

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

Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2020

<u>Members Attended</u>	<u>Others Attended</u>
Deaka McClain	Nicole Patterson
Esther Kelsey	Jana Chapman-Plon
Shawn Costello	Sara Desumala
Sam Yi	Rachelle Munoz
Kim Rucker	Michael Shepard
Ryan Nelson	Keith Nelson
Lisa Utsey	Jana Chapman-Plon
	Julia Lowe
<u>Members Absent</u>	Scott Barron
	Joshua Sudarma
Tim Farrar	Catherine Blakemore
Craig Moorman	Leinani Walter
	Gabe Taylor
	52 Members of the Public

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deaka McClain, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:00am

- A. Everyone introduced themselves
- B. Video Conference Zoom Ground Rules were read.
- C. The agenda was reviewed, and no changes were made. **It was moved** (Esther Kelsey), **seconded** (Lisa Utsey), **and carried to approve the agenda.**
- D. The minutes of the June 2020 CAC meeting were reviewed. **It was moved** (Shawn Costello) **seconded**, (Ryan Nelson), and **carried to approve the minutes.**

2. ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY OF NON-RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Julia Lowe and Catherine Blakemore from DDS came to talk to the CAC about the Alternative Delivery of Non-Residential Services. COVID-19 caused everyone to have to shelter in place which created a disruption in some services. Many providers continued services, but there are people who need more, so the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) created the Alternative Nonresidential Services Model. This model is for non-residential services only. Which means it covers services provided outside the home (day programs, employment services, etc.)

- This model allows people to get different services because needs have changed due to the pandemic
- There may be new needs that you didn't have before

- Providers can change up what they were doing prior to the pandemic. Some examples of this might include:
 - ✓ Training on how to wear a mask
 - ✓ Support to do social distancing
 - ✓ Supplies delivered to the home
 - ✓ Zoom meeting support
 - ✓ Preparing packages or kits
- DDS made this official at the end of August through a directive
 - ✓ DDS held four townhall meetings to get feedback from stakeholders and many attended.
 - ✓ DDS is committed to having more conversations and that's why we're here today
- We want to hear everyone's experiences of how services have changed:
 - ✓ I haven't been going to work because of the pandemic. I found out today that I'm no longer working at my job and I've worked there for a long time. Now I have to find a new job.
 - ✓ My wife and I have been exercising. We've been wearing our masks and washing our hands. We're taking Zoom classes. We've gotten some PPE.
 - ✓ My day program told us that we might be able to go back to our janitorial jobs soon.
 - ✓ Nobody wants to be my job coach because they think I'm too demanding. They don't want to stay the whole time during my shift, even when I was getting treated badly. I've been laid off during the pandemic.

- ✓ I'm doing Zoom stuff for my day program, cooking, keeping busy, and thinking positive. I just go for it.
- ✓ I need to get hand sanitizer and gloves.
 - Reach out to your programs or your State Council regional office.
- ✓ I've been staying home and not going out as much.
- ✓ I have a lot to keep me busy. I exercise every day, embroider, crochet, drink lots of water, and use my hand sanitizer.
- DDS is trying to provide information that's helpful to people
 - ✓ She shared a document, "Alternative Services: Information for Self-Advocates and Families" (included in Meeting packet)
- Frequently Asked Questions About Alternative Services
 - ✓ What service types are covered by the Alternative Services directive?
 - ✓ When can Alternative Services begin?
 - ✓ What must providers do if they are providing Alternative Services?
 - ✓ How will providers be expected to engage consumers and families about their service needs?
 - ✓ What are examples of Alternative Services?
 - ✓ What is the regional center's role with Alternative Services?
 - ✓ What steps can I take to make sure that Alternative Services meet my or my family member's needs?

- Questions About Other Services
 - ✓ What can I do if my provider does not provide services under the Alternative Services directive and I have questions about the services I or my family member receive?
 - Contact your service provider and ask them about the Alternative Services that they provide
 - Ask your service coordinator about other options for services
- Family Member Engagement Guide (email attachment)
 - ✓ This guide helps families think about what has changed for their loved one during COVID-19. Topics in the guide:
 - Current Goals, Activities and Services
 - Changes in Health Status, Changes in Family Member Work Status
 - Safety Equipment and Safety Protocols
 - Service Needs and Options
 - Communication with Service Providers, regional center Service Coordinators and Staff
 - Training Needs (how to use a computer, cooking, etc.)
- They listed some of the services that could be included in Alternative Services
 - ✓ Transportation
 - Public transportation may not be safe so you could need another way to get to work
 - Contact providers directly or your service coordinator

- Ask support staff to drive you places you would usually take public transportation
- Are there other areas people want DDS to put out information on? It would be helpful if DDS put out information on:
 - ✓ PCS' People First Group would like to have a presentation on Alternative Services.
 - ✓ Talking to other people and getting out and doing things.

3. **VOTING**

Scott Barron and Gabe Taylor from Disability Rights California (DRC). They introduced themselves and gave a little background on DRC and the Office of Clients Rights Advocacy (OCRA).

- A private and independent ballot is everyone's right!
 - ✓ You can have help, but it's your own choice
 - ✓ The ultimate goal is making sure everything is done to make sure that this happens
- Accessible Voting Experience
 - ✓ In California, every polling place or vote center is required to have at least one accessible voting system
 - ✓ These systems ensure a person with a disability can vote privately and independently
 - ✓ These voting systems are both accessible via touch screen or through audio interface
 - ✓ The voting systems provide instructions and ballots for voters in multiple languages.
 - ✓ Many machines allow you to vote and submit your ballot from one machine

- Governor's Executive Order N-64-20
 - ✓ On May 8, 2020, Governor Newsom signed an executive order requiring all counties to send every registered voter a vote by mail ballot automatically for the November 2020 General Election
 - ✓ The order requires counties to offer voters some minimal in-person voting locations as well
 - ✓ These in-person options will allow voters with disabilities to cast their ballot privately and independently using their County's accessible voting systems.
 - ✓ Early Voting: counties are offering around 4-5 days prior to election day to vote, but this varies by county.
 - ✓ If going to vote in person, take your vote by mail ballot with you. They will be mailed next week. There will also be drop box options.
- Voting Options
 - ✓ Due to the current COVID restrictions, all registered voters throughout the state will automatically receive a vote-by-mail ballot for upcoming elections as required by the Governor's recent Executive Order. This voting option ensures the health and safety of voters.
 - ✓ Voters with disabilities will also have the option to use the County's remote accessible vote-by-mail (RAVBM) ballot. A voter can select a different language for their ballot as well.
- Assisting Voters with Disabilities

- ✓ A voter with a disability may have no more than two persons assist him/her to vote.
- ✓ Voters with disabilities may have anyone assist them except their employer, an agent for their employer, or a member of their union.
- ✓ Voters can also request assistance and materials in different accessible formats, including Braille and electronic versions, at a polling place. You can contact your county elections office ahead of any election to request voter information materials in these accessible formats.
- Curbside Voting:
 - ✓ A poll worker/vote center worker must bring a regular ballot to a person with disabilities outside of the polling place or vote center
 - ✓ If it is not practical to bring the ballot to the person with disabilities, the poll worker must bring a vote by mail ballot to the person with a disability
 - ✓ Ring the doorbell for someone to come help you, but bring your phone in case the button doesn't work
 - ✓ Each county can be different
- There will be a lot of safety measures in place (spaced out voting booths, etc)
- To find out if your ballot has been counted you can go to Where's My Ballot at the Secretary of State's website at https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ballot-status/wheres-my-ballot?fbclid=IwAR3L1F0KJWIYjkcMBPnX3X3tlslZuMOiL32Dlo_6xNUW01opoY8cuepr_2Y , sign up and track where your ballot is.

- Requesting an Emergency Medical Ballot
 - ✓ For anyone who may be hospitalized or unable to leave their home due to a medical issue
 - ✓ Many counties provide a link on their websites
 - ✓ A voter must first complete, sign, and date the request form and return it
 - ✓ You can contact your county election office
- Security of drop boxes
 - ✓ Emptied regularly
 - ✓ Double steel bolted into the ground
 - ✓ Very secure and safe
- Signature Requirement
 - ✓ Signature must reasonably match the signature that's in the voting record
 - ✓ If it doesn't match, the election office will call the voter to verify what's going on and why there's a change
 - ✓ If someone is returning your ballot for you, you must sign the outside of the envelope and list who you're designating to return it for you.
- Assistance:
 - ✓ People can get assistance by putting voting assistance in their IPPs.
 - ✓ ILCs have voter registration cards if anyone needs one
 - ✓ You can also call your county election office to have a hard copy registration card mailed to you
 - ✓ If you move, even within the same county, it's important to register with your new address.

Resources

- Voting hotline: 1(888) 569-7955
 - ✓ www.sos.ca.gov
 - ✓ www.votersedge.org
 - ✓ www.easyvoterguide.org
 - ✓ www.voterschoice.org
 - ✓ <https://disabilityvotecalifornia.org>

Questions:

- What about people who had to go back with their family home due to COVID-19 and they're temporarily not living at their old address?
 - ✓ Contact someone at your old address to try to get your ballot.
 - ✓ Go to your other address and get your ballot if you can
 - ✓ You can vote anywhere or by mail. Look up your closest polling place.
 - ✓ Re-register to vote if you can't get your mail at your former address. It's fast and easy at the Secretary of State's Website.
 - ✓ If you're in a different county, you would have to re-register in your new county regardless.
 - ✓ You can also do Conditional Same-Day Registration at a polling place.
 - ✓ All county election offices can do this.
- When is my ballot going to come to my home in San Francisco?
 - ✓ Ballots are being mailed out on October 5th so you should receive it soon after that
 - ✓ In San Francisco, Emergency Medical Ballots are delivered in person
- Do you have any idea how many people who have disabilities will vote this year?
 - ✓ We hope a lot!

- What is the average number of disabled people who voted in the past?
 - ✓ It's hard to keep track because voter registration doesn't identify people with disabilities.
 - ✓ Voters with disabilities make up one of the biggest single demographic groups of voters.
- I never hear politicians talk about people with disabilities. Is there any outreach to them?
 - ✓ We can all do that when we see elected officials.
 - ✓ Many counties have a lot of opportunities for people to provide input to elected officials on these issues.

4. **CAC MEMBER CHECK-IN**

Tabled



5. **END MEETING**

Deaka McClain, Chairperson, adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm

**Next CAC meeting will be November 20, 2020 10am-1:30pm
ZOOM MEETING:**

<https://cal-dds.zoom.us/j/97972535684?pwd=UHEwRjEvcnUvbXA5OVRhd3R3M1JwQT09>