

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

Meeting Minutes  
**June 13 – 14, 2017**

Members Attended

Deaka McClain  
Kara Ponton  
Sara Desumala  
Rick Hodgkins  
Yvonne Klutz  
Ryan Nelson  
Lisa Utsey  
Jessica Gould  
Matthew LaGrand  
Rene Rodriguez  
Esther Kelsey

Members Absent

Marcia Dinkelspiel

Others Attending

Kaytiana Streeter  
Sherry Erickson  
Timothy Schmitz  
Ed Plon  
Debra Alvarado  
Keith Nelson  
Rachelle Gomez  
Ariel McClean  
Palmira Kyle  
Jabier De La Torre  
Jesse Padilla  
Nicole Patterson  
Jana Chapman-Plon  
Ebenezer Ampah  
Angie Romero  
George Mabanglo  
Ian Gayton  
Janet Fernandez  
Tom Hopkins  
Robert Coplin  
Alan Absalon  
David Engberg  
Jim Knight  
Susan Crow  
Gina De La O  
Rachel Long  
Danielle Hurley  
Robert Levy  
Steve Ruder



**June 13, 2017**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Kara Ponton, called the meeting to order at 9:08 am.

- a. Everyone introduced themselves.
- b. The agenda was reviewed and no changes were made. **It was moved** (Rick Hodgkins), **seconded** (Lisa Utsey), **and carried to approve the agenda with the changes.**
- c. The minutes of the February 2017 CAC meeting were reviewed. **It was moved** (Rick Hodgkins), **seconded** (Jessica Gould), **and carried to approve the minutes with changes.**
- d. Kara read the Ground Rules.
- e. Kara read the CAC Dress Code. After discussion, everyone agreed that knee-length shorts and clean, well-fitting t-shirts are appropriate for the summer meeting.



**2. CAC CHECK-IN**

Nicole has been looking at some other hotels. The Crowne Plaza Hotel has many restaurants in the area, but there is a busy street to cross to get to most of them. Nicole recommended that people travel in groups for safety when crossing these streets. The bad news with this hotel is that everything costs more. The food at the hotel restaurant will cost more than the state provides. We

have one more meeting this year at the Hawthorne Suites. Nicole offered to look at other hotels if the group wants more to compare. Everyone agreed to try the Crowne Plaza Hotel for one year starting in 2018.



### **3. FIRST RESPONDERS DISABILITY TRAINING**

Ian Gayton and Janet Fernandez came to talk about the program to train first responder recruits on how to interact with people with disabilities.

- Law enforcements recruits received a total of 662 hours of training until legislation in 2016 (SB 11 and SB 29) increased the number of hours and the subjects covered.
- Currently, the Sacramento Police Department Academy is about 933 hours and 9 months long.
- Recruits are taught how to be “officer friendly” and not so intimidating.
- Because guns can be attractive to people with disabilities, officers are also taught about officer safety.
- Officers now receive 15 hours of training specifically on how to work with people with disabilities.
- Both Sacramento Police and Sheriff’s Department officers have an addition 8 hours of training on 3 types of disabilities:
  - a. Physical
  - b. Developmental
  - c. Psychiatric



Officer training has now removed the term “mental retardation” and replaced it with “I/DD.”

- Recruits also get information about the regional center system and the services/resources they provide.
- Recruits learn different types of force when taking someone into custody. They also learn how to scale the use of force to the situation, starting with the lowest level. The levels of force are:
  - a. Presence
  - b. Talking
  - c. Hands-on
  - d. Pepper Spray
  - e. Taser
  - f. Baton
  - g. Gun
- The officers’ job is to enforce the law first and then protect our rights second. (The criminal issue always comes first)
- Additional



#### **4. ABUSE PREVENTION AND REPORTING**

Janet Fernandez from the State Council Headquarters office in Sacramento came to talk to the CAC about the types of abuse and reporting abuse.

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly:

The Good:

- There are three vulnerable populations



- a. Children 0-18 years of age
- b. Elders 65+ years of age
- c. Dependent Adults: any person between 18-64 years old who has physical or mental limitations, which restrict their ability to carry out normal activities or to protect their rights. This includes people who have physical or developmental disabilities or whose abilities have diminished due to age.

- In addition to these, anyone 18-64 admitted to a hospital, regardless of disability, is considered a “dependent adult.”

#### The Bad:

- Parents can be good or bad
- Cops can be good or bad too
- Anyone can be good or bad and looks can be deceiving.
- Just because people provide care doesn't mean they are a good guy
- Janet discussed what constitutes abuse (physical, financial, abandonment, neglect, isolation, and abduction)

#### The Ugly:

- Physical abuse
- Financial abuse
- Mandated reporters are required to report any suspicion of abuse

- The identity of mandated reporters must remain confidential by law
- Many different agencies investigate these crimes:
  - a. Police
  - b. Child Protective Services (CPS)
  - c. Adult Protective Services (APS)
  - d. Licensing Boards

## **5. ADVOCATING WITH YOUR LEGISLATORS**

Rick Hodgkins, Tom Hopkins, Robert Coplin, Alan Absalon, and David Engberg from Capitol People First, with the help of Ed Plon, gave a role-play presentation based on the DDS publication *Advocating with Your Elected Officials*.

The Steps You Need to Take:

1. Choose legislation that's important to you
2. Come up with talking points
3. Find out who your legislators are and find their contact information
  - a. Go to [findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov](http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov)
  - b. Nicole shared a way to find your elected officials by texting your ZIP Code to 520-200-2223 and you will get a text back with the names of phone numbers of all of your federal and state representatives.
4. Schedule a meeting
5. Choose four people maximum to go to the visit and choose one to be your spokesperson



6. Be on time
7. Be prepared to talk to either the legislator or their staff, but most times you will meet with a staff member
8. Be polite
9. Bring information to leave with the staff or legislator
10. Be prepared to tell your story
11. Ask to be placed on the legislator's email list and develop a relationship with them or their staff
12. Use social media to connect with your legislator

## **6. 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: Rene Rodriguez, Rick Hodgkins, Matthew LaGrand, and Deaka McClain, Ryan Nelson, Jessica Gould, and Kara Ponton.

**June 14, 2017**



### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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



## 2. SELF-DETERMINATION

Jim Knight, Susan Crow, and Gina De La O from DDS came to give an update on the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and to get feedback from the CAC on the

PowerPoint presentation that they are developing for SDP trainings.

Updates:

- DDS is still working with the Federal Government to get approval for funding
- We don't know when SDP will be approved
- We're not ready because not everyone knows about SDP and the regional centers need training

Jim asked the CAC's advice on how to get the word out and what information needs to go out.

- One SDP group is asking questions about deadlines and if they are being met.

Jim stated that DDS is working back and forth with the feds on the remaining questions and there is no set deadline. After the questions are answered then DDS will ask the feds again to approve it. They then have three months to decide.

- DDS could do public service announcements and send more information to the regional centers and the public.

This SDP pilot will be different from the pilot in the 1990's. The pilot will be limited to 2500 people during the first three years. Participants will be chosen through a type of lottery with a good cross-section of people (location, type of disability, ethnicity, age, etc.). After the first three years, the program will be available to all consumers.



Jim went through a draft PowerPoint called “Self-Determination Program” that will be used for pre-enrollment meetings and regional center trainings. Jim asked for feedback on the presentation to determine if it is enough information.

- This presentation will be used to help people decide
- Principles of Self-Determination: Freedom, Authority, Support, Responsibility, and Confirmation



- There are many things you can do with Self-Determination:
  - a. Hire someone to help you go camping, live on your own, or start your own business
  - b. Take an art class or horseback riding lessons
  - c. Get help to make new friends

Members discussed with Jim the types of services that could be bought with their SDP budget. If it is something that is included in the IPP now, it will be included in the SDP.

- Self-Determination uses person-centered service planning which helps you develop your IPP by identifying your strengths, goals, preferences, needs, and desired outcomes
- Your IPP team and service coordinator will be available to help with all of the steps.
- Independent Facilitator
  - a. Paid out of your budget or can be a volunteer.
  - b. Helps you decide what services/supports to buy
- Financial Management Service (FMS) Provider
  - a. Helps you manage your SDP budget
  - b. Does background checks on people you hire

- Where are we now?
  - a. State law requires that DDS obtain federal funding for Self-Determination to be implemented
  - b. The program will start once the Self-Determination Program Waiver application is approved by the federal government
  - c. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) final rule states that, by March 2022, all regional center consumers must get their services in integrated community settings. This was recently extended from 2019.
  - d. Participants in Self-Determination must follow these rules from the beginning
  - e. For more on these rules go to <http://www.dds.ca.gov/HCBS/>
  - f. DDS is in the process of setting up trainings to regional centers on their responsibilities, and for people who are interested.
  - g. The goal is to start these trainings in late July.
  - h. Another piece is to train people to give the pre-enrollment meetings and trainings.
  - i. Trainings will be posted on the DDS website and translated into different languages.

### **3. REGIONAL CENTER DASHBOARD**

Rachel Long and Danielle Hurley came from DDS to review the Regional Center Oversight Dashboard and get feedback from the CAC.

To access the Dashboard, click on the Dashboard icon at the bottom of the DDS website.





- The Dashboard went live in January of this year. It has been sent out to every regional center and the DDS is working on translating the information into various languages
- Purchase of Service (POS) and Performance Contract data are collected every year. Other items like the NCI data are collected less frequently

#### Feedback and questions from CAC members:

- There should be a section for the general public with simplified language. This is not available right now, but could be developed.
- Some would like to see additional questions from the NCI interviews
- Keep one type of graph. Bar graphs are easier to read than the dot and line graphs
- Is there a way to see the overall demographics in our regions compared to the demographics of regional center clients? Ethnicity and race data are included and each person could look at their local census data to compare.
- How can we be sure that regional centers are looking at this data and working to improve? DDS can develop tools to help those regional centers that are struggling to meet requirements.
- Accessibility of the Dashboard. There are text versions of everything available on the website, which are screen-reader and printer friendly.
- Braille copies can be printed from the text versions.



#### 4. **CONSERVATORSHIP**

Levy and Steve Ruder from the UC Davis MIND Institute talked to the group about Conservatorship and Supported Decision Making.



- Conservatorship is a court process in which a judge decides whether you are able to care for your health, food, clothing, shelter, finances, or personal needs.
- A responsible person may be appointed by the judge to make decisions for you. They are called a “conservator.”
- The judge may take away certain rights such as deciding where you live, whether you can get married, signing or agreeing to contracts, medical treatments, who you can be sexual with, and decisions about your education.
- A conservator can NOT control the money you earn on the job, approve harmful medical treatment, force you to take medications, have you sterilized, have you committed to an institution, agree to electro-shock therapy or psychotherapy, or any other powers NOT ordered by the court.
- Supported Decision Making is a way to help people choose who helps them make decisions, and lets people have control of their life.

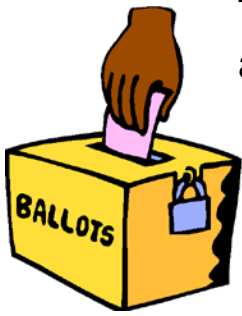
#### 5. **TRAVEL PAPERWORK**

Members and facilitators worked on their travel and support claims with the help of Nicole.

Get an envelope to mail in the paperwork and receipts.



## 6. CAC OFFICER ELECTIONS



The election was held for Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary.

- The CAC elected Deaka McClain as Chairperson, Matthew LaGrand as Vice-Chairperson, and Ryan Nelson as Secretary.

## 7. COMMUNITY ASSIGNMENTS

CAC members were asked to work on the following:



### 1. **Networking**

- a. Connect with your local Regional Center CAC. Ask to be put on their agenda to talk about DDS CAC.
- b. Connect with your SCDD Regional Office- let them know you want to help with the Law Enforcement Disability Awareness Training for your area.

### 2. **DDS CAC Work**

- a. Go on the Consumer Corner at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/> in addition, review each page.  
\*\*Please e-mail us with any changes or ideas to improve it.
- b. Go on the DDS website and look at the Dashboard <http://www.dds.ca.gov/RCOversight/Index.cfm>.  
\*\*Write a report on your regional center. The following information should be included in your report:  
Performance Data, Employment, Fair Hearing, Complaints, Age, Diagnosis, Ethnicity/Race, and language. By doing this activity the group will learn more about your regional center, and how user friendly the Dashboard it is.





### 3. **Facilitator Training**

- a. Meet with your facilitator and talk about what you would both like to learn about facilitation.  
\*\*Email your ideas by September 8, 2017.
- b. Think about what facilitation means to you.  
\*\*Email your answers by September 8, 2017.



### 9. **END OF MEETING**

Kara Ponton, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.