

Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 24, 2025

Board Members Present: Alicia Jackson, Christine Rottger, Christy Lam-Julian, Estela Nunez, Jason Parks, Katherine Kreft, Laura Corbett, Matt Bell, Nickole Bouslog, Ramsay Mashy, Ria Mercado, Seth Hendricks, Troy Russell, Will Sanford

Staff: Vi Ibarra

Board Members Excused: Erik Estrada; Karen Lingenfelter

Guests: Donna Feingold, HireAble and Finding Golden Solutions; Rosa Valledor, parent; Leslie Visbal, Ability Now Bay Area and family member; Chris Lindholm, Parent; Steve Dale - Dale Law Firm and Golden State Pooled Trust; Anna Cleese, Office of Supervisor Diane Burgis, District 3I Sheraden Nicholau, CA State Council on Developmental Disabilities; Kevin Costee and SHA trainee group, Full Circle of Choices; Alisa Rosillo- parent, and Changing Spaces Campaign; Jeanette, Christian, Miranda, Susan, and Calvache, CSS Antioch; Nicole Strobel, Rob Norris, Mateo Ibarra, Full Circle of Choices; Madison Mercado, Open House Center; Suzanne Anthony, parent; Aimee Vitug-Hom, Julie Molinari, Daniel Volta, Daniel Flournoy, Matthew Ferrer, Craig Rose, VistAbility; Pam Perls, EBLC

Welcome, Establish Quorum, and Introductions:

The meeting began promptly at 10AM with Seth welcoming everyone back from the summer break. Council members and guests attended either in-person at 1025 Escobar St. in Martinez or on Zoom. Spanish interpretation was offered to those on Zoom. Guests introduced themselves and Zoom folks entered their names and affiliations in Chat for attendance purposes. Vi introduced new board members Matt Bell and Erik Estrada. Roll was taken and quorum was established. The meeting minutes for May and June 2025 were approved with two abstentions (Christine and Will) (M/Will, S/Nickole). There were no changes to the agenda.

UPDATES:

RCEB - Rebecca Nanyonjo

Dr. Becky reported there are talks of major cuts if there are no changes to the federal HR1. If California steps in to rescue its own budget, there could be penalties. She met with Congressman DeSaulnier for a 30-minute podcast interview where she talked about challenges with bureaucracy and potential impacts on safety net systems. She is anticipating significant financial changes in 2026 and will continue to advocate strongly.

Blue Moon Living Facility, a new fully accessible home for people who are deaf or hard of hearing, opened in August. It's the first of its kind in the state. RCEB is seen as a leader for supporting the deaf community, and this home could set an example for others across California. Also, she had a chance to connect with leaders in the deaf community at the Fremont Deaf Conference that was co-hosted by RCEB and GGRC.

On September 27th, RCEB launched its first community listening to hear how they can improve. Parents and people served are welcome to share feedback. Here is the schedule of upcoming [Community Listening Sessions](#)

Dr. Becky also shared DDS updates from the delegating team meeting held in Irvine:

- Rate reform is well underway. The new DDS director, Pete Cerivinka, is focused on outcomes and compliance. Providers must meet deadlines for requested information or face penalties.
- State budget for service professional training (DSPs) was restored.
- SDP costs are much higher than expected and the state is working to control them. New rules will appear in upcoming trailer bill language. The financial climate is tough, especially with a federal administration that's not supportive. California's flexible budget has led to some very high costs, citing an example of a provider billing at \$1,000 per hour.
- Governor Newsom rejected proposed limits on overtime for IHSS.

Questions/Comments

- A comment on ballooning SDP budgets; when one is not being served or well, it should be expected that costs will increase.
- A request was made to share the link to the DeSaulnier podcast.
- A question was asked if HR1 will affect SSI and food stamps. Yes, it will affect public benefits. It will NOT impact social security, as of right now.

SCDD Bay Area Office – Sheraden Nicholau

Sheraden accepted a new role as Deputy Director of Regional Operations, focusing on programs and systems. She'll still be available to the community and is seeking excellent candidates to replace her. Gabriela Solval had a baby girl in late July and is planning to return to the Bay Area Office in early 2026. Gabriela and baby are both doing very well.

The State Council is collecting your input for California's next 5-yr State Plan, for 2027-2031. They are asking community members to complete the survey, and share the online survey portal, and if possible, join their upcoming town halls to hear more about how your input in years past has shaped the Council priorities, and how your input will help build the next 5-yr state plan. [Info and portal](#), and [use this link](#) to take the survey. In-person Town Hall in Oakland: Oct 9, 1:30p – 3p, Elihu Harris State Building Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland. More info or for access needs contact bayarea@scdd.ca.gov.

Additional information shared by SCDD:

- [State Council Virtual Statewide Training Calendar](#) includes weekly Special Ed Advocacy Clinic Mondays in September, and Healthy Relationships and Sexuality Ed Training Series for Young Adults on Oct 28
- [State Council Statewide / Committee Meeting Calendar](#)
- Upcoming State Council [Regional Advisory Committee](#) meeting Hybrid, [via Zoom](#) and at Oakland City Hall; Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Networking 5:15-5:30 PM Meeting 5:30-8:00 PM
Upcoming State Council meeting: September 30, 2025, starting at 1030a. Packet will be posted next week <https://scdd.ca.gov/councilmeetings/>
- Earlier this month, the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network held a two-day meeting. You can find the resources, packet, and presentations here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy/>
- Supported Decision Making Technical Assistance Program updates <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdm-tap/>
- Statewide Self-Determination Orientations: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- [State Council Framework for Inclusive Budget-related Advocacy](#): These guiding principles are intended to support the CA State administration and legislature in approaching Medicaid-related budget adjustments with a focus on equity, transparency, and the preservation of essential services. These create a framework for ethical decision making that emphasizes the need to center the voices of people with IDD and their families, upholds CA's longstanding commitment to community inclusion, and asserts the rights and well-being of individuals who rely on services to fully participate in their communities.
- The job posting for the State Council's [Bay Area Regional Manager](#), the closing date is October 6, 2025

Council Chairperson – Seth Hendricks

Seth reported that the summer planning resulted in 3 priority areas the Council will focus on for 2025-2026:

1. Early childhood and school aged children
2. Supporting independence
3. Long term planning

Executive Assistant to the Council – Vi Ibarra

Vi shared an update from CCHS. As of October 1st. MediCare will no longer bill for telehealth visits. This was already planned and not part of the HR1 bill. This is good information to know in case you or someone you know had a telehealth visit that was cancelled. Thank you Jason for bringing the refreshments today!

Membership – Troy Russell No report.

Community Liaison Reports:

Early Start Provider – Christine Rottger

This new report has been added to work towards getting more input on Early Start. It is challenging for families with really young children to come to this meeting. Christine will be reporting out things that impact the early start community including information shared during RCEB's early start provider meeting, DDS's interagency coordinating council on early intervention, and also the infant development association for California.

East Bay Legislative Coalition – Will Sanford

Several assembly bills await the Governor's signature by mid-October. These include:

- Allowing licensed day programs to provide inhalable anti-seizure medications (passed, not yet signed),
- Improving access to state parks,
- Dr. Arambula's bill for technical assistance with oral health treatments,
- Stopping auto insurance companies from classifying providers as common carriers during work,
- Allowing Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) to support students in schools,
- Creating an ombudsman office for the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
- Sharing information between state departments (DDS, DSS, etc.), which currently work in silos, and
- Installing pedestrian crossing signals friendly to people with access and functional needs.

Will encouraged everyone to visit local legislative offices and share your story about the services you receive or how dental care or SDP has helped you. Right now, things seem stable, but challenges are coming with HR1's complex service requirements. Many new legislators don't know about our service system's past struggles. The time is now to build relationships with our local lawmakers.

Other issues to be aware of:

- Covered California subsidies will end in December, so premiums will rise.
- A partial shutdown of the Federal government may start October 1st, which will impact non-essential services.

EBLC will host a townhall meeting on January 30th, from 10AM-noon that will include a reverse townhall and video testimonials. The location is to be determined.

Emergency Planning Engagement – Aimee Vitug-Hom

Here is the [Emergency Planning Engagement Report](#). Also, September is preparedness month. Now is the time to update your Go Bag and sign up for emergency alerts.

HireAble/Local Partnership Agreement – Donna Feingold

Here is the [HireAble Report](#). HireAble just celebrated their one-year anniversary of subscription services. They are vendored by RCEB and North Bay Regional Center and can provide benefits planning services.

Transportation Work Group – Alicia Jackson

Vi shared this [Transportation Report](#). The committee will resume their meetings on September 25th.

Public Comment and Announcements:

Several resources were shared throughout the meeting.

- Here is a [video that explains the Lanterman Entitlement](#) that some might find useful.
- If you don't know who your elected officials are, you can use these tools to look up your [State Representatives](#) and [Federal Representatives](#).
- HireAble will be hosting a free training on October 27th at 3pm on the CalABLE program, [register here](#) to attend.
- Open House Center announced their [sensory friendly vaccination clinics](#), scheduled through January 2026.
- Toolworks is celebrating their 50th anniversary!
- Alisa Rosillo shared that Monterey Bay Aquarium and Levi's Stadium are planning to install adult changing tables at their facilities.
- CCTA is working on Master Plan. There are two surveys out right now. Important to take survey so that they know our needs, which determines programs and funding through 2050.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

The next meeting will be held on October 22, 2025 At Las Trampas, Lafayette
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Respectfully submitted by,
Aimee Vitug-Hom
VistAbility