**CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**(CCEPD)**

**FULL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

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**California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD) MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Thursday, November 16, 2023

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Public Participation Options**

**Video Conference**: [Zoom](https://dor-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/81525653710?pwd=d0xJTzdJT1NqelZtam5leWJnaU5Zdz09)

Use Meeting ID: 815 2565 3710 and Passcode: u4+vXep$

**Teleconference**: **(408) 638-0968**

UsePasscode: 57630455

**Meeting Agenda**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Taylor Winchell, Chair, CCEPD

1. **Overview of Artificial Intelligence Policy (Act and Discuss)**

Taylor Winchell, Chair, CCEPD

1. **Career Technical Education Executive Order (Act and Discuss)**

Joe Xavier, Director, Department of Rehabilitation

**Break 10:30-10:45 a.m.**

1. **Recognition of Anita Wright**

Taylor Winchell, Chair, CCEPD

1. **Approval of August 2023 CCEPD Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Taylor Winchell, Chair, CCEPD

1. **Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act Updates**

Maria Aliferis-Gjerde, Executive Officer, CCEPD

1. **CCEPD Project Updates (Act and Discuss)**

Maria Aliferis-Gjerde, Executive Officer, CCEPD

Matt Baker, YLF Project Manager, CCEPD

1. **2024 Meeting Calendar**

Taylor Winchell, Chair, CCEPD

1. **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Adjournment\* 12:00 p.m.**

\* The meeting will adjourn upon completion of agenda.

**MEETING MATERIALS:** This meeting notice and agenda and other supplemental materials may also be accessed on [the website,](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CCEPD) located on the Advisory Committee Calendar view. All times indicated, and order of business are approximate and subject to change on the day of the noticed meeting. The meeting will adjourn upon completion of the agenda.

Interested members of the public may use the video conference or teleconference number provided to listen to the meeting and/or provide public comment. The CCEPD 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public comment on matters not on the agenda is taken at the end of the meeting and members of the public can make comments on agenda items prior to any vote of the committee. Depending on the number of individuals wishing to address the committee, public comment may be limited to three minutes per person. 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 CCEPD is precluded from discussing matters not on the agenda; however, CCEPD members may ask questions for clarification purposes.

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:** If you require a disability-related accommodation, materials in alternate format or auxiliary aids/services, please email [Margaret.Balistreri@dor.ca.gov](mailto:Margaret.Balistreri@dor.ca.gov) 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.

**CCEPD FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Thursday, August 17, 2023

**CCEPD Members:** Dani Anderson, Ana Acton, Brian Carthen, Kerry Chang, Robert Fried, Roy Kim, Damian Ladd, Kimberlee Meyer, Robert Sifuentes, and Taylor Winchell

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting began at 9:05 a.m. and a quorum was met.

**2. Approval of May 2023 CCEPD Full Committee Meeting Minutes**

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Sifuentes/Meyers) to approve the May meeting minutes. (Yes – 7, Acton, Chang, Carthen, Ladd, Meyer, Sifuentes, and Winchell); (No – None); (Abstain –1, Anderson, and Kim). Motion passed on 7-0-2 vote.

**3. Overview of Competitive Integrated Employment National Trends and Considerations for System Change**

Chair Winchell introduced the speaker Bill Huddock to begin his presentation. Mr. Huddock discussed value-based purchasing, introducing the concept to the CCEPD. He provided an overview of funding models and incentives that those provide in policy and outcomes.

After the presentation, questions and discussions occurred.

* Discussion on writing grant proposals.
* Value based sounds like a great idea, has this approach been taken by any managed care organizations? There are some that are doing it. Medicare has about 30% of services that have some sort of value base purchasing associated with it. Examples are taking a type of service such as a knee replacement and adding a value to it based on the basic requirements with any additional costs going to the provider. Shared services can also lead to cost savings and risks can lead to more cost to the provider.
* How can our community become involved in these discussions? The community needs to demand access, be at the table, and become partners.
* Consumers are the most important component and needs to be the focal point in policy development. Focus needs to be on how to provide the services to the people who need it the most. The people with the most needs should not be left behind.
* Question on providers: how is value-based purchasing initiated with providers who don’t have the capital up front to implement strong effective services? Other states have provided a transition period that considers measuring outcomes.

**4. Approval of Best Practices Policy Recommendations and Toolkit Next Steps**

Executive Officer Aliferis-Gjerde provided an update on the best practice toolkit and discussed policy recommendations. Toolkit will be released in October. CCEPD staff Ford provided a high-level review of the policy recommendations and requesting feedback on the policy recommendations. The document was shared with Members and feedback was provided.

Feedback on Policy 1:

* There was a clarifying question in terms of the training. Discussion included that third party vendors should be trained and how vetting of trainers should be held to state standards.

Feedback on Policy 2:

* There was no additional feedback for Policy 2.

Feedback on Policy 3:

* Discussion of DOR conversations can support the third policy recommendations. Discussions also occurred on benefits planning and the challenges with those discussions. Members discussed how the system needs to change and not have people lose services while working.

Motion: It was moved/seconded (Sifuentes/Acton) to approve the Best Practices Policy Recommendations. (Yes – 8, Acton, Anderson, Chang, Kim, Ladd, Meyer, Sifuentes, and Winchell); (No – None); (Abstain –0,). Motion 8 passed on 8-0-0 vote.

**5. Benefits Cross Advisory-Body Workgroup Updates**

The Executive Officer provided an update on the meetings and information received regarding benefits planning. Meetings centered on people with disabilities going through the benefits planning process, transition-aged youth, and discussions on outline of report and policy recommendations. Future discussions will include other state models and long-term services and supports.

**6.** **Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Updates**

YLF Project Manager Matt Baker provided following updates on YLF:

* There were 32 delegates that completed the program, which was an improvement from past two years.
* Total operating costs were $148,000 and pledged funding was $198,000 leaving a good amount to begin our funding for next year.
* The group was invited to take a photo on the Assembly floor, which was an exciting opportunity for the group.
* There were some changes for 2023 with forms being consolidated and new applications.
* Discussed the changes to the workgroups, activities and facilitation guide for staff, and logo has been updated.
* 2024 planning is underway with plans to be fully in person.
* Focus for 2024 is new partnerships development with new youth organizations and re-establishing existing partnerships.
* 2024 student applications will be fully online, fully accessible, and easier for applicants to submit.
* Sacramento Regional YLF will be taking place in October at Sacramento City College.
* There will also be regional events in Los Angeles and San Diego.
* A video compilation was shown that included a rap from this year’s alumni.

In the past 30 years, there have been over 1500 students that have attended YLF. Member shared that the State Council on Developmental Disabilities can assist with YLF.

**7. Member Information Sharing**

Members discussed the following:

* The Voice Options program has been made permanent by the Public Utilities Commission. It provides speech generating devices and apps to people with disabilities, who are not DOR consumers. 20 contracts have been executed.
* Traumatic Brain Injury Program has increased capacity from 6 programs to now 12 programs.
* DOR has partnered with the California Workforce Development Board regarding information on pathways program.

**8. Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

No new items were discussed.

**9. Public Comment**

There were no comments.

**10. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

**Overview of Artificial Intelligence**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the intelligence of machines or software, as opposed to the intelligence of humans. While forms of AI have existed for decades, enhancements in recent years have evolved exponentially. This has created many opportunities for people with disabilities. However, it has inevitably created many challenges as well.

In May, CCEPD members expressed interest in potentially pursuing AI related policy recommendations and/or having a better understanding of AI policy. Members identified four large potential areas of focus – discrimination, service delivery, assistive technologies, and employment and training. While there are obviously overlapping issues within each of those areas, information in this document is generally organized into those four categories that are of interest to work of the CCEPD. The document is not exhaustive but provides an overview of both opportunities and challenges of AI in the identified areas.

At the November 2023 Full Committee Meeting, the panel presentation will provide an overview of the topics – employment and training, service delivery, and assistive technology. The panel presentation will be one of many discussions on AI, especially since Governor Newsom issued

[Executive Order N-12-23](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AI-EO-No.12-_-GGN-Signed.pdf), relating to the use of GenAI by the State, in September. In recent weeks, President Biden’s Administration also issued an [Executive Order](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/10/30/fact-sheet-president-biden-issues-executive-order-on-safe-secure-and-trustworthy-artificial-intelligence/) on AI.

Along with general information on AI, members will hear from the following:

* Vice Chancellor Dr. Valerie Lundy-Wagner, California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office – employment and training
* Jonathan Porat, State Chief Technology Officer, California Department of Technology – State’s thinking on use of AI and service delivery
* Julia Petchey, Director of Digital Inclusion, Center for Assistive Technology – How AI can affect assistive technology

**Discrimination**

AI systems learn to make decisions based on training data, which can include biased human decisions or reflect historical or social inequities, even if sensitive variables such as gender, race, or disability are removed. AI systems are only as unbiased as the data they are trained on. If the data used to train AI systems contains biases, the systems themselves can perpetuate those biases, leading to discriminatory outcomes for people with disabilities.

While AI has the potential to improve accessibility, there is also a risk that some AI systems themselves may not be accessible to people with disabilities. For example, AI systems that rely on visual interfaces may not be usable by people who are visually impaired. People with disabilities may also be more vulnerable to privacy violations when using AI systems, as these systems may collect and use sensitive personal information.

In a recent [presentation to the California Department of Technology from the Responsible Artificial Intelligence Institute](https://cdt.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Adopting-Responsible-AI-in-Practice.pdf), it was recommended AI processes address the following principles to help limit discrimination.

* Accountability – Organizations developing or operating AI systems should be held accountable for their proper functioning.
* Bias and Fairness – AI systems should mitigate unwanted bias and drive inclusive growth to benefit people and the planet.
* Data Quality – AI systems should respect data privacy and avoid using customer data beyond its intended and stated use.
* Explainability and Interpretability – AI systems should be explainable to ensure people understand AI-based outcomes and can challenge them,
* Robustness – AI systems must function in a robust, secure, and safe way throughout their life cycles.

In 2022, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division issued an [“Algorithms, Artificial Intelligence, and Disability Discrimination in Hiring” guidance](https://www.ada.gov/resources/ai-guidance/). This guidance explains how algorithms and artificial intelligence can lead to disability discrimination in hiring, and how to avoid them.

**Service Delivery**

AI is not just about automated processes but personalized, accessible, and intuitive experiences. When it comes to service delivery improvements, AI has the potential to offer transformative changes for people with disabilities. AI presents opportunities to create inclusive environments that are not just accommodating but empowering for people with disabilities.

AI devices in many modern service delivery transactions are generally categorized into the following four areas – smart devices, self-service technologies, chatbots, and service robots. Many of these overlap into the following “assistive technologies” section.

Smart technologies can sense changes in their circumstances and execute measures to enhance their functionality under the new circumstances. For example, smart technologies can enable customers to control and personalize service delivery through voice commands or their smartphones or other devices to provide a convenient experience.

Self-service technologies are interfaces that enable customers to produce a service independent of direct service employee engagement. Examples can include vending machines, self-service kiosks, and web applications.

Chatbots are another type of AI agent that can often effectively communicate with users. These devices process humans’ language and respond to users using simulated human language. Chatbots are mostly associated with online or telephonic transactions.

Service robots have received a considerable amount of attention in AI discussions. While definitions vary, service robots are generally considered physically embodied artificially intelligent devices that can take actions that have effects on the physical world. Social robots are a subset of service robots and have the added capability of interacting and communicating with humans and following behavioral norms, while humanoid service robots are believed to be capable of more meaningfully engaging customers on a social level. Although service robots are among the most dramatic AI evolutions in the service realm, they are also the source of a considerable amount of the resistance experienced by customers.

One of the biggest service delivery impacts for people with disabilities has been in healthcare. AI can be used to improve medical diagnosis and treatment. AI applications have been instrumental in predictive diagnosis, precision medicine, and enhancing patient care. For example, AI-powered devices can be used to monitor the health of people with chronic conditions and alert their care providers in the event of any changes or emergencies.

Implementing AI does require some expertise to incorporate service delivery improvements, but it’s not an insurmountable challenge. With a dedicated team that includes AI specialists and disability experts, organizations can effectively deploy AI solutions. This said, while AI can significantly enhance service delivery, it doesn’t replace the value of human interaction. Instead, AI should be seen as a tool that complements human service delivery, by automating certain aspects of the process and enhancing accessibility for those with disabilities.

**Assistive Technologies**

AI can be used to develop assistive technologies that can help people with disabilities to perform tasks that would otherwise be difficult or impossible for them. Many of these assistive technologies using AI were referenced in the prior section on service delivery.

AI can be used to improve the accessibility of many products and services for people with disabilities. AI-powered devices like speech recognition software and smart devices can help people with mobility or speech impairments to communicate and control their environment. Additionally, in these scenarios, AI can be used to develop audio descriptions for videos, making them more accessible to people who are visually impaired.

However, people with disabilities may become dependent on AI systems for essential tasks, which could put them at risk if those systems were to fail or malfunction.

**Employment and Training**

AI can help people with disabilities to find employment and participate in the workforce, as AI-powered tools can help to match people with disabilities with employers who are looking for their skills and abilities. However, the use of AI in the workforce also has the potential to displace disabled workers, who may have difficulty competing with AI-powered systems for employment opportunities.

In a 2019 Brookings report titled [“What Jobs Are Affected by AI?”](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019.11.20_BrookingsMetro_What-jobs-are-affected-by-AI_Report_Muro-Whiton-Maxim.pdf) the largest projected AI impacts on the workplace were found to be the following.

* AI could affect work in virtually every occupational group.
* Better-paid, white-collar occupations may be most exposed to AI, as well some agriculture and manufacturing positions.
* Business-finance-tech industries will be more exposed, as will natural resource and production industries.
* AI looks most destined to affect men, prime-age workers, and white and Asian American workers.
* Bigger, higher-tech metro areas and communities heavily involved in manufacturing are likely to experience the most AI-related disruptions.

While we must consider how AI impacts hiring practices and the future of certain careers, we must also consider how it is used for training employees. AI is one of the most promising technologies that can revolutionize learning. AI is ideal for making learning fast and increasing the rate of completion. Not only can it enhance learning, but also improve efficiency, engagement, interactivity, and recall. AI can enable personalized learning experiences for each learner by analyzing the learner’s performance and adapting the curriculum or content to their needs and preferences.

**Governor Newsom’s AI Executive Order**

On September 6, 2023, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-12-23](https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/AI-EO-No.12-_-GGN-Signed.pdf), relating to the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence ("GenAI") by the State, as well as preparation of certain reports assessing the equitable use of GenAI in the public sector. The executive order lays out how California’s measured approach will focus on shaping the future of ethical, transparent, and trustworthy AI, while remaining the world’s AI leader. Many elements in the executive order may impact the four areas of concentration previously referenced.

Provisions of the executive order include the following:

* Risk-Analysis Report: Direct state agencies and departments to perform a joint risk-analysis of potential threats to and vulnerabilities of California’s critical energy infrastructure by the use of GenAI.
* Procurement Blueprint: To support a safe, ethical, and responsible innovation ecosystem inside state government, agencies will issue general guidelines for public sector procurement, uses, and required training for application of GenAI – building on the White House’s Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights and the National Institute for Science and Technology’s AI Risk Management Framework. State agencies and departments will consider procurement and enterprise use opportunities where GenAI can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, accessibility, and equity of government operations.
* Beneficial Uses of GenAI Report: Direct state agencies and departments to develop a report examining the most significant and beneficial uses of GenAI in the state. The report will also explain the potential harms and risks for communities, government, and state government workers.
* Deployment and Analysis Framework: Develop guidelines for agencies and departments to analyze the impact that adopting GenAI tools may have on vulnerable communities. The state will establish the infrastructure needed to conduct pilots of GenAI projects, including California Department of Technology approved environments or “sandboxes” to test such projects.
* State Employee Training: To support California’s state government workforce and prepare for the next generation of skills needed to thrive in the GenAI economy, agencies will provide trainings for state government workers to use state approved GenAI to achieve equitable outcomes and will establish criteria to evaluate the impact of GenAI to the state government workforce.
* GenAI Partnership and Symposium: Establish a formal partnership with the University of California, Berkeley, and Stanford University to consider and evaluate the impacts of GenAI on California and what efforts the state should undertake to advance its leadership in this industry. The state and the institutions will develop and host a joint summit in 2024 to engage in meaningful discussions about the impacts of GenAI on California and its workforce.
* Legislative Engagement: Engage with Legislative partners and key stakeholders in a formal process to develop policy recommendations for responsible use of AI, including any guidelines, criteria, reports, and/or training.
* Evaluate Impacts of AI on an Ongoing Basis: Periodically evaluate for potential impact of GenAI on regulatory issues under the respective agency, department, or board’s authority and recommend necessary updates because of this evolving technology.

**Next Steps**

At the CCEPD’s Full Committee Meeting in November, members should develop direction for the CCEPD to take on the issue of AI, including initial thoughts on policy recommendations the CCEPD may want to pursue in 2024. This can be delegated to the Employment and Training Subcommittee. The CCEPD can send a comment letter to the lead departments regarding the use of AI and engaging them in a discussion about AI in providing services and how to incorporate in employment and training.

**Career Technical Education Executive Order**

**Overview**

In recent years, the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD) has engaged in career technical education (CTE) policy developments. The CCEPD believe CTE programs are the building blocks to skill attainment, allowing for entry into various career pathways based on a person’s interest and needed skills. Inclusion of students with disabilities in CTE programs is essential to improving employment outcomes thus decreasing reliance on benefits, escaping a life of poverty, and promoting a life of independence.

On August 31, 2023, Governor Newsom signed the [“Freedom to Succeed” executive order](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2023/08/31/freedom-to-succeed/#:~:text=The%20Governor's%20executive%20order%20directs,workers%20for%20high%2Dpaying%20careers.), which directs state leaders across numerous systems to work collaboratively to develop a Master Plan on Career Education. The Master Plan on Career Education will guide the state in its efforts to strengthen career pathways, prioritize hands-on learning and real-life skills, and advance universal access and affordability for all Californians through streamlined collaboration and partnership across government and the private sector.

This document provides an overview of prior CCEPD engagement with CTE policy and potential next steps on being engaged with the development of the Master Plan on Career Education.

**Background**

The CCEPD followed the development, and provided comment letters to the California Department of Education’s [Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee (CWPJAC)](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/gi/workpathjac.asp), on both the [2020–23 Federal Perkins V State Plan](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/gi/documents/perkinsstateplan2020-23.docx) and [California State Plan for Career Technical Education](https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/ct/gi/documents/adoptedcacteplan2023.pdf). Additionally, during the development of the two plans, the CCEPD collaborated with the [Joint Special Populations Advisory Committee (JSPAC)](https://www.jspac.org/). The JSPAC, a committee which includes private and public members who address the needs of special populations in CTE programs, is funded through the federal Perkins program.

Comments from the CCEPD on the two existing plans focused on the need of more awareness of CTE programs for students with disabilities, improved access, and system alignment. While the plans touch on these topics, the topics are only covered minimally and vaguely in the plans. The CCEPD’s belief is that more detailed strategies are needed for students with disabilities. CTE programs can improve employment outcomes and labor force participation rates for students with disabilities. Additionally, the CCEPD strongly believes more effort is needed to strengthen system alignment to improve employment outcomes for students with disabilities to decrease their reliance on benefits and a life of poverty.

Collaboration with the JSPAC included informational meetings between staff members and presentations before each other’s full committee meetings. The CCEPD also connected the JSPAC directly with students with disabilities to ensure their student perspective is taken into consideration during CTE policy developments.

The CCEPD is optimistic the new Master Plan on Career Education will address many of the concerns we have with the existing CTE program structure. The plan’s goals include breaking down silos, strengthening career pathways, prioritizing hand-on learning and real-life skills, and advancing universal access and affordability. These goals are all important to improve the CTE experience for students with disabilities. The CCEPD is especially excited that the executive order includes references to ensure input from the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the DOR Director is incorporated into the new plan.

**Next Steps**

At the CCEPD’s Full Committee Meeting in November, members will receive additional information on the “Freedom to Succeed” executive order from the DOR Director. Following discussion, members can decide whether to send a comment letter in support of the executive order sharing input, and/or to ask to be involved in further discussions as the Master Plan on Career Education is being developed.

**2023 CCEPD Annual Report**

**Overview**

In 2023, the California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD) updated its [mission, vision, and guiding principles](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CcepdLearnMore), to reflect its goals for California’s workforce and to more accurately reflect the work of the CCEPD.

Vision: The CCEPD’s vision is through equitable access to services and employment, people with disabilities bring diversity, experience, talent, skills, and value to California’s workforce and communities.

Mission: The CCEPD evaluates, develops, promotes, and influences policies, systems, and implementation efforts to increase employment and training of people with disabilities.

The vision and mission will help guide policy discussions to advance disability equity, inclusion, and access in all programs and systems serving people with disabilities.

The CCEPD also welcomed two, new Members, Dani Anderson, an Assembly Speaker’s appointee, and LaCandice Ochoa, a representative of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

Dani Anderson is the County of Ventura’s Disability Access Manager. Prior to this role, she served as Access and Functional Needs Manager at Southern California Edison and Executive Director of the Independent Living Resource Center. In addition to her lifelong lived experience, Ms. Anderson has twenty years of involvement in the disability field including the state and federal government, and non-profit arenas. As a Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) alumnus, she has agreed to chair the YLF Governance Committee.

LaCandice Ochoa is Dean at the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) since June 2022, where she oversees and evaluates career technical education programs and initiatives, such as Perkins and Strong Workforce. Prior to her work at CCCCO, she was Operations Manager of the California Commission on Disability Access and a Program Manager of the California’ Governor’s Office of Emergency Services. As representative, she will help the CCEPD collaborate on career technical education and other initiatives.

**2023 Policy Highlights**

Throughout 2023, the CCEPD held a series of listening sessions with local workforce areas statewide to collect information on their highlights and challenges when serving people with disabilities. From these listening sessions, the CCEPD compiled a best practices toolkit to help promote and replicate service delivery practices and policy recommendations that support employment outcomes for people with disabilities.

In May 2023, the CCEPD approved the workforce best practice toolkit, and it was submitted to Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the Employment Development Department (EDD). In August 2023, the CCEPD approved the workforce best practices policy recommendations and submitted them to the DOR and the EDD for informal feedback. The CCEPD held a webinar on November 8 to present an overview of the toolkit designed to encourage workforce areas adopt best practices in serving people with disabilities, and more organizations to develop partnerships with workforce and disability-focused organizations.

In late 2022 and early 2023, in collaboration with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), the CCEPD developed a cross-advisory body workgroup to identify barriers to employment for people with disabilities who are on public benefits and how benefits planning can support employment outcomes. This workgroup is comprised of representatives from the CalABLE Act Board, the California Behavioral Health Planning Council, the Commission on Aging, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the State Independent Living Council. Members of the Workgroup heard from people with disabilities and families, transition-aged youth, benefits planning counselors in multiple systems and from the Department of Health Care Services on asset limit changes. Members are working on policy recommendations with efforts to continue into 2024.

The CCEPD will be reviewing the California Unified Strategic Workforce Development Plan to provide feedback based on best practices toolkit. Other implementation efforts and policies from the Governor’s Executive Orders on career technical education and artificial intelligence will be monitored.

**2023 Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) Highlights**

In 2023, YLF welcomed a new YLF Project Manager, Matt Baker. The transition to new leadership provided the opportunity for YLF partners to evaluate and modernize the program. YLF partners worked to update the curriculum and created a new logo.

The program was held through a hybrid virtual and in-person format July 13-19, 2023. Following three days of virtual programing, participants journeyed to California State University, Sacramento, for the remaining three days of the program. The program in 2024 will be fully in-person.

In addition to the six-day summer program, additional activities have been developed for YLF alumni in recent years. YLF hosted a pre-YLF mixer for delegates and families to get to know one another, answer questions and get excited about YLF. Virtual alumni workshops are held following YLF covering topics such as transition after high school, money management, apprenticeships and internships, career planning and work‑based learning. Social activities and peer mentoring opportunities have also been offered.

YLF introduced an online application process for 2024 YLF delegate and staff applicants. In addition, new approaches are being taken for marketing and outreach for 2024, including presenting to existing partners, such as DOR counselors and various disability-related advisory bodies, and social media campaigns.

**2023 Regional YLF Highlights**

Beginning in 2022, discussions with local partners led to development of three regional YLF pilot events in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and San Diego. These weekend programs include many of the same curriculum topics covered in the traditional summer program.

Sacramento held the first regional YLF event in October of 2023. The goal was to have a regional cohort of high school students participate in the event at Sacramento City College. The event included 17 youth with diverse backgrounds and experiences. Local partners included the Alta Regional Center, the Disability Student Services Program at Los Rios Community College, the Department of Rehabilitation, Resources for Independent Living, and Sacramento Employment Training Agency. CCEPD appreciates the work and dedication of the local partners in developing the first regional YLF event in California.

Los Angeles is planning a regional event in February 2024 and San Diego in June 2024.

The YLF annual report is located on the [CCEPD website](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/YlfDocuments).

**For More Information**

For more information, including current developments and meetings, visit the [CCEPD’s website](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/CCEPD) or call the Executive Officer, Maria Aliferis-Gjerde, at (916) 558-5698.

**2024 CCEPD Meeting Calendar**

In 2024, the CCEPD meetings will be hybrid and dependent on Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act changes. Although most of the meetings are hybrid, one Full Committee Meeting will be in-person.

For 2024, CCEPD will schedule meetings from 9 a.m. until noon unless the meeting is in-person.

**CCEPD Full Committee Meetings**

The meetings are held on Thursdays on a quarterly basis. The dates of the meetings are:

* February 22 – in-person
* May 23
* August 22
* November 14

**Executive Committee**

The administrative meetings are held on Fridays. The dates of the meetings are:

* January 19
* April 5
* June 28
* September 27

**Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) for Students with Disabilities**

YLF will be fully in-person July 14 to July 20, 2024