

Department of Developmental Services (DDS)  
Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC)

Meeting Minutes  
November 15-16, 2016

Members Attended

Deaka McClain  
Kara Ponton  
Sara Desumala  
Rick Hodgkins  
Yvonne Kluttz  
Ryan Nelson  
Lisa Utsey  
Esther Kelsey

Member Absent

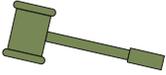
Jessica Gould  
Marica Dinkelspiel  
Rene Rodriguez

Others Attending

Nancy Bargmann  
Nicole Patterson  
Marcia James  
Gina DeLaO  
Keith Nelson  
Palmira Leyle  
Rachelle Gomez  
Rachel Skewes  
Rapone Anderson  
Julie Souliere  
Ebenezer Ampah  
Denyse Curtright  
Tom Blythe  
Kaytiana Streeter  
Timothy Schmiz  
Lucy Tran  
Kellie Gillman  
Jo-Ellen Fletcher  
Jana Chapman-Plon  
Ruth Holton-Hodson  
Dailey-Keithline

**November 15, 2016**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**



Kara Ponton, called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

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- a. Everyone introduced themselves.
  - b. The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made. **It was moved** (Rick Hodgkins), **seconded** (Matthew LaGrand), **and carried to approve the agenda with the changes.**
  - c. The minutes of the June 2016, CAC meeting were reviewed. **It was moved** (Matthew LaGrand), **seconded** (Sara Desumala), **and carried to approve the minutes with changes.**



2. **COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT BLUEPRINT UPDATE**

Denyse Curtright, DDS, Chief of Work Services Section, came to give an update on the Employment Blueprint updated. Department of Education (DOE), Department of Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and DDS, signed an MOU to agree to work together to develop a blueprint to improve competitive integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities in California.

- Denyse went over the Data Brief with CAC to make people understood the information and if they had any suggestions to make better.
- She also went over the transition portfolio; this is a check list for people that are making a transition into a new area of life, things like;

- ❖ Moving
- ❖ Getting a job
- ❖ Schooling
- ❖ Health changes

### **3. PURCHASE OF SERVICE/DASHBOARD**

Tom Blythe and Lucy Tran gave an update on the stakeholder meeting that were held in August in Sacramento, San Jose, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles.

- Each meeting discussed need if consumers and families and their challenges with receiving services.
- Regional Centers have developed plans to help with the challenges that people have by;
  - ❖ Use interpreters to help people understand.
  - ❖ Make documents easy to read.
  - ❖ Work with their community.
  - ❖ Train regional center staff to understand different cultures

Rapone Anderson and Rachel Skewes also came to the CAC meeting to talk about the Regional Centers Oversight Dashboard. A law was passed in 2016 to clearly present regional center data to consumers and the public, showing the performance of regional centers.

- The dashboard will cover things like;
  - ❖ Performance Data
  - ❖ Employment
  - ❖ Fair Hearings
  - ❖ Complaints
  - ❖ National Core Indicators

- ❖ Home and Community-Based Waiver
- ❖ Purchase of Service
  - ✓ Age
  - ✓ Diagnosis
  - ✓ Ethnicity/Race
  - ✓ Language

If you have any other suggestions please email [RCB@DDS.CA.GOV](mailto:RCB@DDS.CA.GOV).

#### **4. DDS DIRECTOR CHECK-IN**

Nancy Bargmann came to the CAC Meeting as the new DDS Director. Nancy talked about her background and a little about her work history. She talked about how important the CAC is to her and the department and how she is glad to have the opportunity to work in this field and with the CAC in bettering the lives of people with disabilities.

#### **5. DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER (DC) UPDATE**

Kellie Gillman came to the CAC to give them an update on the DC closure.

- The scheduled closure dates are;
  - ❖ Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), by December 31, 2018.
  - ❖ Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) and the General Treatment Area of Porterville Developmental Center (PDC GTA) by December 31, 2021
- Community Living Options is:
  - ❖ Flexible, fluid, and ongoing
  - ❖ Full of opportunities to encourage the consumer to express their opinions

- ❖ Responsive to the consumer's opinion, choices and needs
- ❖ A collaborative effort between the individual, family / conservator / legal guardian / authorized representative, and staff of Regional Center, DC, RRDP
- Community Living Options
  - ❖ Residential care models serve people moving out of institutions as well as community members.
  - ❖ The person-centered Transition Plan process determines the level of support needed for each individual to be safe, healthy, and happy.
- Community Models and Supports
  - ❖ Parent/Family Member's Home: Some consumers may live with parents or relatives. Regional centers generally provide additional supports for the family which include, but are not limited to:
    - ✓ Day Services;
    - ✓ In-Home or Out-of-Home Respite Services;
    - ✓ Consultant Services; Behavior Intervention;
    - ✓ Transportation;
    - ✓ Independent Living Training.
- Independent Living Skills (ILS): Regional centers provide ILS services to an adult consumer consistent with his or her IPP, that provide the consumer with functional skills training that enables him or her to acquire or maintain skills to live independently in his or her own home, or to achieve greater independence while living in the home of a parent, family member, or other person
- Supported Living Services (SLS): SLS consist of a range of services to adults with developmental disabilities who, through the IPP process, choose to live

- in homes they themselves own, rent or lease in the community.
- Community Models and Supports
    - ❖ Family Home Agency (FHA): An agency that approves Adult Family Homes and Family Teaching Homes for individuals with developmental disabilities.
      - ✓ An Adult Family Home may serve two individuals in the same home;
      - ✓ a Family Teaching Home may serve up to three individuals. These individuals reside with a family and share in the interaction and responsibilities of being part of a family.
    - ❖ Self-Determination Program: The Department of Developmental Services is developing a new program that will let participants have more control over selecting their services and support
  - Community Care Facilities

CCFs are licensed by the State Department of Social Services to provide 24-hour non-medical residential care.
  - Alternative Residential Model (ARM)
    - ❖ Level 1: Care and supervision for persons with self-care skills.
    - ❖ Level 2: Care, supervision and incidental training for persons with some self-care skills and no major behavior challenges.
    - ❖ Level 3: Care, supervision and ongoing training for persons with significant deficits in self-help skills, and/or some limitations in physical coordination and mobility, and/or disruptive or self-injurious behavior.
    - ❖ Level 4 A-I: Care, supervision and training for persons with deficits in self-help skills, and/or severe impairments in physical coordination and mobility, and/or severely disruptive or self-injurious behavior. Service Level 4 is subdivided into Levels 4A through

4I in which staffing levels are increased to correspond to the individual needs.

- Specialized Residential Facilities:
  - ❖ Provide care
  - ❖ supervision and training for persons whose needs cannot be appropriately met within the array of other community living options available as determined by the planning team.
- Delayed Egress/Secured Perimeter Homes
  - ❖ Limited authority now exists for residential facilities to be equipped with both delayed egress devices and secured perimeter fences.
  - ❖ These safety features are carefully designed for individuals who,
    - ✓ due to difficult-to-manage behaviors or a lack of hazard awareness and impulse control,
    - ✓ would pose a risk of harm to themselves or others.
    - ✓ The addition of a secured perimeter ensures that individuals are supervised when they wish to go outside the property limits.
- Enhanced Behavioral Supports Homes
  - ❖ These homes provide non-medical care for individuals who require enhanced behavioral supports, staffing and supervision in a homelike setting.
  - ❖ They also have enhanced monitoring by regional center case managers, regional center behavior professionals, and DDS.
  - ❖ Additional enhancements include more staffing and staff training.
- Community Crisis Homes (CCH)
  - ❖ A facility certified as an adult residential facility, providing 24-hour non-medical care to individuals

in need of crisis intervention services, who would otherwise be at risk of admission to the acute crisis center at Fairview Developmental Center, Sonoma Developmental Center, or other acute care facility

- Health Facilities and Intermediate Care Facility (ICF-DD)
  - ❖ Health Facilities: These facilities are licensed by the Licensing and Certification Division of the California Department of Public Health to provide 24 hours per day services.
  - ❖ Intermediate Care Facility – Developmentally Disabled (ICF-DD): An ICF-DD is a 24-hour health care facility that serves 15 or more people and provides personal care, habilitation, developmental and supportive health services to individuals.
- Intermediate Care Facility – Developmentally Disabled/Habilitative (ICF-DD/H)
  - ❖ 24-hour personal care, developmental services, and nursing supervision.
- Intermediate Care Facility – Developmental Disabled/Nursing (ICF-DD/N)
  - ❖ 24-hour personal care, developmental services, and nursing supervision for people who have intermittent recurring needs for skilled nursing care.
  - ❖ These individuals may have chronic, non-acute medical conditions that require more regular nursing and monitoring.
- Intermediate Care Facility – Developmentally Disabled/Continuous Nursing (ICF-DD/CN)

- ❖ continuous nursing care to medically fragile beneficiaries in a small community-based residential setting.
- Nursing Facility (NF)
  - ❖ continuous skilled nursing and supportive care to individuals whose primary need is for skilled nursing care on an extended basis

If you have any questions about the DC closures, you can call (916) 654-1706 DDS has a dedicated phone line to help answer questions about the closures.

## **6. CALABLE PRESENTATION**

Ruth Holton-Hodson from the Department of Treasure came to the CAC to talk about the CalAble program.

- Federal ABLE Act was signed by the President in 2014
  - ❖ Allows states to create tax-advantaged savings accounts for people with disabilities while protecting eligibility for public benefits such as SSI, SSDI or Medicaid
  - ❖ Account assets of up to \$100,000 are not counted in determining eligibility for means-tested federal or state benefits programs
- CalABLE Vision & Mission
  - ❖ VISION:
    - ✓ To provide greater financial security to Californians living with a disability
  - ❖ MISSION:
    - ✓ To meet the diverse needs of our customers and their families. We pledge to be customer-driven, accountable, and a trusted partner in providing financial service
- Some ABLE Basics: Funding
  - ❖ Before the ABLE Act:

- ✓ A person with a disability could not save more than \$2,000 without impacting their SSI
- ❖ Now:
  - ✓ You can save up to \$14,000 per year and up to \$100,000 in total before benefits are impacted
  - ✓ CalABLE accounts will have safeguards and notifications built inABLE accounts are asset-protected accounts.
  - ✓ Eligible individuals may only have one ABLE account
  - ✓ Accounts can function both like a savings and checking account, depending on how you want to use the account
  - ✓ Account moneys are tax-exempt as long as they are spent on “Qualified Disability Expenses
- What is a Qualified Disability Expense (QDE)?
  - ❖ Any expense related to the designated beneficiary as a result of living a life with disabilities
  - ❖ Categories are intentionally broad
  - ❖ Includes education, housing, transportation, health care expenses and more
  - ❖ If funds spent on a non-QDE, expense is subject to regular taxes, plus a 10% tax penalty – and benefits may be at risk
- Who is Eligible?
  - ❖ Must be disabled before age 26
  - ❖ Meets the eligibility criteria for disability benefits like SSI or SSDI
  - ❖ Self-certification: Has been diagnosed by a qualified physician with a physical or mental disability resulting in marked and severe functional limitations that is expected to last no less than 12 months.

- Where can I open an ABLE Account?
  - ❖ Individuals may open ABLE accounts outside of their state of residency
    - ✓ Ohio (STABLE)
    - ✓ Tennessee (ABLE TN)
    - ✓ Nebraska (ENABLE)
    - ✓ Michigan (MiABLE)
    - ✓ Exception: Florida (ABLE UNITED) (for in-state residents only)

**November 16, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Kara Ponton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

- a. General announcements were made

**2. CAC MEMBER REPORTS**

The following members gave reports on what they have been doing on behalf of the committee and their People First and/or local self-advocacy groups: Deaka McClain, Sara Desumala, Kara Ponton, Rick Hodgkins, Matthew LaGrand, Esther Kelsey, Yvonne Klutz, Ryan Nelson and Lisa Utsey

**3. HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES (HCBS) REGULATIONS AND SELF-DETERMINATION (SD)**

Gina De La O and Julie Souliere came and talked to the CAC about The Home and Community Based Service Regulation and Self-Determination Program.

- Home and Community Based Service Regulation are rule made by the CMS (federal government).
- They have new rules that services and programs need to follow. The rules affect home and community based settings or programs.
- The Department and Regional Center are working to make changes to programs so that they can continue receiving federal funds.
- What is the Self-Determination Program (SDP)?
  - ❖ It's a voluntary new program that lets you have more control over choosing your services and supports.
- When will the Self-Determination Program Start?
  - ❖ DDS is working with the federal government to get SDP approved.
- How Can I Get Into Self-Determination?
  - ❖ Go to a pre-enrollment meeting to find out more about the program.
    - ✓ *You must go to the meeting to be considered for the Self Determination Program*
  - ❖ Decide if you think SDP will be good for your life and your needs.
  - ❖ Tell your regional center that you want to be a part of the new Self-Determination program.
  - ❖ Them, DDS will randomly pick 2,500 names to be in SDP during the first three years. If you are not picked, you can get on a list to be considered for SDP in the future.
- Who Can Help Me?
  - ❖ Financial Management Services (FMS)

- ✓ A person who helps you with your yearly SDP Budget.
- ✓ Helps you keep track of your money
- ✓ Pays your workers or providers
- ✓ Sends reports to your Service Coordinator
- ❖ Independent Facilitator
  - ✓ A person you choose who can help you find your services and supports
  - ✓ Can help you plan your future
  - ✓ Can be your advocate
  - ✓ Can answer questions about the Self-Determination Program
- ❖ Who Can Be My Independent Facilitator
  - ✓ Your service coordinator
  - ✓ Someone you hire that you pay
  - ✓ A friend who helps you that does not get paid
  - ✓ A family member who helps you that does not get paid
- ❖ SDP Principles
  - ✓ Freedom to have the same rights as all people
  - ✓ Authority to control a budget in order to buy services and supports that you choose
  - ✓ Support, including the ability to arrange your services and supports
  - ✓ Responsibility, which includes the opportunity to take responsibility for making decisions in your own life and having an important role in your community
  - ✓ Confirmation, in making decisions in their own lives

#### 4. **EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

Joellen Fletcher and Jessica Dailey-Keithline came and talked to the CAC about the Early Start Program.

- The Early Start Program is California's response to federal legislation ensuring that early intervention services to infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families are provided services that are available statewide.
- Who is eligible?
  - ❖ Infants and toddlers from birth to age 36 months may be eligible for early intervention services through Early Start if,
    - ✓ have a developmental delay of at least 33% in one or more areas of either cognitive, communication, social or emotional, adaptive, or physical and motor development including vision and hearing;
    - ✓ have an established risk condition of known etiology, with a high probability of resulting in delayed development; or
- What early intervention services are available?
  - ❖ early intervention services may include:
    - ✓ assistive technology
    - ✓ audiology
    - ✓ family training, counseling, and home visits
    - ✓ health services
    - ✓ medical services for diagnostic/evaluation purposes only
    - ✓ nursing services
    - ✓ nutrition services
    - ✓ occupational therapy
    - ✓ physical therapy
    - ✓ psychological services
    - ✓ service coordination (case management)
    - ✓ social work services
    - ✓ special instruction
    - ✓ speech and language services

- ✓ transportation and related costs
  - ✓ vision services
- Who provides services?
  - ❖ Early intervention services that are needed for each eligible infant or toddler are purchased or arranged by a regional center or a local education agency.
  - ❖ Family Resource Centers provide family support services.
- How much does it cost?
  - ❖ There is no cost for evaluation, assessment and service coordination.
  - ❖ Public or private insurance is accessed for medically necessary therapy services including speech, physical and occupational therapies.
  - ❖ Services that are not covered by insurance will be purchased or provided by regional centers or local education agencies

## 5. **AGENDA TOPICS FOR 2017**

The CAC discussed agenda items for the year 2017.

- Affordable Care Act:
- College options for people with intellectual disabilities: [thinkcollege.com](http://thinkcollege.com)
- IHSS
- Transportation
- Lanterman Act—advocating for changes to the Act; rights under the Lanterman Act
- Personal safety
- Hotel contract

## 6. **TRAVEL CLAIM PAPERWORK**

Nicole Patterson took some to talk to the group about travel paperwork.

- Room receipts—make sure you get a room receipt with a \$0 balance at the bottom. If you have a roommate, please write their name on the receipt.
- Parking receipts need to be for the least expensive and they will check and make sure that you parked in the least expensive option.
- Rental cars-need rental car agreement (pink paperwork) and a receipt when you return the vehicle. If you don't have both of these papers you will owe money.
- Support claim – how facilitators get paid for providing support for the member. You have to put in dates and what you worked on and where you were. You are approved for 2 hours per month. You must get pre-approved by Ebenezer if you will need more than 2 hours per month of support time.
- Shuttle- if the hotel offers free shuttle you must use the free hotel shuttle. The only exception is if you need accessible transportation.

Get an envelope to mail in the paperwork and receipts.

## 7. **COMMUNITY ASSIGNMENTS**

CAC members were asked to work on the following:



### 1. **CAC Publications**

- a. Please review all publication on the consumer corner at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/Publications.cfm>
- b. Pick one and write a script for your presentation.
- c. Do one presentation in your area on any of the CAC publications



### 2. **Groups in your Areas**

- a. Share what you learned about the Developmental Center closure plan in your area.
- b. Share the about California Competitive Integrated Employment.
- c. Share the information on Self Determination.
- d. Share the information about CalABLE



### 3. **Role of your Facilitator**

Meet with your facilitator and complete the facilitation worksheets.

## 9. **END OF MEETING**

Kara Ponton, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.