



San Bernardino Regional Office Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Minutes

June 30, 2026
4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Members Present

Eric Aguilar, **Vice-Chair**
Stephen Donohue **Co-Chair**
Kelli Guillory
April Sayre
Fanny Cisneros
Ilona Mc Ferrin Shannen
Mitchell Casey Michel
Chiriece McCorley-Smith
Ryan Nelson
Lisa Williams

Members Excused

Jocelyn Doucette
Sandra Dia

SCDD – SBRO Staff

Patricia Herrera, Regional Manager

Guest Speaker

Natalie Boehm, MBA RBLP-T , President and Founder, The Epilepsy Foundation

Public Attendees

Celeste Radell
La Shanda Shipp
Tiffany Concha

Meeting Minutes

4:05 PM – 4:15 PM: Eric Aguilar, Chair called the meeting to order. The meeting began with introductions from committee members, SCDD staff, and guests.

Quorum was established by Patricia Herrera. Minutes for April 28, 2026, were presented Stephen Donohue motioned to accept minutes. Motion seconded by April Sayre. Minutes were unanimously approved by Committee members.

Christina Rockwell from Inyo/Mono returned to serve. She served previously on the Committee for a total of six years and is returning as an active advocate in the Inyo and Mono counties.

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM:

Guest Speaker, **Natalie Boehm was introduced by Regional Manager, Patricia Herrera.**

Topic: Presentation on Neurodiverse Entrepreneurs: Understanding How Neurodiverse Young Adults Learn

Neurodiverse young adults bring diverse ways of thinking, learning, problem-solving, and understanding the world. Neurodiversity includes neurological differences such as ADHD, autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other variations in cognitive processing. These differences should not be viewed solely as limitations; they can also contribute valuable strengths such as creativity, innovation, attention to detail, pattern recognition, persistence, and unique approaches to problem-solving.

Understanding how neurodiverse young adults learn is essential for creating inclusive educational and entrepreneurial environments. Many benefit from visual, practical, interactive, and structured learning approaches, as well as clear instructions, flexible environments, appropriate technology, and individualized support. Traditional learning environments may create barriers when they rely heavily on rigid schedules, lengthy lectures, or a single method of demonstrating knowledge.

Entrepreneurship can provide an opportunity for neurodiverse young adults to build careers around their interests and strengths while developing greater independence and flexibility. By providing mentoring, accessible training, technology, organizational support, and opportunities for hands-on learning, educators and entrepreneurship programs can help neurodiverse individuals turn their ideas and abilities into meaningful business opportunities.

Ultimately, supporting neurodiverse entrepreneurs requires moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach. Recognizing individual learning preferences, reducing unnecessary barriers, and focusing on strengths can create an environment in which neurodiverse young adults are empowered to learn, innovate, and succeed as entrepreneurs.

SCDD, The Defeating Epilepsy Foundation and Caravanserai Entrepreneur Alliance will be presenting a Summit at the IEHP conference center in Rancho Cucamonga on August 26th.

The Caravanserai Alliance for Entrepreneurs is a support network and training program in Southern California that helps diverse small business owners and nonprofits build strong foundations and achieve economic mobility.

Operated as part of the [Caravanserai Project](#), the alliance focuses heavily on regions like the Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) and the Coachella Valley.

Core Programs and Support

- **Business Readiness & Training:** Offers practical guides, webinars, and multi-step readiness programs covering legal structures, registration, and finding target customers.
- **Grant Writing Programs:** Conducts specialized cohorts and fast-track training to help founders and community organizations learn how to win grants and secure essential funding.
- **Grants and Micro-Funding:** Facilitates access to micro-grants, such as the Dream Fund Grant Program, providing crucial seed capital for start-ups and social entrepreneurs.
- **SEED Lab Fellowships:** Runs intensive multi-month programs for selected community leaders and organization

5:15 PM – 5:35 PM: Regional Manager Report

Provided an overview of SCDD Legislative Priorities.

SCDD San Bernardino Regional Office System Change Priorities

- **Employment:** The Inland Empire Neurodivergent Business Roundtable meeting was held on 6/26 at PRISM Aerospace in Riverside County. PRISM looking at hiring neurodivergent individuals working with the Uniquely Abled model. There are 3 Paid Internships Programs being implemented as an outcome of the Roundtable. There is one at ABC SoCal, one at Fontana Dentistry and one at SCDD.
- **Housing:** Advancing affordable housing set-aside rental units in partnership with the Lanterman Housing Alliance through DSS Community Placement Plan (CPP) funding. There is affordable housing in the City of Upland that will include individuals with IDD. Lanterman Housing Alliance an integral partner of SCDD San Bernardino.
- **Health and Safety:** Establishing 24/7 Crisis Intervention Services through the START Program for the Inland Empire. Highlighting existing Crisis Intervention services funded by Cities and Counties. A presentation was held with the Riverside Behavioral Health Department Crisis service with Kristin Miller, LCSW Director. In August 2026 a collaborative meeting will be held with the San Bernardino County Crisis Intervention services. The START Program funded by DDS a specialized crisis intervention program for individuals with IDD and dually diagnosed with mental health.
- **Self-Determination:** Conducting an eight-part workshop series covering all components of the Self-Determination Program. Training has been well received for the last 2 years. Individuals completing the SDP Orientation join the workshop series for support and mentoring.
- **Capacity Building and Training:** Issuing virtually the SCDD San Bernardino Training Newsletter, which provides monthly training opportunities on a variety of topics identified by regional self-advocates and families. Focusing more on workshop series that have been well received.

5:35 PM – 6:00 PM: Public Comment and Adjournment

No public comments were received.

The meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Eric Aguilar, seconded by Stephen Donahue.

Next Meeting in August 2026