**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

**Training Subcommittee Meeting**

**Monday, 10/06/25, 10:00am – 11:00am**

**Training Meeting Minutes**

In attendance:

Training subcommittee members (by Zoom): Sandy Balani*,* Jerry Gann, Steve Alford, Julie Wakamoto, Naresh Balani

DOR staff (by Zoom): Luis Rodriguez, Emma Godinez, Carlene Guzman, Raj Basi, Nia Lutu, Joshua Pitts, Jennifer Wilbon

Members of the public (by Zoom): Maria Trovato, Paul Patche, Michael

Agenda

Item 1: Welcome and roll call

Sandy Balani, Chair, welcomed attendees, conducted a roll call, and reviewed the rules.

**Item 2: Begin Discussion for the 2026 BEP Education Training Conference**

Committee members comments and questions

* Suggested looking into Embassy Suites
* The 2026 conference must be in the North
* Suggested 2026 conference in San Francisco or Sacramento
* Asked if 2026 conference could be in Southern California, San Diego
* Discussion took place about costs and vendors who did not show up at the 2025 conference
* Discussed/shared ideas for the 2026 conference
* Commented the 2025 conference being a success because of the location (being in Southern California). If in Sacramento, most likely to have less attendance
* Suggested 2026 conference take place during the week 09/01/26 – 09/03/26 or 09/08/26 – 09/10/26
* Suggested attending the conference be a requirement for vendors but understands that would require a change to the regs
* Discussion about speakers, presenters for the 2026 conference, casino theme
* Hotels will not allow a casino theme
* Would like to see if there is a hotel shuttle to and from airport when looking at hotels
* Would like conferences to be recorded
* Asked if vendors from other states could attend the conference
* Asked training officer to share thoughts about the 2025 conference and asked for suggestions for the 2026 conference

Department comments and questions

* 2026 conference will be in Northern California
* Conference is for California vendors only
* Shared the idea of small breakout sessions for the next conference, would like to incorporate AI into the training curriculum

Public comments and questions

* There is an Embassy Suite Hotel in San Francisco

**Item 3: Open Forum to discuss future agenda items**

* Will keep the agenda the same for the next training meeting
* Would like to know the budget for the 2026 training conference

**Motion:** Jerry Gann moved a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:38am. The motion was seconded by Steve Alford.

The meeting adjourned at 10:38am