STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (SCDD)

Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)

Official Meeting Minutes

Date: October 13
Time: 10:03 AM – 11:59 AM
Location: Virtual Meeting
Facilitator: Lisa Hooks, Regional Manager, SCDD Sacramento Region

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1. Call to Order

Lisa Hooks called the meeting to order at **10:03 AM**.

Quorum

The committee confirmed that eight (8) active members were on the roster. A quorum requirement of five (5) members was met.

Quorum was established at 10:06 AM.

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2. Chair/Co-Chair Discussion

Prior to the start of formal business, Hugo Henshaw inquired about the status of RAC leadership positions.

Lisa Hooks advised that leadership positions would be discussed later in the meeting and noted that Hugo had previously expressed interest in serving.

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3. Inspirational Quote

Lisa shared the following quote by Stevie Wonder:

“Just because a man lacks the use of his eyes doesn’t mean he lacks vision.”

Discussion

Lisa emphasized the importance of respecting and supporting the vision and goals of individuals with disabilities. She encouraged members to recognize that self-determination begins with understanding a person's own aspirations and providing support that helps achieve those goals.

Members were invited to submit future quotes for upcoming RAC meetings.

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4. Welcome and Introductions

RAC Members Present

Name	Representation
Glenda Cervantes	Yuba County
Jennifer Drennan	El Dorado County
Hugo Henshaw	Nevada County
Judy Weisner	Sacramento County
Rosalyn Sites	Yolo County
Margaret De Leon	Member-at-Large

Public Participants and Guests

Name	Affiliation
Karen Mulvaney	Former RAC Chair and Member
Maureen Fitzgerald	Community Member
Donna Henshaw	Community Member
Tracy Brown	Alta California Regional Center
Patricia Jackson	SCDD Los Angeles Regional Office

Discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring representation from rural counties and maintaining strong participation from self-advocates, family members, and community stakeholders.

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5. Welcome Remarks

Lisa Hooks introduced herself as the Regional Manager for the Sacramento Region and shared that she has over 35 years of experience in disability services, including work in:

- Direct support services
- Residential services
- Crisis intervention
- Mobile crisis programs
- Healthcare and skilled nursing
- Law enforcement partnerships
- Educational settings
- Child development programs
- Standards and compliance

Lisa also shared her personal connection to the disability community as a family member, grandmother, and mother of individuals with autism.

Strategic Planning Introduction

Lisa explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was to begin the annual strategic planning process and gather community input regarding:

- Community needs
- Service barriers
- Access to support
- Advocacy priorities
- County and regional issues affecting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD)

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6. Approval of Agenda

Motion

Lisa reviewed the agenda and explained that no prior meeting minutes were presented for approval because the previous meeting did not achieve quorum and therefore no official business was conducted.

Motion: Approve the October 13 agenda.

- Motion made by: Voting member
- Seconded by: Rosalyn Sites

Vote

Vote Result: Approved unanimously.

Motion Passed.

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7. Strategic Planning Discussion

Lisa reviewed the annual planning process and identified the counties served by the Sacramento Regional Office:

- Alpine
- Colusa
- El Dorado
- Nevada
- Placer
- Sacramento
- Sierra
- Sutter
- Yolo
- Yuba

Strategic Planning Target Areas

The committee identified the following planning categories:

- Advocacy
- Transportation

- Generic Resources
- IHSS
- Employment
- Housing
- Health and Mental Health
- Safety
- Self-Determination
- Early Start Services
- School-Age Education (3–21)
- Adult Services
- Other Emerging Needs

Lisa emphasized that priorities and barriers often differ significantly across counties, particularly between urban and rural communities.

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8. Advocacy Discussion

Healthcare and First Responder Training

Jennifer Drennan discussed the need for:

- Trauma-informed healthcare services
- Improved interactions between individuals with disabilities and healthcare providers
- Disability awareness training for first responders
- Better collaboration among healthcare providers, emergency responders, and law enforcement

Jennifer shared perspectives both as a critical care nurse and as the parent of a medically complex child with extensive healthcare needs.

Cultural Considerations and Law Enforcement

A discussion occurred regarding the Blue Envelope program used in some communities.

Lisa emphasized the importance of evaluating initiatives through a culturally responsive lens and ensuring that advocacy strategies account for differing community experiences, perspectives, and safety concerns.

Administrative Burden on Families

Rosalyn Sites highlighted the significant administrative responsibilities families face, including:

- Coordinating medical care
- Managing IHSS services
- Navigating regional center services
- Managing school supports and IEPs
- Coordinating insurance and community resources

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was:

Services may be available but not necessarily accessible.

Members discussed barriers experienced by families, particularly those living in rural communities.

Future Planning and High-Needs Supports

Karen Mulvaney raised several strategic planning concerns involving:

- Long-term planning for aging caregivers
- Future support for individuals with high needs
- Service continuity
- Provider network improvements
- Housing
- Transportation
- IHSS reimbursement rates
- Emerging DDS technology systems

- Health and Safety Waiver processes

Karen also advocated for exploring innovative housing models and community-based solutions.

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9. Advocacy and Civic Engagement

Lisa led a discussion on the importance of advocacy and public participation.

Key Messages

Lisa stressed:

- Individuals should not wait for systems to change without community involvement.
- Disability advocacy requires participation at local, state, and federal levels.
- Communities should help shape policy and system improvements.

Public Participation Opportunities

Members were encouraged to:

- Attend public meetings
- Provide public comment
- Participate in advisory councils and committees
- Engage with school boards
- Attend regional center board meetings
- Participate in SCDD State Council meetings
- Engage with housing, transportation, healthcare, and IHSS planning efforts

Community Leadership

Lisa emphasized that individuals with disabilities and family members must have a voice in decision-making processes and strategic planning activities.

She noted that meaningful systems change begins with individuals sharing their lived experiences and participating directly in public forums.

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10. Additional Advocacy Concerns Raised

Family Advocacy and Legislative Engagement

Donna Henshaw shared experiences advocating on behalf of her son, Hugo Henshaw.

Topics discussed included:

- Difficulty securing meetings with elected officials.
- Challenges ensuring disability-related concerns are heard by policymakers.
- The importance of meaningful engagement by public officials.
- Barriers encountered when seeking Regional Center eligibility and services.
- Fears regarding future housing and support options for adults with disabilities.

Systems Change and Accountability

Lisa encouraged participants to report experiences where systems or elected officials did not follow through on commitments and emphasized the importance of ongoing public engagement.

Discussion included:

- Public meeting participation rights.
- Brown Act and Bagley-Keene protections.
- Public comment opportunities.
- Community organizing strategies.
- Building advocacy skills across the region.

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11. Transportation Priorities

Transportation emerged as a significant concern, particularly in rural communities.

Identified Barriers

Participants reported:

- Limited bus routes.
- Insufficient transportation options.
- Dangerous walking conditions.
- Lack of sidewalks and pedestrian safety infrastructure.

- Long distances between transit stops and services.

Hugo Henshaw and Donna Henshaw

Specific concerns were raised regarding:

- Inadequate transportation options in the Lake of the Pines and Nevada County areas.
- Safety challenges associated with accessing bus stops.
- Reliance on family members due to gaps in public transportation systems.

Glenda Cervantes

Glenda shared transportation challenges facing individuals in Yuba County and discussed the need for increased transportation independence, alternative transportation options, and safety education.

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12. Housing Priorities

Housing was identified as a significant regional concern.

Key Issues Discussed

- Affordable housing availability
- Supported Living Services (SLS)
- Future planning for aging caregivers
- Access to independent living opportunities
- Innovative housing models
- Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs)
- Housing affordability in rural communities

Karen Mulvaney discussed innovative housing efforts and community-driven models, including programs associated with Future for Our Kids.

Participants agreed that housing should remain a strategic priority area.

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13. Legal and Future Planning Concerns

Discussion included:

- Conservatorship education
- Access to legal assistance
- Future planning resources for families
- Guardianship and decision-making support
- Long-term care planning for individuals whose caregivers are aging

Participants noted an ongoing need for better access to information and support surrounding future planning.

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14. Strategic Planning Themes Identified

The following priority themes emerged during discussion:

1. Advocacy and civic participation.
2. Healthcare and trauma-informed care.
3. Law enforcement and first responder training.
4. Family support and system-navigation.
5. Transportation access.
6. Housing and future planning.
7. Regional Center access and eligibility concerns.
8. Self-determination and community inclusion.
9. High-needs individual support.
10. Rural service accessibility.
11. Legal services and conservatorship education.
12. Emergency preparedness.

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15. Sacramento Regional Office Updates

Regional Town Hall

Lisa reported that approximately thirty (30) community members attended the Sacramento Region Town Hall.

Topics discussed included:

- Housing
- Self-Determination
- IHSS
- Future planning
- Regional Center services

Follow-up activities with county leaders and community partners are ongoing.

Staffing Updates

Lisa announced:

- A new front desk support staff member has been hired and will begin employment the following week.
- Recruitment efforts continue for a Community Program Specialist position.

Awareness and Training Opportunities

Lisa highlighted:

- Emergency Preparedness Month resources.
- National Disability Employment Awareness Month activities.
- Employment, accommodation, and advocacy training opportunities are available through SCDD and partner agencies.

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16. Future Meeting Schedule

Committee members discussed the December meeting schedule.

Revised Meeting Time

Next RAC Meeting

Date: December 8
Time: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

The adjustment was made to accommodate scheduling conflicts and member availability.

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17. Leadership Recruitment

The committee revisited the issue of RAC leadership.

Leadership Interest

The following members expressed interest in serving in leadership capacities:

- Hugo Henshaw
- Judy Weisner
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18. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at approximately **11:59 AM**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sacramento Regional Advisory Committee (RAC)
State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
Sacramento Regional Office