**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

## Blind Advisory Committee (BAC)

## Meeting Notice and Agenda

## Thursday, February 13, 2025

**9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.\***

DOR Central Office, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 301

Sacramento, CA 95814

## Public Participation Options

In-person at DOR Central Office, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 301, Sacramento, CA 95814.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://dor-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/89331864706?pwd=kJEOxCMVTH4LSKGfmZJkeic0VfyOuX.1>

Meeting ID: 893 3186 4706, Passcode: +t9U#nM6

One tap mobile

+14086380968,,89331864706#,,,,\*90802385# US (San Jose)

+16699006833,,89331864706#,,,,\*90802385# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 893 3186 4706, Passcode: 90802385

Find your local number: <https://dor-ca-gov.zoom.us/u/kbN8DwAT5T>

# Agenda

Please note: Times are listed with the agenda items to assist attendees joining the meeting virtually and by phone. These times are estimates and subject to change. The BAC may act on any item listed in the agenda.

## Item 1: Welcome and Call to Order

## (9:00 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.)

Sarah Harris, BAC Chair

The Chair will welcome attendees, call the meeting to order, conduct a roll call of BAC members, and establish a quorum.

The BAC Committee members are:

* Sandy Balani, BEP representative
* Cricket Bidleman NFBC Representative
* Margaret Buchmann-Garcia, CRP representative
* Sarah Harris, CCB representative
* Guillermo Robles, CCB Representative
* Cheryl Thurston, NFBC representative

**Item 2: Introductions of DOR staff and members of the public**

(9:05 a.m. - 9:10 a.m.)

Public comment

## Item 3: Approval of the BAC Meeting Minutes and Review of Action Items

(9:10 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.)

Sarah Harris, BAC Chair

The Chair will lead the Committee in the approval of the minutes from past meetings and review of the action items.

Public comment

## Item 4: BAC Committee Members Network Updates

(9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)

BAC members will report on matters of interest in their networks and communities.

Public comment

**Item 5: Elections**

(9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.)

Election discussion for vice-chair position.

**Item 6: Braille in the 21st Century**

(9:40 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.)

BAC Committee Members will continue the discussion from the November meeting about the use of Braille in the 21st century. Discussion will be used to shape future BAC agenda items.

Public Comment  
  
**Break (10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.)**

**Item 7:** **BFS Open position Updates**(10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.)  
Sue Pelbath, Deputy Director, DOR Specialized Services Division

The BAC and the public will receive an update about open positions in BFS.

Public Comment  
  
**Item 8: Cancellation Policy**(11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.)  
The BAC and the public will continue the previous discussion from the November 2024 meeting regarding the need for cancellation policies to protect service providers. The goal will be to come up with a recommendation that can be made to DOR.  
  
Public Comment

## Item 9: BFS Success Stories

(11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

BFS QRP, Mark Gould, DOR BFS District

DOR BFS District Team Members

BAC members will receive information on consumer success stories.

Public comment

## Lunch (12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

## Item 10: Directorate Report

(1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)

DOR Director update

BAC members will receive a report from the DOR Director on organizational, state, and federal issues of interest to the BAC. BAC members will have an opportunity to ask questions and have an interactive dialogue.

## Item 11: DOR Specialized Services Division Report (Highlights only, full report provided in written narrative)

## (2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.)

Sue Pelbath, Deputy Director, DOR Specialized Services Division

Maria Turrubartes, Acting Regional Director, DOR BFS

Deyanire Villachica, Acting District Administrator, DOR BFS District

Kelly Snow, Administrator, DOR Business Enterprise Program

Eric Mazariegos, Administrator, DOR Orientation Center for the Blind

Jay Harris, Manager, DOR Older Individuals who are Blind Program

BAC members will receive updates on the activities of DOR’s Blind Field Services District, Business Enterprise Program, Orientation Center for the Blind, and Older Individuals who are Blind Program.

Public comment

## Break (2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)

**Item 12**: **Artificial Intelligence, (AI): Opening Doors and Expanding Opportunity**

(3:00 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.)  
The BAC, DOR staff, and the Public will have an open discussion about how AI is opening doors and opportunity for the blind and low vision community in everyday life and employment. How will DOR support this innovation?

Public Comment

## Item 13: Identify Future Agenda Items

## (3:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

Sarah Harris, BAC Chair

Sarah will lead a discussion with committee members to identify future meeting agenda items.

Public comment

## Adjourn (4:00 p.m.) \*

# PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment relating to a specific agenda item will be taken at the end of the applicable agenda item or prior to a vote. Public comments on matters not on the agenda are taken at the beginning of the meeting. A speaker will have up to three minutes to make public comments and may not relinquish their time allotment to another speaker. Non-English speakers who utilize translators to make public comment will be allotted no more than six minutes unless they utilize simultaneous translation equipment. The BAC is precluded from discussing matters not on the agenda; however, BAC members may ask questions for clarification purposes.

# MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

This meeting notice and agenda and supplemental meeting materials are posted on the [BAC webpage](https://dor.ca.gov/Home/BAC). All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

\*The meeting will adjourn upon completion of the agenda. Interested members of the public may join virtually or use the teleconference line to listen to the meeting and/or provide public comment. The BAC is not responsible for unforeseen technical difficulties that may occur and is not obligated to postpone or delay its meeting in the event of unforeseen technical difficulties with the teleconference line or virtual meeting room.

# REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

If you require a disability-related accommodation, materials in alternate format or auxiliary aids/services, please email [jennifer.wilbon@dor.ca.gov](mailto:jennifer.wilbon@dor.ca.gov) or call 916-558-5489, five days prior to the meeting.Any requests received after this date will be given consideration, but logistical constraints may not allow for their fulfillment.

# CONTACT PERSON

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