



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

AGENDA

Developmental Disabilities Council

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

10:00 AM

1025 Escobar St., Martinez |
[https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/96433584883?](https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/96433584883?pwd=bEtCdk9wM0NyZHFVaVl0N3U3Rm1mQT09)
[pwd=bEtCdk9wM0NyZHFVaVl0N3U3R](https://cchealth.zoom.us/j/96433584883?pwd=bEtCdk9wM0NyZHFVaVl0N3U3Rm1mQT09)
m1mQT09 | Call in: (646) 518-9805,
meeting ID 964 3358 4883, password
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Agenda Items: Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call and Introductions
2. Approval of January 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes [25-717](#)
Attachments: [DDC Minutes 1-22-25 draft](#)
3. Updates
Transportation Work Group Report [25-718](#)
Attachments: [DDC Transportation report Feb 2025](#)
4. Presentation: What is the HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) Final Rule and Why is it Important to me and my Family Member? [25-719](#)
Attachments: [HCBS Family Training 2025](#)
5. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

The next meeting is currently scheduled for March 26, 2025.

Adjourn

The Committee will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend the Committee meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting. Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Committee less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1220 Morello Ave, during normal business hours. Staff reports related to items on the agenda are also accessible online at www.contracosta.ca.gov. If the Zoom connection malfunctions for any reason, the meeting may be paused while a fix is attempted. If the connection is not reestablished, the committee will continue the meeting in person without remote access. Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact: Vi Ibarra, vi.ibarra@cchealth.org, or 9925) 532-9047



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

Staff Report

File #: 25-717

Agenda Date: 2/26/2025

Agenda #: 2.

Advisory Board: Developmental Disabilities Council

Subject: Approval of January 22, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 22, 2025

Board and Liaison Members Present: Alicia Jackson; Caroline Ortiz; Christine Rottger; Christy Lam-Julian; Estela Nunez; Katherine Kreft; Laura Corbett; Pam Perls; Ramsay Mashy; Ria Mercado; Seth Hendricks; Troy Russell; Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board and Liaison Members Excused: Karen Lingenfelter, Nickole Bouslog

Guests: Lisa Kleinbub, Regional Center of the East Bay; Dan Hogue, Las Trampas; Vanessa Cendejas, City of Walnut Creek (Social Services division); Aimee Vitug-Hom, VistAbility; Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Marianne Iversen, Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area; Jennifer Quallick, Supervisor Candace Andersen's team; Rosa Valledor – Parent; Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez, RCEB; Louise McClellan, Open House Center; Mateo Ibarra, Nora Lewis, Kevin Costte, Kevin Mayo, Nicole Strobel, Jeremy Dunbar, Tyler Bohon- All Specialty Health Ambassadors; Lisa Ribitch, Full Circle of Choices; Jason Parks, Las Trampas; Erik Estrada, MDUSD; Daniel Volta, Matthew Ferrer, Daniel Flournoy, Craig Rose, Julie Molinari- all with VistAbility; Leslie Visbal

Welcome, Establish Quorum, and Introductions:

Will welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:01 a.m. Today's meeting was hybrid, with Council members and guests attending either in-person at Las Trampas in Lafayette or on Zoom. Annette and Abigail, the Spanish interpreters, gave instructions on how to choose between Spanish and English interpretation. Guests were invited to introduce themselves and Zoom guests were asked to enter their names and affiliations in Chat for attendance purposes.

Vi took a roll call of board members and established a quorum.

The meeting minutes for November 20, 2024 were approved unanimously (M/Troy, S/Ramsay). There were no changes to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB – Lisa Kleinbub

Lisa announced that Becky Nanyonjo, the new Executive Director, plans to attend next month's DDC meeting. RCEB is happy to have her onboard. She reported on a few updates:

- The Regional Centers are rolling out the new standardized IPP ~ they are waiting on the final signature page for the new form. Vi requested a presentation, and Ronke Sodipo is coordinating a presentation for the March 26th meeting.
- The Legislature is requiring a standardized respite process. A new tool should be available next year, along with a new system for establishing service providers. Concerns remain due to the uniqueness of each Regional Center.
- DDS is also standardizing how new applicants are assessed for intake eligibility within legal timeframes.
- The state and DDS are focused on supporting those impacted by the recent wildfires in Southern California. The Governor has committed additional funds for wildfire relief, and this could impact other projects. Sadly at least one person with cerebral palsy passed away. He lived in his family home. This highlights the importance of emergency preparedness. Families did not have a lot of warning.
- Finally, changes in the federal administration are raising concerns about people without documentation of residency and the potential impact on federal funding for services. This is being monitored closely.

Questions/Comments:

- There was a comment made about the rate reform and new service codes. People with an IPP early in the year may have to sign an updated IPP with the new service codes. Lisa hopes that DDS will clarify the issues by the time of the March meeting.

SCDD Bay Area Office – Gabriela Solval

Vi reported on Gabriela's behalf in her absence.

- Upcoming statewide trainings for January into February, in English and Spanish: IEP Strategies Part 1 and Part 2, Inclusive Education: Advocating for the Least Restrictive Environment. Here is the link to all [Upcoming statewide trainings](#).
- A reminder, to check out the State Council's Year-round [Sponsorship Opportunity](#): we support events that promote self-advocacy, leadership and education for the I/DD community. Submit a request at least 90 days before your event. There is a \$2500 limit per sponsorship.
- [Share your story](#) for a chance to be featured in SCDD's Storytellers Blog. And now you can [sign up](#) to get the latest posts straight to your email inbox.
- Bay Area People First will have PART 2 of their planning meeting with a presentation on 'Transforming Individual Advocacy to Systems Advocacy'. All are welcome to [join this meeting](#) Friday, January 31st, 2-3:30 PM.

Council Chairperson – Will Sanford

Will presented a 2025 Proposed Meeting Schedule. The proposed change is to have the summer planning meeting in June instead of August, do not meet in July and August, and then pick back up in September. A motion was made to move the planning meeting to June 25th and accept the proposed schedule (M/Caroline, S/Seth). It passed unanimously.

Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra

A big thanks to Ramsay and Christy for today's refreshments. Board members are invited to sign up to bring refreshments to future meetings.

The annual awards event returned to in-person in 2024, and in 2025, it will be held in Alameda County. Volunteers are needed for planning, which will be coordinated by the two DDC councils. Meetings will take place on the 3rd Wednesday of each month leading up to the event. Volunteers include Troy, Ramsay, Christie, Estela, and Ria. If anyone else is interested in helping please contact Vi.

Membership – Troy Russell

Troy announced a new board member application. Jason Parks has been an advocate for people with IDD for the past 11 years, starting in direct service. He is eager to contribute to the board and has the capacity to take on responsibilities. He may not attend the next meeting as he plans to climb Kilimanjaro! A vote was taken, and Jason's nomination was approved unanimously. Welcome, Jason!

There are still 5 open seats. As a reminder, the bylaws require a specific mix of professionals and direct stakeholders, which are people with disabilities or their family members.

Community Liaison Reports:

Emergency Planning and Engagement – Aimee Vitug-Hom:

As talked about earlier, emergencies can happen at any time. Some emergency planning resources shared by DDS: [Listos California](#) and [CalHHS Emergency Guide](#). And go to [CA.gov/LAfires/](#) for helpful resources on preparing for emergencies, and also for ways to help those affected by the LA fires.

HireAble/Local Partnership Agreement – Donna Feingold:

HireAble is offering a free training today at 3 PM on how working and wages can affect SSI and SSDI benefits. Here is [the link to register for it](#). The training has received a good response but won't be offered as often as before.

There was not an LPA update.

Transition Task Force:

Vi talked about the transition task force being a group of professionals focused on professional development. They've had recent conversations around an alternative diploma pathway for people with significant disabilities.

Save the date for the joint transition-to-adult conference on Saturday, March 15th. This conference has been held at the College of Alameda in the past. The conference will rotate locations across the counties, with this year's event at DVC. Vendor registration for the fair will begin soon.

Workgroup Updates:

Transportation – Alicia Jackson:

Vi, and Alicia met with Debbie Toth via Zoom on January 9th to discuss several topics including the importance of attending Paratransit Coordinating Council (PCC) meetings to work on solutions. Also shared were updates on SHA travel training and resource lists including a list of allies. The workgroup meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 9-10 AM.

Vi shared a survey from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), which is developing a new transportation plan. The survey has 10-12 questions, with the last one focused on transit for all. Completing the survey enters you into a drawing for a \$500 gift card. Here is the [Survey link](#).

Questions/Comments:

A question was asked about how survey responses will be used to report outcomes and inform decision-making. Vi can invite CCTA to present this information to the Council if that is requested by the Board.

Health Equity – Ria Mercado:

Ria gave a presentation on how the health equity survey has influenced the work group's actions. The presentation slides covered 6 key areas:

1. Timeline: The group is currently in the phase of identifying key collaborators from areas like aging, public health, and children's services.
2. Identification of Needs and Resources
3. Meeting Summaries
4. Identified Resources: See the links in Ria's presentation slides for resources like the Advisory Council on Aging and Mobility Matters. They also met with Jeff Nagafuji from RCEB to discuss Coordinated Family Services, where a case manager has been assigned to help interested individuals.
5. Ongoing Outreach: The workgroup contacted Cecile Puretez, Assistant Director of Disability Access and Inclusion at UCSF, and is working to schedule a training session for people with IDD.
6. Continuing Conversation: The long-term goal is to keep focusing on priorities.

Also, Ria encouraged to register for the County's Community Warning System to get emergency alerts by cell phone.

Lastly, the Open House Center still offers free flu vaccinations in a sensory-friendly setting. Vi, Ramsay, and Christie visited the new Open House site in Concord. It's state-of-the-art, future-focused, and client-centered. Vi encourages everyone to visit if possible!

Questions/Comments:

- A comment was made to clarify the distinction between Medi-Cal and Medicare.
- A question was asked about creating a training module to help collaborators understand what a developmental disability looks like, as doctors often don't fully grasp it. For example, Will mentioned the anthrax vaccination clinic at GMC Concord, where doctors asked questions that were unclear to the patients.
- A comment was made about Kaiser having a pediatric developmental disabilities committee. The question was raised on how to increase access to sensory-friendly settings there.
- A suggestion was made to also reach out to Children's Hospital.

~~~~~ A brief break was taken at 11:06 a.m. ~~~~~

**\*\*\*\*\* Presentation \*\*\*\*\***

**Governor's Proposed State Budget, with Focus on Impact to the  
Developmental Disabilities Service System  
By Will Sanford, EBLC Co-Chair**

Will presented a [slide deck](#) highlighting the federal government's role, the impact of the LA fires, and possible pauses on certain programs. Two major unknowns right now are the federal government's actions and the LA fires, which weren't factored into the Governor's budget.

Some notes from the presentation:

- DDS projects an estimated 500,000 people with IDD will be served in California. As long as a person has IDD, they will continue to receive services, regardless of background. The federal government recently clarified there is no in-between for these services.
- California is expected to end the year with around \$22.5B in reserves. Personal income tax makes up nearly 60% of the state's revenue, which can be volatile. Health and human services, including DDS, account for 37% of the state budget. The rate reform provides an additional \$3.2B in service funding ~ a really big win!
- The DDS budget document is 290 pages long. Will highlighted:
  - Provider Quality Incentive Payments (QIP) are not completely worked out at this point. It does propose implementation of a couple of things including DSP workforce training and wage differentials for staff who are multilingual including ASL
  - ASD makes up about 51% of the overall caseload, with 72% of those individuals aged 21 and older



- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has a new access rule that starts now and will be implemented through 2032
- The first draft of the Master Plan is expected in March 2025 but is not included in the budget
- Community Care Facilities are the largest recipients of increased funding
- Social Recreation and Camping have been moved to a different budget category, which could make tracking difficult
- The May budget revision will be crucial ~ along with decisions from the legislature and governor ~ but the federal government remains the biggest worry at the moment. A major concern is if the feds shift to block grants and the possibility of a capitated rate. The question is which year would be used to set that initial rate. If it's based on 2020, it would be a huge issue. Advocates, especially those in Republican-held areas, need to communicate the devastating impact block grants would have on our communities.

Questions and Comments:

A question was asked about the impact to Medi-Cal? Will pointed out the governor's proposal maintains its commitment to the program.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Elvia Osorio-Rodriguez clarified that Collaborative Family Support Services is a new program for children and families up to age 22. As compared to Coordinated Family Services is for adults over 22. Reach out to your case manager if interested.

Kyra Dixon from Walnut Creek shared a link to the March 29th [resource fair application](#). For more information, contact her at [dixon@walnut-creek.org](mailto:dixon@walnut-creek.org).

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

|                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------|
| The next meeting will be held on February 26, 2025 |
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Respectfully submitted by,  
*Aimee Vitug-Hom*  
VistAbility



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 25-718

**Agenda Date:** 2/26/2025

**Agenda #:**

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Advisory Board: Developmental Disabilities Council

Subject: Transportation Work Group Report

Presenter: Alicia Jackson

# Transportation Work Group

Update to DD Council  
February 2025

# What we're working on

- ✓ The SHA team is exploring Travel Training offered by the County Connection in partnership with Independent Living Resources so that they can better spread awareness to the community about this service.
- ✓ Nickole is exploring [California Connect Speech-to-Speech \(STS\)](#) to see how this service supports people with speech impairments to see if it would be a useful resource to help communication with dispatchers for scheduling paratransit rides.
- ✓ Work group members attended the following meetings and provided public comment, and plan to continue to attend these meetings regularly.
  - ✓ Jan 23, 2:00-4:00, [BART Accessibility Task Force](#)
  - ✓ Jan 27, 2:00-4:00, [CCTA Paratransit Coordinating Council](#)
- ✓ Work group is meeting twice per month, with the next meeting Thursday, February 27.



# CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

1025 ESCOBAR STREET  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553

## Staff Report

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**File #:** 25-719

**Agenda Date:** 2/26/2025

**Agenda #:** 4.

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Advisory Board: Developmental Disabilities Council

Subject: WHAT is the HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) Final Rule and WHY is it Important to me and my Family Member?

Presenter: Donna Feingold, HireAble and Carolanne Forge, Toolworks

**Family Training  
Home & Community  
Based Services -  
FINAL RULE**



# Today's Presenters:

- Carolanne Forge works for Toolworks, a nonprofit agency that has been providing services to individuals with disabilities for nearly 50 years. Carolanne has over 20 years of experience in this field and is the Project Director for Toolworks HCBS contract with RCEB.
- Donna Feingold is a consultant with over 40 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities and started her own company, Finding Golden Solutions, nearly 3 years ago. Donna has been partnering with Toolworks on their HCBS project.



## Today's Agenda:

- What is the Final Rule and Why it is Important to You
- History of the Final Rule
- Review of the 10 Rules and how they apply to residential and non-residential programs
- Additional Resources
- Q and A



# Why is This Important to You and Your Family Member

## To enhance the quality of services:

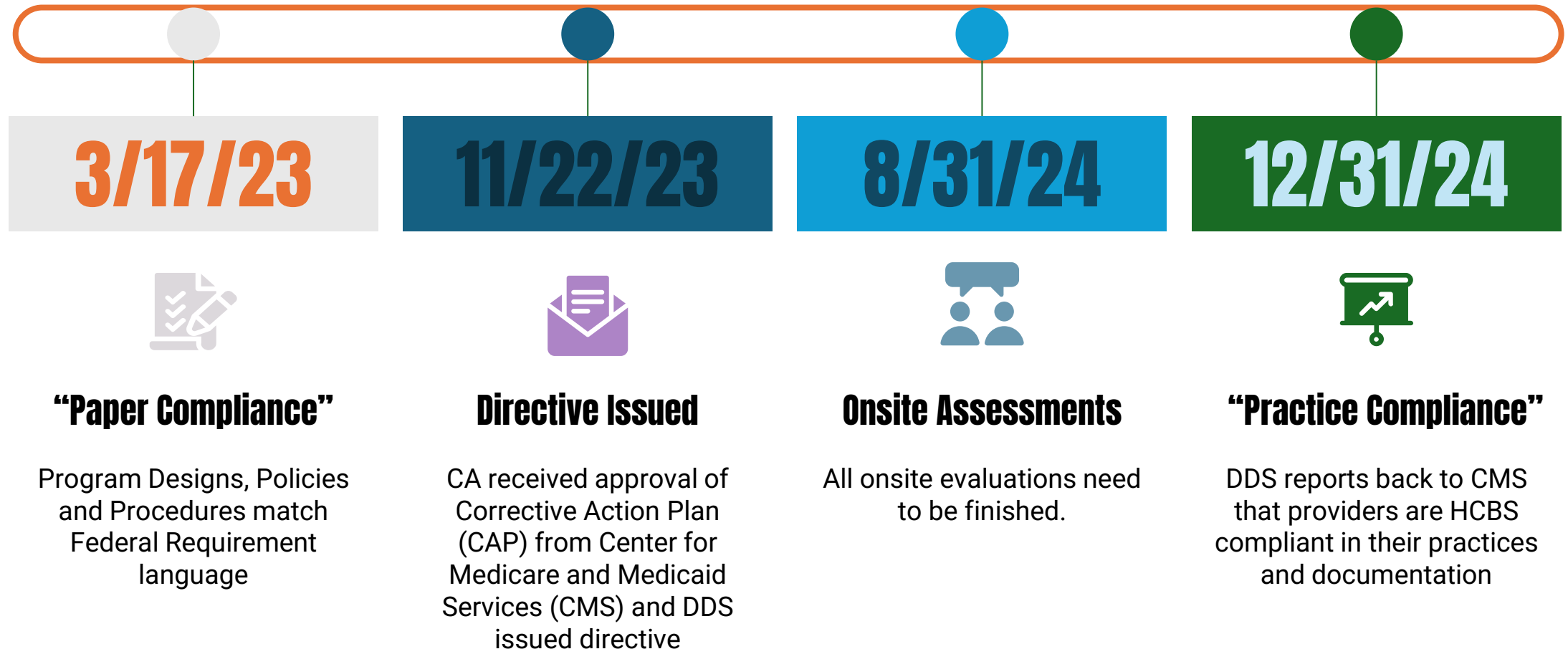
- Gives individuals and their families a voice in the services they receive
- Enhances quality of life for individuals with I/DD
- Provides full access to the community
- Ensuring individuals can work and spend time with other people in their community who do not have disabilities
- Supporting individual preferences and rights are protected
- Ensures person-centered planning and services

## In 1999 the Supreme Court ruled on Olmstead v. L.C.

The Olmstead ruling found that unjustified institutionalization of individuals with disabilities by a public entity is a form of discrimination under ADA of 1990

- As a result, states are generally required to provide community-based care to such individuals
- Olmstead had implications for Medicaid as the nation's largest payer of long-term services and supports (LTSS)
- Ongoing litigation in multiple states against state agencies for not implementing the Olmstead ruling caused Medicaid to enact rules for the use of Medicaid funds for Home and Community Based services
- In 2014 CMS finalized the HCBS settings rule to require that states are only able to use federal Medicaid (in CA MediCal) to pay for services that are community based and do not have institutional characteristics

# HCBS Timeline



# Services Required to be in Compliance:

## Residential Services

- Residential Care Facility for the Elderly (RCFE)
- Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN)
- Family Home Agency (FHA)
- Adult Residential Facility (ARF)
- Children's Residential Facility

## Employment Services

- Supported Employment Program (Group Services)
- Work Activity Program

## Day Type Services

- Socialization Training Program
- Community Integration Training Program
- Community Activities Support Services
- Participant-Directed Community-Based Training Service for Adults
- Activity Center
- Adult Development Center
- Behavior Management Program
- Adult Day Care Facility

A photograph of a paved road with yellow double lines, curving through a dense forest of tall trees. The scene is slightly hazy. Three white rectangular boxes with text are overlaid on the image. The top box contains the words 'THINK BIG.' in a large, hand-drawn, black-outlined font. The middle box contains the words 'START SMALL.' in a smaller, simple black font. The bottom box contains the words 'Keep moving...' in a black cursive script font.

THINK BIG.

START SMALL.

*Keep moving...*

- Next, we will look each rule...

# HCBS Final Rule Requirements for Residential and Nonresidential Settings:

1. The setting is integrated in and supports full access to the greater community to the same degree of access as individuals without disabilities.
2. The setting/program is selected by the individual from among setting options including non-disability specific settings, based on the individual's need and preferences.
3. The setting ensures an individual's rights of privacy, dignity and respect, and freedom from coercion and restraint.
4. The setting optimizes, but does not regiment, individual initiative, autonomy, and independence in making life choices, including but not limited to daily activities, physical environment and with whom to interact.
5. The Program facilitates individual choice regarding services and supports, and who provides them.

# Rules for provider-owned or controlled residential settings:

6. The program provides individuals with a residential agreement that provides protections under landlord & tenant laws.
7. Each individual has privacy in his/her sleeping or living unit, choice of a roommate if sharing a unit, and the freedom to furnish and decorate their sleeping or living units within the lease or other agreement.
8. Individuals have the freedom and support to control their own schedules and activities and have access to food at any time.
9. Individuals are able to have visitors of their choosing at any time.
10. The setting is physically accessible to the individual.

A wooden boardwalk with a metal railing winds through a dense forest of tall trees. The boardwalk is made of light-colored wooden planks and is flanked by a dark metal railing. The forest is lush with green foliage, and the trees are tall and thin, creating a canopy overhead. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a misty or overcast day.

Next, we look  
at the rights  
that these  
rules provide  
your family  
member...



# HCBS Rights for those receiving services:

- Have a right to a person-centered IPP and ISP
- The settings (day programs/residential options) must give people full access to the community
- Persons served have the right to seek employment and work in competitive (minimum wage or greater), integrated settings
- Control their own money and resources
- Choose their services from a variety of options

# HCBS Rights for those receiving services:

- Have privacy, dignity and respect and freedom from coercion and restraint
- Independence in making their own choices about their lives including but NOT limited to the things they do each day, where they spend their time and who they spend time with
- Choice about who provides their services and supports
- If they have mobility needs the setting must be easy for them to move around in as independently as possible

# In a licensed residential setting individuals served have additional rights including:

- A legal agreement that protects them to the same degree as a lease, at RCEB this is generally the admissions agreement
- Privacy in the room they sleep in and the right to have a lock on their bedroom door that only appropriate staff have keys to
- Have freedom and support from staff to decide on their own schedule and choice in the things they do

# In a licensed residential setting individuals served have additional rights including:

- Be able to decorate and choose furniture for their bedroom
- A choice in roommate if they share a room
- Have access to food at any time
- Have visitors at any time

# Where can I find more information?

Check out the RCEB website: <https://www.rceb.org/providers/hcbs-final-rule/>

To ask a question, make a comment, or get more information about the HCBS Final Rule, email: [hcbs@rceb.org](mailto:hcbs@rceb.org)

For more detailed information on the HCBS Final Rule and California's Statewide Transition Plan, please visit: <http://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/cms-hcbs-regulations>

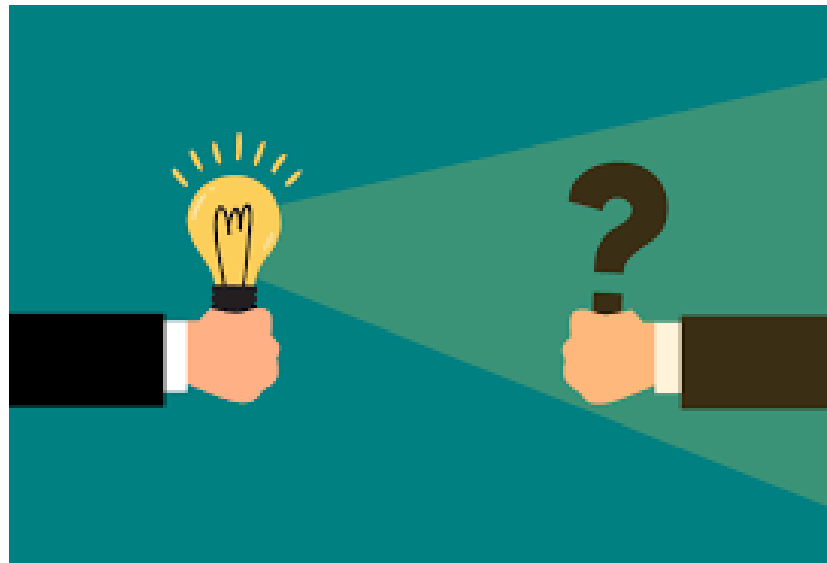
CA HCBS Statewide Transition Plan:

<http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ltc/Pages/HCBSStatewideTransitionPlan.aspx>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services:

<https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/hcbs/index.html>

# QUESTIONS



thank you!

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