addressing disparities and discriminatory practices, and ensuring meaningful participation of people with I/DD and their families in policy development and systems change.

GUARANTEE ACCESS TO EDUCATION

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act provide students with disabilities the right to a free appropriate public education, including access to inclusive educational opportunities, individualized supports, and full participation in school programs that promote independence, self-determination, and lifelong success.

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¹ Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000, (Public Law 106-402; 42 U.S.C. Sec. 15001 et seq.) Section 101

Proposed Policy Platform 2027 – 2031 (Continued)

PUBLIC SAFETY AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

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For more information, contact: scdd@scdd.ca.gov | 916-263-7919

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Proposed Policy Platform 27 - 31

Recommended Action

- Approve the Legislative and Public Policy Committee's (LPPC) recommendation to adopt the proposed revisions to the Policy Platform to take effect on October 1, 2026.

JULY 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 10.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Policy Position: Facilitated Communications as an Inclusive Practice

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Chris Arroyo will present on the topic of facilitated communication. Facilitated communication is a form of supported communication used by some people with disabilities, most commonly people with autism who do not communicate reliably through speech. Through facilitated communication, a person communicates by pointing to letters, pictures, or symbols, or by typing, with support from another person.

Access to communication is essential to self-determination, participation, and inclusion. Inclusive practices recognize that people communicate in different ways and may need individualized supports to express their choices, ideas, preferences, and experiences.

Through this agenda item, the Council will be asked to adopt a position recognizing facilitated communication as an inclusive practice and affirming the Council's support for practices that expand communication access and participation for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Handout(s)

PowerPoint Presentation

May be additional handout(s) on the day of the meeting

Action Recommended

Adopt the policy position recognizing facilitated communication as an inclusive practice.

JULY 21, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 11.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Closed Session: Personnel

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126(a)(1), the Council will have a closed session to determine the evaluation of a public employee.

Handout(s)

May be additional handout(s) on the day of the meeting

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 12.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Reconvene Open Session

Pursuant to Government Code Section 11126.3 (f), there will be an announcement of any publicly reportable actions taken during closed session.

JULY 21, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 13.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next Council meeting will be in person on September 29, 2026.