SCDD Council Meeting

Executive Director Report

November 17, 2026

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CALIFORNIA SCDD
State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Overview

In the community

- Community Conversations
- Santa Maria
- Turlock

Policy and systems

- Community Integration
- Policy Update
- Federal Update

SCDD and partners

- 2026 Program Performance Report
- Public Appearances and Partnerships
- Admin Updates
- Looking Ahead

Community Conversations

Since last Council meeting: 6 Community Conversations

San Diego
Oct 16 · People First Conference

Dinner keynote “What Is Advocacy” with 300 self-advocates, plus a Community Conversation

Sacramento
Community Conversation

Dept of Finance and County Supervisor joined: self-determination, regional center services, housing

Fresno
Oct 1 · Bridging Horizons

250 self-advocates and professionals

Eureka
Oct 9 · Disability & Senior Expo

Rural and remote health care, transportation

Santa Maria
Slide 4

Nov 3 · Community Conversation

About 75 people, mostly families, about half Spanish speaking

Turlock
Slide 5

Nov 6 · Town hall

About 125 people, 95% self-advocates

Community voices. Better policies. Stronger systems.

Community Conversations: Santa Maria

November 3, Veterans' Memorial Center

"The In's & Outs of Informed Decision Making & Independence"

- Week before, ICE detained and injured a student near Santa Maria High School
- About 200 expected, about 75 came
  - Many too afraid to come
  - 75% families, about half Spanish speaking
- Shared state and SCDD resources, DDS directives, authorized representation
- Ask: take what you learned to 1, 2, or 3 people who couldn't be there

ICE Detains Special Needs Student, U.S. Citizen Near Santa Maria High School

Rapid Response Volunteers Witnessed Student Tackled, Left with Injuries Requiring Surgery

Santa Barbara Independent, October 23, 2026

Community Conversations: Turlock

November 6 Town Hall with People First and SAC 6

- About 125 people, 95% self-advocates
- Started by passing the mic so everyone could say their name
- Topics raised: HR 1 federal funding, getting into SDP, no social rec providers nearby, funding under a new Governor
- Valley Mountain Regional Center rate error
  - DDS audit: Personal Assistants not with an agency were paid the agency rate
  - Pay drops almost in half, close to minimum wage, people worry about losing long-time workers
  - Raised with DDS and CHHS
- Proud to be self-advocates, happy to be together!



Community Integration

- **Sept 23:** Texas v. Kennedy court decision removed community integration from the federal Section 504 rule
- **Sept 28:** H.Res. 1586, bipartisan House resolution honors Olmstead
- **Oct 14:** CHHS letter to U.S. Attorney General, community integration is “critical and non-negotiable”
  - Call to action: asks DOJ to rescind its June 18 opinion targeting Olmstead

Why it matters: California law points to federal rules. If federal rules go away, state protections weaken.

Source: Texas v. Kennedy; H.Res. 1586; CHHS letter, Oct 14, 2026

Policy Update

The Council took positions on 19 bills: 2 signed, 2 vetoed, 1 opposed bill stopped

Bill	What it does	Result
SB 837 (Reyes)	Emergency preparedness training for older adults and people with disabilities	Signed
AB 350 (Bonta)	Medi-Cal fluoride treatment for people under 21	Signed
AB 1099 (Bryan)	Faster regional center intake for youth in foster care or juvenile justice	Vetoed
AB 2081 (Stefani)	More slots in the Medi-Cal HCBA Waiver	Vetoed
SB 84 (Niello)	Barriers to enforcing ADA access rights (Council opposed)	Stopped (win)

Getting ready for 2027: There Should Be a Law, 184 ideas to shape what the Council sponsors

New laws

- **AB 1575:** replaces “consumer” in the Lanterman Act
- **AB 2233:** no weekly caps on autism behavioral health treatment hours
- **AB 1713:** colleges accept a regional center IPP as proof of disability (Sept 1)
- **AB 175:** more housing options and reporting through regional centers

Federal Update

Medicaid Work Requirements

- **Nov 13:** CMS offers states an optional 6-month "hold harmless" period
  - Through June 30, 2027
  - States still check who must meet the rules or is exempt
  - No one denied or dropped from Medi-Cal only for not meeting work rules
- California asked for a 6-month delay, states must opt in by Dec 11
- People with disabilities and "medically frail" stay exempt
  - Oct 29 court decision: no extra proof a condition limits ability to work, CMS says it will appeal

- **IHSS:** CMS holding back over $2.8 billion in federal payments for 2026
- **Jan 1:** Medi-Cal members with unsatisfactory immigration status move to fee-for-service, lose Enhanced Care Management and Community Supports

We weighed in on proposed rules

- **Sept:** housing development and finance regulations, with Disability Rights California
- **Oct:** Head Start (federal)
- **Oct:** National Health Interview Survey (federal)
- **Oct 23:** DDS community resource development plans
- **Nov 17:** HDFC affordable housing regulations

Thank you Chris Arroyo and the policy team

Source: CMS SMD 26-006 (Nov 13, 2026); DHCS; Massachusetts v. Oz; CHCF

2026 Program Performance Report (PPR)

Final year of the 2022-2026 State Plan: all measures met or exceeded!

141,841
Californians directly reached

27,913
people trained

8,607
people helped through technical assistance

96%
of self-advocates and family advocates increased their advocacy

Full report: Item 9, 2026 PPR (vote)

Source: SCDD 2026 Program Performance Report

Public Appearances and Partnerships

NOV 2

Federal Partners, Los Angeles

With UC Davis, UCLA, USC/CHLA, Disability Rights California. New Community Lecture Series, SCDD topic: Regional Center Services webpage

NOV 2

Councilmember Melissa Fitch, Santa Barbara

Grace Fisher Foundation art program, joined the acting class

NOV 9

LA28 Olympics

Community Access and Support Work Group

NOV 10

Legislative staff

Briefed the California Legislative Staff Education Institute on developmental services

NOV 10

Statewide self-advocate network

Co-creating a vision for California's self-advocacy movement, questions go to full network in December

Admin Updates

- Budget remains strong
  - Federal funds continue under the short-term federal budget
- Hiring: Bay Area Region Manager, SEPAN lead
  - New opening statement on every job posting: “Lived experience is part of how we lead”
- Continuing All Staff Trainings

Looking Ahead

Dec 2

New legislative session convenes

North State Community Conversation

Dec 10

Community Conversations

San Bernardino

Dec 11

Federal deadline to pass budget or extend

States opt in to work requirement delay

Dec 30

PPR due to ACL

Jan 1

New state laws start

Enforcement of Medi-Caid work requirements can wait until July 1

January

New Governor's budget

THANK YOU

Questions?

