**State of California**

**Health and Human Services Agency**

**Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)**

**Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)**

Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2023

Department of Rehabilitation, Public Zoom Meeting

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**In-person locations**:

Department of Rehabilitation, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 301

Sacramento, CA 95814

Department of Rehabilitation

3556 Delta Fair Blvd.

Antioch, CA 94509

Department of Rehabilitation

50 D Street, Suite 425

Santa Rosa CA 95404

Department of Rehabilitation, Orientation Center for the Blind

400 Adams St.

Albany, CA 94706

Department of Rehabilitation

39155 Liberty Street Ste F630

Fremont, CA 94538

Department of Rehabilitation

509 E. Montecito St. Ste 101

Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Butte County Library, Gridley Branch

299 Spruce S.,

Gridley, CA 95948

Department of Rehabilitation

1701 Pacific Ave., Ste 120

Oxnard, CA 93033

# DAC Members In Attendance:

* Emily Alexander; Deaf/Hard of Hearing
* Miguel Castaneda; Physical Disability
* Lisa Cushman; Mental/Behavioral Disability
* Jonathan De Jesus; Cognitive Impairment
* Jonathan (Jona) Deguzman; Other Disability
* Chelle Ellis; Heart/Circulatory Disorders
* Cory Lemings; Neurodivergent Disability
* Jennilee Ruggirello; Blind/Visual Impairment
* Bonita Wahl; Traumatic Brain Injury
* Michelle Zavala-Pizano; Learning Disability

# DAC Members Not Present:

* Subashree (Suba) Krishnamurthy; At Large Member/Ally
* Cynthia Butler; Intellectual/Developmental Disability

## DOR Advisors in Attendance:

* Rosa Gomez
* Shannon Coleman

## DAC Subcommittee Members in Attendance

* Robertina Arrellano
* Renee Boyd
* Monica Casas
* Benjamin Smith

## Other DOR Staff in Attendance

* Ana Acton
* Maria Aliferis-Gjerde
* Silvia Banks
* Andrew Beaken
* La Toya Branche
* Kathleen Cross
* Cathy Galen
* Monica Handley
* Jay Harris
* Greg Lang
* Melanie Luttrell
* LeNae Liebetrau
* Matthew Morgan
* Vera Petrova
* Shamika Rauls
* Debronna Sanders
* Nick Sabia
* Georgeta Tanase
* Amal El Wardi
* Jen Wheelhouse
* Gerri Williams
* Carrie Viarnes Araya
* Deyanire Villachica

## Members of the Public in Attendance

* None

# 1) Welcome and Introductions

* Chelle Ellis, DAC Chair, reviewed the purpose of the DAC, conducted a roll call, and established a quorum.

# 2) Approval of DAC Meeting Minutes and Review of Action Items

* June 2023 Meeting minutes brought forward and approved.
* Action Item: Resignation of DAC Chair, former Vice Chair becomes Chairperson
* Now a vacancy for Vice-Chair – discussion this meeting during Round Table

Public Comment: none

**3) Presentation by Jay Harris, Manager of the Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) Program in Specialized Services**

* Overview of OIB services to visually impaired individuals aged 55 and older to assist them to live independently in California.
* The program provides services in collaboration with DOR non-profit partner agencies in all counties except Alpine and Inyo
* Between 4000 and 7000 people are served every year
* Training is available to assist individuals with daily living skills, to learn Braille, to assist with Orientation and Mobility, to use assistive technology and to connect with appropriate agencies for other services.
* Individuals can work with multiple providers when funding is available.
* The program can presently provide some services to blind/visually impaired individuals 18-55, who do not have an employment goal.

Public Comment: none

**4) Presentation by Ana Acton, Deputy Director of Independent Living and Community Access Division**

* Three Sections within the division: Disability Access Services (DAS), California Committee on Employment for People with Disabilities (CCEPD), and Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section
* Monica Handley presented on Disability Access Services
* DAS provides training to community stakeholders, partners, Workforce Development Boards, private sector employers, non-profits, and local governments.
* Topics include training in: Reasonable Accommodations and ensuring Accessibility in Websites and Documents for people using screen readers.
* In September, DAS will present a webinar about Service Animals vs Emotional Support Animals
* DAS answers inquiries from employers and job seekers about the technical aspects of accessibility
* Maria Alferis-Gjerde presented on California Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities (CCEPD)
  + CCEPD is a representative board with members from a wide range of stakeholders including people with disabilities, various state departments including Department of Health Care Services, Department of Developmental Services, Department of Social Services, DOR, Employment Development Department and both Local and California Workforce Development Boards.
  + CCEPD works on state coordination of programs and services for people with disabilities.
  + One of their mandates is to increase the successful employment and independence for people with disabilities.
  + They are conducting a project focused on health care and Long-Term Services and Supports.
  + CCEPD is focusing on benefits planning for successful employment and a best practices toolkit for Local Workforce Development Boards.
  + CCEPD organizes and sponsors the yearly Youth Leadership Forum at the Capitol
* Ana Acton presented on the Independent Living and Assistive Technology Section (ILATS)
  + ILATS provides services such as compliance guidance and oversight to 28 independent living centers in the State of California
  + Services are available regardless of age, income, and disability.
  + ILATS is a core partner for the Aging and Disability Resource Connections (ADRC) in California
  + ADRCs coordinate services on a local level to ensure that people get streamlined access to services
  + ILATS also coordinates the Assistive Technology Program, a statewide program where individuals can access assistive technology services and information at the Ability Tools website.
  + Ability Tools maintains an assistive technology device lending library.
  + ILATS administers a Voice Options Program in partnership with the California Public Utilities Commission to provide speech communication devices to individuals with speech disabilities
  + ILATS has been granted a one-time 10-million-dollar investment from the California General Fund for a program based on San Francisco’s Community Living Fund through June 30, 2025
    - The program provides person-centered institutional transition diversion services for people of all ages and with any type of disabilities who don't qualify for other services.
    - The Traumatic Brain Injury Program provides Traumatic Brain Injury core services from twelve providers throughout the state.
* Q & A with the Community Access Division

Q: Will you explain the nexus between people with disabilities and caregivers through this program

A: The Master Plan on Aging creates a framework for supporting older adults—regardless of age, and people with disabilities. It provides access to caregivers and attendants for people with disabilities to help them live independently and stay out of institutional settings.

Q: Do you have to be a DOR consumer to access services from an independent living center?

A: No, you don't have to be a vocational rehabilitation consumer, but you can be, then you would get services from both

Q: Do Independent Living Centers have a program to provide home modifications to people with physical disabilities?

A: Independent Living Centers provide home modifications under the umbrella of assistive technology services, but the program is different at each Independent Living Center.

Public Comment: none

**5) Report Out on State Disability Advisory Council (SDAC) Quarterly Meeting** **Cory Lemings**

* CHP is committed to hiring individuals with disabilities.
* Lisa asked if DAC could outreach to counselors and business specialists to put jobs at the CHP on their radar on behalf of their consumers.
* Cory felt that it would be more effective to interface with CHP’s EEO officer to strategize about how to hire more people with disabilities and then host a CHP hiring event with DOR staff and consumers.
  + DOR has a CAL HHS Playbook committee to support state agencies to hire more people with disabilities.
  + Several people felt it would be fruitful to work with that committee to prepare a resource to strengthen DACs at other state agencies.
  + Regional Business Specialists try to arrange informational interviews for people with disabilities with hiring managers at state agencies.
  + Rosa does not want to single out CHP but wants to remain open to providing any resources that CHP may need to hire more people with disabilities.
  + Planning for an event at the Capitol in October for NDEAM
* Disability Rights California overview
* CalHR presentation on LEAP hires 2019-2022
* [SDAC Meeting Video Archive](https://www.youtube.com/@statewidedisabilityadvisor806)

Public Comment: none

# 6) DAC Subcommittee Report Outs

* Group 1 – Targeted Employment
* Melinda Wetzel will present at the subcommittee meeting about the Improving Employment and Pathways to Employment initiatives.
* The Pathways to Employment initiative includes LEAP, the State Internship Program, the Paid Internship Program, and the volunteer program.
* Some committee members want to identify local contacts to increase the recruitment of People with Disabilities in DOR.
* Group 3 – Main Events
* The purpose is to facilitate an openness about disability inclusion through celebration and affirmation.
* DAC will present an ADA recognition and acknowledgement webinar on July 25th.
* Group 5 – Collaboration with Other DACs
* The members of the subcommittee were not present, so they will provide updates on the status of their subcommittee efforts in a future meeting.

Public Comment

# 6) Round Table

* There is a vacant Chair position. Current Vice-Chair, Chelle Ellis moves into the vacant Chair position resulting in the vacant Vice Chair position
* Officers serve for two years, the new Chair and Vice-Chair will serve through June 2025
* Lisa Cushman self-nominated and was elected as the new Vice-Chair.

Public Comment: none

## The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.