



February 20, 2026
Regional Advisory Committee Minutes
State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Central Coast Regional Office (CCRO)

Attendance

Members Present:

Lindsey Baker (online)
Jonathan Gush (online from publicly posted location)
Tricia Kokes (online)
Makayla Rustigian (online)
Kavita Sreedhar (online)
Frank Serrano (online)
Daniel Stickney (main location)
Sara Curren (online from publicly posted location)
Karina Guzman (online from publicly posted location)
Ilene Candreva (online)

Members Absent:

None

SCDD Staff:

Jennifer Lucas, Regional Manager
Heather Kroencke, Sequoia Office Technician
Sheraden Nicholau – Deputy Director, Regional Office Operations

Public Attendees:

Kiara Stickney
Sebastian Janelle
Yvonne Lui

Alyssa DiFilippo
Liliana Lemus
Samantha Soliman
Jason Prado
Julie Beadle-Brown
Sandra Aldana

Discussion of Agenda Items

- Call to Order and Introductions (10:01 am)
- Quorum established with 10 members present.
- Minutes for the December 5, 2025 RAC meeting were approved. Motion (Curran), Seconded (Stickney), Roll Call Vote: 9 ayes, 1 abstention.
- **Public comments:**
 - Yvonne Lui introduced herself. She is a Parent of two children on the spectrum; she is also a volunteer at Friends of Children with Special Needs (FCSN) which is an organization serving more than 1,000 families in the Bay Area, predominantly Asian Americans.
 - Alyssa DiFillippo is with Parents Helping Parents (PHP) in Santa Clara, but she lives in Marin County she has a soon-to-be 28-year-old daughter with Prader Willie syndrome and a son who is 31 and soon to be a dad. She shared a statewide program she manages at PHP called Connections California. She shared a link to their online statewide resource and information hub for transition to adulthood and adult services. They offer about 80 to 90 live webinars a year and then that feeds their video library. People can check the Web Calendar for upcoming events.
 - Julie Beadle-Brown introduced herself, she moved to California three and a half years ago from Northern Ireland to lead a project call PAVE Service Outcome System. One of the things that the PAVE system is doing is developing a range of definitions of different services and service types and lots of

training around services and service types at different levels. The program is developing new ways to look at the quality of services that people with IDD receive. They have new software that includes these new measures and tools. They are asking for volunteers to take the survey and give feedback. Jennifer will share the information again after the meeting.

- **Chairperson Report– Tricia Kokes, RAC Chair**

- **Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC):** Just a reminder there is a Vote on June 2nd and then another election in November.
- **Committee for Transportation Mobility and Accessibility (CTMA)** -The next meeting is March 12th, and Kokes is again running for vice chair. Also reported that since Transdev (the new company) has taken over, they are better about being on time.
- **Silicon Valley Independent Living Center.** Kokes reported they are in the process of working with a company to look for a new executive director as the current director will be retiring in June.

- **Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) and Advocacy Report – Daniel Stickney**

- SSAN met on December 10, 2026 and had presentations from Director Aaron Carruthers on the next State Plan 5 Year Goals as well as a presentation on types of advocacy. The next SSAN Meeting will be held on March 4th and 5th, 2026.
- Stickney also shared information about other work he is engaged in, including work on adaptive “edge-detection” wheelchair prototype.

- **People First of San Luis Obispo County Report – Makayla Rustigian**

- Rustigian reported there were two People First Meetings since the last RAC meeting. One on January 20th where they helped with planning a UCP Night Without Limits Celebration by the Sea event and received a \$1000 grant from the Lacy foundation in Cambria.

The second meeting was on February 18th where local infrastructure barriers (e.g., cost preventing safer street crossing improvements) were discussed. She also reported there has been leadership transition within the People First group and she is no longer serving as the president.

- **RAC Member Reports:**

- **J. Gush** reported concerns about the Alternative Diploma Track and encouraged everyone to monitor this diploma track to ensure it doesn't become a way to lower expectations and accountability. He also shared concern that individuals are afraid to access services, refusing Mental Health and RC referrals as well as to apply to Community Colleges for fear of Government involvement with our current Immigration issues at the Federal Level. Lastly, he expressed his concern again about the new transportation buses with the only accessible seating being below the top level where everyone else sits.

- **California Budget and SCDD updates – Sheraden Nicholau, SCDD Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations**

- **California Budget Updates** –Nicholau reviewed the following 4 documents:
 - SCDD Guiding Principles for Budget-Related Advocacy;
 - An overview of the California Proposed Budget released in early January;
 - SCDD Summary of 2026 Bill Ideas, including SB 1052, Plain Language requirement, and removing a barrier to employment (EC §45125.1); and
 - SCDD's Legislative Briefing on Priorities Survey (State Plan Survey).
- Lucas will also share all documents with RAC Members after the meeting. Nicholau reviewed them in depth and reminded RAC Members that now is the time to advocate for our needs to our Legislative members. The next step in the Budget Process will be the "May Revise" that will be published in the first half of May.

- Gush raised concerns about student safety and supervision in relation to the proposed changes to Education Code §45125.1 and the potential reduction of background-check requirements in certain work-based learning settings.
- **SCDD Council Member Updates – M. Fitch, SCDD Council Member, discussed:**
 - M. Fitch was unable to attend and will provide an update at the next RAC meeting.
- **CCRO / SCDD Updates – J. Lucas discussed:**
 - CCRO has hired a new Analyst who will be starting work in March.
 - The All-Staff SCDD Meeting was held on February 11th and 12, 2026 and was a great opportunity to gather and share information.
 - Recent trainings provided by CCRO including for the Santa Clara County Sheriff, the San Jose Police Department, Regional Center Service Providers and Housing Choices staff. Lucas also informed everyone about the Pacific ADA Center Conference next month and shared she will be presenting on sensory implications during crisis.
 - Recent involvement around housing advocacy by supporting self-advocates in providing public testimony at the Cupertino City Council meeting as well as providing her own testimony in support of an affordable housing development that includes 19 units to be set aside for people with IDD.
- **RAC Priorities – All:**
 - Members continued discussion of ongoing RAC priorities. Jennifer Lucas agreed to compile and share a summarized list of priorities discussed across recent RAC meetings to serve as a reference for future discussions. Lucas reminded members of available strategies to address identified concerns, including developing informational or educational materials, providing trainings, conducting outreach, and participating in the SCDD “There Should Be a Law” contest, which is anticipated to launch in the coming months. Members were

also encouraged to reach out to Lucas between meetings to discuss emerging issues or priority areas as they arise.

- **Agenda Items for Future RAC Meetings – All:**
 - Include continued review and discussion of RAC Priorities at next meeting on April 17, 2026.
- **12:01 PM: Adjournment.**