



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE 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

TELECONFERENCE LOCATION:

Los Angeles Regional Office
411 N. Central Ave. Ste 620
Glendale, CA 91203

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE:

Call-In Number: (669) 900-9128
Meeting ID: **859 8718 0333**

JOIN VIA ZOOM:

[Sept.2026.LPPC](#)

MEETING ID:

859 8718 0333

PASSWORD:

001984

DATE: September 10, 2026

TIME: 10:30 AM – 1:30 PM

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Harold Fujita

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER

Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 4. 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.

Additionally, there will be up to 5 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

Item 5.	APPROVAL OF JUNE 2026 MINUTES 	Page 4
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Item 6.	STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES <i>Christofer Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs</i>	Page 11
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a. Status Update on Supported & Sponsored Legislation

- SCDD Sponsored Legislation:
 - ✓ [AB 2360](#); [SB 1052](#)
- Additional Bills:
 - ✓ Civil Rights: [SB 84](#)*
 - ✓ Education: [AB 1861](#); [SB 244](#)*; [SB 1222](#);
 - ✓ Health: [AB 308](#)*; [AB 350](#)*; [AB 1561](#); [AB 1670](#);
[AB 2081](#); [AB 2096](#); [SB 363](#)*; [SB 1226](#)
 - ✓ Informal & Formal Community Supports:
[AB 1099](#)*; [AB 1220](#)*; [AB 2209](#); [SB 969](#)
 - ✓ Safety: [SB 837](#)

b. State Budget Updates

Item 7.	2027 LEGISLATIVE PLANNING 	Page 18
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Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs

- a. 2027 Policy Project Ideas
- b. 2026 6th Annual “There Should Be a Law Contest” Report
- c. 2026 Contest Winner
- d. 2026 Policy Project Updates

Item 8.	UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS	Page 27
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- a. Council Updates
- b. Federal Updates
- c. DDS Updates

Item 9.	MEMBER UPDATES <i>All</i>	Page 30
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Item 10.	FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT <i>If needed, October 13, 2026</i>
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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 (916) 263-7919. Requests must be received by 5 business days prior to the meeting. *All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.*

September 10, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 4.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

Public Comment

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 5 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

September 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

Approval of June 2026 Minutes

The draft minutes from the June 23, 2026, Legislative and Public Policy Committee meeting have been included in the packet for review. Committee members will vote on whether to approve the minutes.

Action Recommended

Approve June 23, 2026, minutes.

Attachment(s)

June 2026 Meeting Minutes



DRAFT

**Legislative and Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
June 23, 2026**

Attending Members

Harold Fujita (FA), Chair
Azucena Garcia-Ferro (SA)
Bob Twomey (FA)
Irene Valdez (FA)
Jessica Brown (FA)
Kim Rothschild (FA)
Lupe Rodriguez (FA)
Sascha Bittner (SA)

Others Attending

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

Members Absent

Andy Imparato (DRC)
Melissa Fitch (FA)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Harold Fujita [FA] called the meeting to order at 10:32 AM

2. ESTABLISH QUORUM

A quorum was established.

3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

* = 2 Year Bill

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MARCH 2026 MEETING MINUTES

It was moved/seconded (Bittner [SA]/Twomey [FA]) and carried to approve the March 2026 meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote. [See page one for a record of members present]).

6. LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo reviewed where bills stand now that they have moved to the second house, and the deadlines remaining in 2026: July 2 for policy committees to meet and report bills, August 31 for each house to pass bills, and September 30 for the Governor to sign or withhold signature.

Mr. Arroyo noted that the Council's six areas of work are now called projects rather than priorities: authorized representation, plain language, chronic absenteeism, special education work opportunities, the SSI marriage penalty, and paid protected sibling leave. Staff identified six federal bills addressing the SSI marriage penalty, and the Council registered support for all six using the delegated authority of the Council and the LPPC chair.

Member Discussion

SSI Marriage Penalty: Sascha Bittner [SA] asked whether any of the federal bills were authored by a California member of Congress. Mr. Arroyo identified HR 1389 (Panetta) and HR 1757 (Valadao) as the two California authors.

Paid Protected Sibling Leave: Kim Rothschild [FA] asked whether siblings advocating for this project would have a conflict of interest, and whether other states had adopted similar policies. Mr. Arroyo said he did not believe a conflict exists, comparing it to members who receive services and still make decisions about those systems, and noted that staff had not yet surveyed other states because the project was initially assumed to require a California law. He added that existing law may already provide this protection and that staff are seeking legal opinions before determining next steps.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRC = Disability Rights California

* = 2 Year Bill

7. STATE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET UPDATES

Sponsored Bills

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo reported that SB 1052 (Gonzalez), on authorized representation, was held in Senate Appropriations and did not advance; staff continue to process backup appointment requests, roughly 50 to date, and are weighing other options.

AB 2360 (Arambula), on plain language, was heard the morning of the meeting and placed on the consent calendar. If enacted, it would define plain language, require state agencies to produce plain language documents beginning January 1, 2027, and designate a senior official in each agency to ensure compliance.

Reviewed Bills

Mr. Arroyo reviewed the bills on which the Council holds a position, by subject area: Civil Rights (SB 84*, opposed); Education (AB 1861, SB 244*, SB 1222); Health (AB 308*, AB 350*, AB 1561, AB 1670, AB 2081, AB 2096, SB 363*, SB 1226); Informal and Formal Community Supports (AB 1099*, AB 1220*, AB 2209, SB 969); and Safety (SB 837).

He noted that SB 969 and AB 308* were each gutted and amended, and that AB 308* now directs DDS to conduct a statewide study of safety training services for people with IDD.

Committee Member Discussion

SB 244: Azucena Garcia-Ferro [SA] asked whether the bill reaches community college districts, noting that many students with disabilities begin at a community college before transferring. Mr. Arroyo and Policy Analyst Veronica Bravo confirmed that the bill requires the California State University system to cover the cost of assessments and requests the same of the UC Regents but does not extend to community colleges.

Ms. Garcia-Ferro shared that she had assessments done when she started at a community college and asked that extending the bill be considered in the future. Mr. Arroyo agreed to raise it with the author, describing the current bill as a first step.

Legend:

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* = 2 Year Bill

AB 308: Chair Harold Fujita asked why AB 308* no longer appeared among the health bills. Mr. Arroyo confirmed that it had been gutted and amended into a safety bill and would be covered under that category.

Budget Update

Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo then provided a budget update, reporting that the Legislature met its June 15 deadline and that the Governor must sign by June 29. He noted no significant cuts to the DD system, continued funding for DDS caseload growth and the LOIS data system, legislative rejection of the May Revise IHSS cuts and county cost shifts, and continuation of the \$2.3 billion special education increase.

The full presentation can be found at the following link: [Presentation](#).

8. 2027–2031 LEGISLATIVE POLICY PLATFORM

Committee Chair Harold Fujita opened the agenda item by noting that the committee has traditionally reviewed its legislative platform annually and expressed the benefit of aligning the platform with the Council's five-year State Plan. He then invited Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo to lead the item.

Mr. Arroyo presented the proposed 2027-2031 Policy Platform, stating that it aligns with the State Plan beginning October 1 to match the federal fiscal year and would remain in effect for five years, with amendments permitted as needed. He reviewed the preamble and each subject area, noting that every section identifies the relevant law or principle, its impact on people with IDD and their families, and the Council's corresponding action

The proposed platform can be found at the following link: [Proposed Policy Platform 2027-2031](#).

Members commended the intentional use of State Plan language woven throughout the document, noting that it keeps the platform easy to follow and dovetails with the State Plan.

It was moved/seconded (Bittner [SA]/Twomey [FA]) and carried to recommend that the Council adopt the legislative policy platform as presented, to take effect October 1, 2026. (Motion passed

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unanimously by roll call vote, with one member absent for the vote: Garcia-Ferro. [See page one for a record of members present]).

9. UPDATES AND STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed a recent U.S. Department of Justice opinion on the Olmstead decision and the integration mandate, which he had circulated to members by email. He summarized its conclusions that Olmstead addressed unjustified institutionalization rather than requiring maximum integration, that the ADA and Rehabilitation Act do not impose a universal integration mandate, and that the regulations carrying out the mandate should be rescinded.

He noted the opinion directs federal agencies to follow its interpretation, that it focuses on people in state institutions and people with psychiatric disabilities, and that it acknowledges it may be litigated.

The opinion can be found at the following link: [DOJ Olmstead Opinion.](#)

Members discussed strategies for response:

Sascha Bittner [SA] asked what the Council could do to communicate the value of home and community-based care, particularly during Disability Pride Month, and Mr. Carruthers pointed to California's response to a federal request for evidence on program integrity as a resource.

Chair Harold Fujita [FA] shared his experience as the parent of two adult sons with IDD, described his older son's transition from a developmental center to a community home, and said he would write to California's United States Senators and suggested partnering with organizations advocating for people with mental illness.

Irene Valdez [FA] reported contacting her federal representatives and sharing information through social media and her autism support group.

Kim Rothschild [FA] shared an alert regarding a congressional hearing on Medicaid program integrity.

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Mr. Carruthers then reported that special education functions moving out of the U.S. Department of Education would go to the Administration for Community Living, and specifically to the Administration on Disability, where DD Councils are housed.

10. MEMBER UPDATES

Committee member Kim Rothschild [FA] asked whether there is still time to submit ideas for next session's legislation. Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Christofer Arroyo replied that ideas go to LPPC in late August or early September and to the Council in September, so fact sheets can be developed before bill ideas are taken to legislators in October, and that late ideas sent to policy@scdd.ca.gov would still be considered.

Executive Director Aaron Carruthers added that some bills ~~items~~ are being placed on a two-year timeline because the next Governor will not take office until January.

Public Comment

Jua Perez, a member of the public, thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend and said she joins these meetings to sharpen her advocacy skills. She shared that her son was onboarded into the Self-Determination Program on June 1, roughly fifteen to sixteen months after she completed the certification, and credited her independent facilitator, her caseworker, and Support for Families of Children with Disabilities for their help.

She described how difficult it is for a parent in crisis to learn what services exist, noting that a person in crisis can only think about immediate needs, and said she wants to help other parents who do not know these resources exist.

Following her comments, Mr. Carruthers demonstrated the Council's new regional center services website, which launched at the end of May after roughly a decade of development, and showed how a search returns the services a person can ask a regional center about.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS AND ADJOURNMENT

The next LPPC meetings are scheduled for September 10 and October 13, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Legend:

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September 10, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

State Legislative and Budget Updates

The goal of this agenda item is to review the status of the bills listed on the 2026 Bill Chart and to receive available updates on the budget and other significant legislative and regulatory matters.

A legislative presentation and updated bill chart will be provided to assist in this discussion.

Attachment(s)

2026 Bill Summary Chart

Handout(s)

LPPC PowerPoint Presentation

This item may have additional handouts provided at the meeting



CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Working to make California the best place for individuals with disabilities and their families

2026 SCDD Bills

SCDD Sponsored Bills

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
<u>AB 2360 (Arambula)</u> State agencies: governmental linguistics (Plain Language)	Failed in SEN Approp 8/13/26	SCDD Sponsored	Beginning January 1, 2027, state agencies would be required to write public documents in clear, easy-to-understand language using statewide plain language standards. Agencies would also have to designate a senior staff member to oversee implementation of these requirements.
<u>SB 1052 (Gonzales, L.)</u> Appointing Authorized Representatives	Failed in SEN Approp 5/14/26	SCDD Sponsored	Creates contingent or backup authorized appointments to provide advocacy assistance and provides clear definitions for them. It establishes a one-year limit and explicitly allows annual reappointments. Additionally, the bill defines “good cause” and explicitly permits the SCDD to investigate when necessary, provided that consent is obtained.

Civil Rights

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
<u>AB 2360 (Arambula)</u> State agencies: governmental linguistics (Plain Language)	Failed in SEN Approp 8/13/26	SCDD Sponsored	Beginning January 1, 2027, state agencies would be required to write public documents in clear, easy-to-understand language using statewide plain language standards. Agencies would also have to designate a senior

*2 Year Bills (2025)

ASM = Assembly; Approp = Appropriations; SEN = Senate; Jud = Judiciary

As of 08/25/2026

			staff member to oversee implementation of these requirements.
<u>SB 84 (Niello)</u> * Disability access: construction-related accessibility claims: notice of violation and opportunity to correct	Failed in ASM Jud 7/1/26	Oppose	Would establish waiting periods and procedural barriers before a person with a disability who encounters an access barrier can enforce their civil rights in court or bring lawsuits.

Education

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
<u>AB 1861 (Lackey)</u> Special education: complaint database	Failed in ASM Approp 5/14/26	Support	Would require the Department of Education, by January 2030, to create and maintain an online database of all complaints it receives beginning with 7/1/27.
<u>SB 244 (Grayson)</u> * Public postsecondary education: disabled student services: assessments	Failed in ASM – Approp 8/13/26	Support	Requires the Trustees of CA State University and requests the Regents of the University of CA to cover diagnostic assessment costs for students with disabilities who seek academic accommodations in colleges.

*2 Year Bills (2025)

ASM = Assembly; Approp = Appropriations; SEN = Senate; Jud = Judiciary

<u>SB 1222 (Choi)</u> Career Technical Education Technical Assistance and Equity Pilot Program Act	Failed in SEN Approp 5/14/26	Support	Creates a 3-year pilot program called the Career Technical Education (CTE) Technical Assistance and Equity Pilot Program, focused on fairness and inclusion. The CA Superintendent would choose a county office of education to run the program and pick 2 regions to get extra support. Among other things, the program would: ▪ 1) share best practices for inclusive CTE programs for students with disabilities and other underserved groups ▪ 2) make easy-to-use guides for school-industry partnerships ▪ 3) help county offices in the pilot regions with training and coordination.
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Health

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
<u>AB 308 (Ramos)</u> * Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures	Failed in SEN Approp 8/13/26	Support	Allows the county behavioral health director to create procedures for mobile crisis response teams with a focus on the proper response to cases involving individuals with autism, behavioral health issues, or any other developmental disability.
<u>AB 350 (Bonta)</u> * Health care coverage: fluoride treatments	SEN Floor for vote 8/25/26	Support	The bill would require the State Department of Health Care Services to update Medi-Cal rules by July 1, 2027 so that coverage for people under age 21 follows federal standards and includes fluoride varnish treatment.

*2 Year Bills (2025)

ASM = Assembly; Approp = Appropriations; SEN = Senate; Jud = Judiciary

<u>AB 1561 (Krell)</u> Medi-Cal: complex rehabilitation technology	Failed Deadline 4/23/26	Support	It stops DHCS, who administers Medi-Cal, from requiring prior approval for repairing wheelchairs if the repair costs \$1,250 or less. Repairs or replacements wouldn't need a new doctor's prescription if the wheelchair was already approved, but the supplier must keep records of the repair work and reasons so DHCS can check later.
<u>AB 1670 (Arambula)</u> Medi-Cal: dental services	Failed in ASM Approp 5/14/26	Support	Would make Medi-Cal pay for support services – like behavior management or helping patients get comfortable with dental care – even if no dental procedure happens at that visit. These services would be covered when a patient requires extra time, attention, staff, or preparation to safely receive dental care (for example, someone with physical, developmental, or emotional needs).
<u>AB 2081 (Stefani)</u> Medi-Cal: Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver	SEN Floor for Vote 8/25/26	Support	Would among other things, expand the number of those served by the Medi-Cal HCBA Waiver by removing the current limit on how many people can join the program (capped at 5,000 extra slots). It would require, beginning in 2027, to ensure that the HCBA Waiver provides for an annual increase of at least 10,000 waiver slots for each waiver year.
<u>AB 2096 (Pacheco)</u> Vocational nursing: respiratory care	Failed Deadline 4/23/26	Support	Right now, the law lets a licensed vocational nurse (LVN), working under a school nurse, help students with special needs with certain basic breathing treatments. This bill would change that and remove the rule that only LVNs (under a school nurse) can do this. Instead, it would allow other trained and qualified people – not just LVNs – to provide a specific set of basic breathing services to students with special needs, as long as specific requirements are met.

<u>SB 363 (Wiener)</u> * Health care coverage: independent medical review.	Failed in ASM – Approp 8/13/26	Support	Require health care service plans or health insurers to annually report their number of denials of treatment, and hold them liable for administrative fines in specific circumstances.
<u>SB 1226 (Ochoa-Bogh)</u> Pupil health: individuals with exceptional needs: respiratory services	Failed Deadline 4/23/26	Support	Current law lets a licensed vocational nurse (LVN), working under a school nurse, help students with special needs with certain basic breathing treatments. This bill would change that and remove the rule that only LVNs (under a school nurse) can do this. Instead, it would allow other trained and qualified people – not just LVNs – to provide a specific set of basic breathing services to students with special needs, as long as they meet certain requirements.

Informal and Formal Community Supports

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
<u>AB 1099 (Bryan)</u> * Developmental services: initial intake: assessment.	SEN Floor for Vote 8/25/26	Support	Would streamline and expedite the eligibility process for children in foster care and those involved in the juvenile justice system suspected of having I/DD, addressing disparities in accessing regional center services.
<u>AB 1220 (Arambula)</u> * Developmental services: denials of services and notices of actions	Failed in SEN Approp 8/13/26	Support	Would require a regional center to track disagreements and service denials in the individual program plan (IPP) and publicly post this data online.
<u>AB 2209 (Bains)</u> Developmental services: caregiver succession	Failed Deadline 4/23/26	Support	Requires a discussion at the IPP meeting regarding caregiver succession when the primary caregiver reaches 55 years of age, and at any time upon the request of the person served, primary caregiver, or authorized representative. Requires any caregiver succession plan to be included in the person's IPP. The person served may

*2 Year Bills (2025)

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As of 08/25/2026

			choose not to develop a caregiver succession plan. If a discussion about a plan occurs, it must be person-centered, guided by the person's wishes and goals, support their independence, and follow supported decision-making principles.
SB 969 (Reyes) Developmental services: remote services and supports	Bill was gutted- no longer about Developmental services 6/15/26	Support	By July 2027, the Department of Developmental Services must identify services and supports eligible for remote delivery and develop the infrastructure to implement them, including posting guidance on its website. Regional centers would then be required to inform persons served and/or their families/representatives of the option to receive remote services if they wish.
SB 1052 (Gonzales, L.) Appointing Authorized Representatives	Failed in SEN Approp 5/14/26	SCDD Sponsored	Creates contingent or backup authorized appointments to provide advocacy assistance and provides clear definitions for them. It establishes a one-year limit and explicitly allows annual reappointments. Additionally, the bill defines "good cause" and explicitly permits the SCDD to investigate when necessary, if consent is obtained.

Safety

Bill Number/Author	Status	Position	Summary
SB 837 (Reyes) Disaster and emergency preparedness	ASM Floor for Vote 8/25/26	Support	Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC) programs presently must provide services to older adults and people with disabilities with technical assistance re: long term care services and supports (for example, waiver services, IHSS, and community-based adult services). This bill would require ADRC programs to offer emergency preparedness training specifically tailored for older adults and people with disabilities so they can prepare for disasters and stay safe before, during, and after emergencies.

September 10, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 7.

ACTION ITEM

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

2027 Legislative Planning

The purpose of this agenda item is to begin legislative and policy planning for 2027.

Deputy Director Chris Arroyo will present ideas for 2027 policy projects. The Committee will discuss the ideas and vote on which projects to move forward to the full Council for consideration at the September Council meeting.

To assist with the work, members will be given an overview of the submissions for the 6th Annual "There Should Be a Law" contest to see what issues and policy concerns are on Californians' minds.

Note: the report will be available before September 10th and post at https://scdd.ca.gov/legislative_and_public_policy/.

Deputy Director Arroyo will also announce the 2026 contest winner and provide an update on the 2026 policy projects.

This packet includes the 2027-2031 State Plan and the 2027-2031 Policy Platform to support these discussions. Any actions should reflect these documents.

Actions Recommended

Approve staff recommended policy projects for 2027.

Attachment(s)

2027- 2031 State Plan

2027- 2031 Policy Platform

Handout(s)

2026 6th Annual "There Should Be A Law" Full Report

This item will have additional handouts provided at the meeting.

2027-2031 State Plan

Goal 1: Self-Advocacy

By 2031, the Council will increase the number of people with intellectual/developmental disabilities to become effective self-advocates, peer trainers, and/or community leaders.

Objectives

1.1

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

1.2

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

1.3

In the event of unexpected project opportunities, emerging needs, and/or community, cross-regional or statewide requests, the Council may engage in additional activities with and/or on behalf of family and self-advocates and those who support and serve them.

Goal 2: Systems Change/Advocacy

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

Objectives

2.1

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

2.2

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

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

Goal 3: Capacity-Building/Advocacy

By 2031, the Council will increase partnerships with and support more people with intellectual/developmental disabilities and their families, so they know their rights and can advocate for and receive personalized services.

Objectives

3.1

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

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

3.2

By 2031, the Council will engage in projects and events in the areas of health/safety, housing, employment, education, and/or emerging issues, reaching 35,000 people (family/self-advocates/others) with opportunities for community inclusion and family peer support networks that increase their knowledge and capacity to obtain supports and services that are important to them.



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.

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

September 10, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

Updates and Standing Agenda Items

The goal of this agenda item is to share any available updates on the following topics.

Details and updates from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) are available by clicking the hyperlink below.

- a. Council Updates
- b. Federal Updates
- c. DDS Updates ([Initiatives](#))

Attachment(s)

July 2026 Council Meeting Summary

Handout(s)

This item may have additional handouts provided at the meeting.



State Council Meeting Summary

July 21, 2026

Ensure that Californians with developmental disabilities are guaranteed the same full and equal opportunities for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as all Americans.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Council reviewed the history of California's disability rights movement and the continued importance of self-advocate leadership.
- SCDD received \$2.4 million in one-time state funding to create a Special Education Parent Action Network.
- The Council adopted its 2027–2031 Policy Platform and a policy position supporting access to individualized communication systems and supports.

CHAIR & COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Chair Julie Gaona recognized July as Disability Pride Month and the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. She also highlighted SCDD's latest Storyteller blog, which featured Councilmembers and other self-advocates sharing what disability pride means to them.
- Chair Gaona reflected on her own experiences with independence and emphasized why self-advocacy and disability education are still needed. She encouraged people with disabilities to continue advocating for themselves and others. She noted that ending the marriage penalty remains one of her personal goals.

DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN CA

- Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) Chair Sascha Bittner presented on the history and impact of California's disability rights movement.
- The presentation highlighted the independent living movement, the 1977 occupation of federal offices to secure enforcement of Section 504, passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, creation of California's regional center system, efforts to move people out of institutions, and the growth of the People First movement.
- These efforts helped advance the right of people with disabilities to live in the community, make decisions about their lives, choose their supports, and participate in society.

SCDD UPDATES

- Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reported that the House appropriations proposal contained level federal funding for DD Councils. Although the proposal avoided a funding reduction, federal funding for Councils has not increased since 2021, while costs have increased by approximately 16%.
- The 2026–27 California state budget was signed on June 29, 2026. It rejected proposed cuts to IHSS and Adult Protective Services, delayed planned Medi-Cal cuts affecting people without satisfactory immigration status until July 1, 2027, included a \$2.4 billion investment in special education, and lowered the Medi-Cal asset limit to \$23,000.
- The state budget also included a version of the Medi-Cal Fair Share Contribution supported by the Council at its May meeting to create additional funding for health care.
- SCDD received \$2.4 million in one-time funding to create a Special Education Parent Action Network.
- SCDD also received \$730,000 to help pay for administrative services provided by the Department of Social Services (DSS), including personnel, information technology, accounting, contracting, and legal support.

2027–2031 POLICY PLATFORM

- Deputy Director Chris Arroyo presented a revised Policy Platform that combines three existing policy resources into one document and aligns SCDD's policy and legislative activities with its 2027–2031 State Plan.
- The platform identifies eight priority areas: civil rights, education, employment, community services and supports, health care, public safety and emergency preparedness, housing and community living, and emerging issues.
- The Council adopted the revised Policy Platform, effective October 1, 2026.

- The document will guide SCDD’s legislative positions, advocacy, public comments, communications, and partnerships.

INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION POLICY

- The Council discussed barriers faced by people who use assistance to spell or type, including situations where their communication is deemed invalid or services are denied because of their communication method.
- The Council adopted a policy position recognizing communication as fundamental to dignity, self-determination, choice, inclusion, and participation.
- SCDD supports access to individualized communication systems and supports, including spelling and typing to communicate, that reflect each person’s needs, preferences, and chosen ways of communicating. SCDD believes services to support communication should be supported and paid for by the services system.
- Communication and services should not be automatically rejected solely because assistance is used or because the communication method is disputed. Decisions should be individualized and consider the person, method, support, and context. The process should center the person’s choices, authorship, and control.

COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Approved the May 2026 Council meeting minutes.
- Adopted the 2027–2031 Policy Platform, effective October 1, 2026.
- Adopted a policy position supporting individualized communication systems and supports as inclusive practices.

FUTURE MEETING DATE

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

MEETING RESOURCES

- For presentation materials and additional meeting resources, visit: <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>

September 10, 2026

**AGENDA ITEM 9.
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – LPPC

Member Updates

The goal of this agenda item is to allow Committee members time to provide local updates from their community on policy related issues not included in the agenda.

Handout(s)

This item may have handouts provided on the day of the meeting.