



<h2 style="margin: 0;">Regional Advisory Committee Agenda</h2>
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Date	Tuesday, January 26, 2016
Time	11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*
Location	SCDD Sacramento Office 2033 Howe Avenue, Ste. 160 Sacramento, CA 95825 (916) 263-3085

Pursuant to Government code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Sonya Bingaman at (916) 263-3085 or by email to: sonya.bingaman@scdd.ca.gov. Requests must be received by 5:00 pm, January 20, 2016.

- 1) Call to Order, Chairperson, Elaine Linn (FA) 11:00 a.m.
 Welcome & Introductions
- 2) Approval of RAC Agenda, Elaine Linn (FA) (action)
- 3) Approval of RAC Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2015,
 Elaine Linn (FA) (action)
- 4) Brief reports from RAC members on issues in their counties
- 5) Public Comment Period

This item is for members of the public only to provide comments and/or present information to the RAC on matters not on the agenda. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak. Written requests, if any, will be considered first. The RAC will provide a public comment period, not to exceed a total of seven minutes, for public comment prior to action on each agenda item.
- 6) Regional Center Report, Peter Tiedemann
- 7) Regional Office Manager’s Report & Discussion Sonya Bingaman
 - a. SCDD administrative updates
 - b. Self-Determination
 - c. QA National Core Indicators (NCI), Child Family Survey
 - d. Outreach
 - e. Conferences
 - f. Trainings

- 8) Proposed 2016 RAC meeting schedule, Elaine Linn (FA) (action)
- 9) Proposed Agenda items for next meeting, Elaine Linn (FA) (action)
- 10) Presentation on Employment Services and Supports:
 - a. Carole Watilo, Progressive Employment Concepts
 - b. Sharon Pulido, Manager with Futures Explores, Inc/VTE
 - c. Michael Herr, Supported Employment Program Director , In Alliance
- 11) Adjournment – Elaine Linn (FA) 1:00 p.m.



Regional Advisory

Committee – Sacramento Office

Minutes
December 8, 2015
Unapproved

Members Present	Members Absent	Other Attending
Dan Clift (FA)	Jane Taylor (FA)	Sandra Smith (FA) Council Member
Robert Rogers (SA)	Regina Collins (FA)	Joyce McNair (FA)
Christine Hickey (FA)	Tyler Busselen (SA)	Kathy Brian
Donnell Kenworthy (FA)	David Kelly (SA)	Sonya Bingaman
	Elaine Linn (FA)	Monique von Schimmelmann
		Richard Garrett (SA)
		Dennis Curry, Employment Plus
		Lori Wentz (FA) Facilitator
		Dana Wentz (SA)
		John Rogers (SA)
		Antonio Biondi (SA)
		Peter Tiedemann, ACRC
		Lisa Cooley (SA) SSAN Rep.
		Sheryl Ledford (SA)
		Eloise Dixon, Facilitator
		Tyson Whitman (SA)
		Elizabeth Mendoza, Facilitator
		Karen Mulvaney (FA)

1. Call to Order
Chairperson, Dan Clift (FA) 11:00 a.m.
1.1 Welcome & Introductions

2. Approval of Agenda (action)
Chris Hickey 1st Donnell Kenworthy 2nd
Nay = 0
Abstain = 0

3. Approval of RAC Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2015 (action)
Chris Hickey 1st Donnell Kenworthy 2nd
Nay = 0
Abstain = 0

4. Brief reports from RAC members on issues in their counties

5. Public Comment Period

- Lisa Cooley (SA) is the SSAN (Statewide Self-Advocacy Network) representative from the Sacramento Office. She continues to do presentations about Self-Determination and Employment First and is available to go to any groups to put on these presentations. Dan Clift (FA) suggested placing Lisa on the agenda for the next RAC meeting so she can give these presentations to the RAC.
- Joyce McNair (FA) explained that service coordinators can place consumers onto the Self-Determination “interested” list. They will then be notified of future ACRC Self-Determination presentations. Joyce created a letter with basic information concerning Self-Determination and is sharing it with districts and agencies. All attendees received a copy.
- Kathy Brian commented on the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). Their first meeting was held at the downtown California Auto Museum; some of the businesses that attended were Department of Rehabilitation, SMUD, along with job coaches and job developers. SCDD will continue participation on this committee to increase the capacity of employment options for people with disabilities.

6. Regional Center Report

Peter Tiedemann – ACRC – Sacramento

- Tiedemann mentioned that supported living, respite and personal assistant staff will be getting a 5.82% increase effective December 1st. Effective January 1st, 2016, the hourly minimum wage will increase to \$10.00 per hour for all vendor staff. For more information, check ACRC website.
- Invited clients/families to attend the Holiday Santa Day on December 18th at Alta Regional Center from 10-4 p.m. They will have games, food and Tilly the dog.
- He announced that Jon Nelson of Alta Regional Center’s Board passed away Saturday, December 6, 2015. He also regularly attended Self-Determination and RAC meetings.

7. Regional Office Manager’s Report & Discussion

Sonya Bingaman updated the RAC on meetings, trainings, resource fairs and activities of the Sacramento Regional Office over the past two months.

- A candle was lit for Daniel Kaufman who was one of the individuals killed in San Bernardino. He was a job coach supporting people with I/DD at the coffee cart at Inland Regional Center.
- Bingaman commented on the two Little Hoover Commission hearings; the hearing in September identified issues, the hearing in November focused on people who may have solutions for improvements whether it be with their county or state. Members of SCDD Sacramento Office RAC attended the November Commission; Donnell Kenworthy (FA) and Christine Hickey (FA) both brought their sons for support to discuss the issues California is having.

- Bingaman highlighted the crisis with the consumers that require anesthesia dentistry and hospital dentistry, the commission decided they had heard enough and will not be organizing another Little Hoover hearing, they believe they have enough information to write their report. However, Bingaman will continue to gather stories of families around California and forward them to the Commission.
 - California Health and Wellness has negotiated contracts with hospitals serving their patients, so they can obtain appropriate dental treatment. They reported to Bingaman that this was a result of us alerting them of this issue and service need.
 - SCDD participated in the Supported Life Institute's Supported Life Conference October 8-9, SCDD made a presentation about Emergency Preparedness and had an Information Booth. Staff also attended numerous sessions.
 - Alta Regional Center approved the flyer for Self-Determination used mostly as a guide, currently a PowerPoint presentation is being created on Self-Determination.
 - It was reported that the National Core Indicators (NCI) project was going to begin shortly. The surveys are both in English and Spanish and available in 13 other languages. The survey is approximately 30-35 pages, it will be mailed sometime during January, and hopefully the completed surveys will begin being returned to SCDD Sacramento Office in January, the project completion date is June 30, 2016.
 - Bingaman also reported SCDD has hired five new people for the manager positions throughout the different Regional Offices, three managers retired. We lost Benita Baines who reassigned by the Governor to the EDD, Vicki Smith was promoted as an interim replacement. Gabriel Rogin from the Bay Area Regional Office is acting Chief Deputy Director.
 - Aaron Carruthers recently announced AIDD lifted the reimbursement restriction from the grant monies it awards to SCDD, however we are still in high risk status.
8. Nominations and voting for RAC Chair, Dan Clift (FA) (action)
 Dan Clift is resigning as Chair and a member of the RAC representing Placer County. Clift asked Bingaman about the RAC bylaws on how to vote in a new Chair, Bingaman responded with "the bylaws are currently being revised". Elaine Linn (FA) co-chair was not in attendance at the RAC; Clift asked that we wait to vote for a new chair until we have Linn and more additional members present. It was agreed we wait until we have definitive information on how to proceed with voting for the RAC Chair. Bingaman presented Clift with a framed certificate, thanking him for his 9 years of service on the RAC and on behalf of people with disabilities.
9. Presentation: Richard Garret and Dennis Curry, Employment Plus, Video and Discussion
- Richard began with, "We don't let a little down syndrome get us down". Dennis and Richard traveled to Melbourne, Australia with one of their videos, "Gettin' Down" which is gaining wide popularity on You Tube. Their video was celebrated for "outstanding diversity". We watched the "Gettin' Down" video and were given handouts. The new season will be coming out soon.
 - Bingaman gave out an award/certificate to Richard for outstanding achievement for being a great presenter at the Waldorf school.

10. Documenting Disability exhibit was on display in the office. It consisted of 16 large poster boards of Disability History. Attendees were encouraged to view the posters. You can also view them online at: www.documentingdisability.com
11. Adjournment – Dan Clift (FA) 12:32 p.m.

Department of Developmental Services

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provides individuals with developmental disabilities a variety of services that allow them to live and work independently or in supported environments. California is the only state that provides developmental services as an individual entitlement. The state is in the process of closing all the state-operated developmental centers, except for the secure treatment area at the Porterville Developmental Center. By the end of 2016-17, DDS estimates it will serve approximately 302,000 individuals with developmental disabilities in the community and 847 individuals in state-operated developmental centers. For 2016-17, the Budget includes \$6.4 billion (\$3.8 billion General Fund) for support of developmental services.

Developmental Center Closures

DDS carries out its responsibilities through 21 community-based, non-profit corporations known as “regional centers” and three state-operated developmental centers. The Administration announced in 2015 the planned closure for the three remaining developmental centers: Sonoma, Fairview and the general treatment area of Porterville. To assist in the development of community resources for placement of current developmental center residents, the Budget includes \$146.6 million (\$127.2 million General Fund). This amount includes \$78.8 million General Fund specifically for Sonoma(\$24.5 million), Fairview (\$29.7 million), and Porterville (\$24.6 million).

As part of the developmental center closure activities, the Budget also includes \$18 million (\$12 million General Fund) to resolve open workers’ compensation claims, inventory and archive clinical and historical records, execute an independent monitoring contract as stipulated by the federal government, and relocate residents and their personal belongings.

Regional Center Services

The regional center system is projected to serve more than 300,000 individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in the budget year. Regional centers provide intake, assessment, eligibility determination, resource development, and case management services. The centers also work with the thousands of businesses and individuals providing developmental services in the community.

The shift of the remaining consumers from developmental centers to the community, which will be complete by 2021 (with the exception of the secure treatment program at Porterville and the Canyon Springs facility), increases the urgency to improve the state’s oversight role, identify service cost drivers, and implement efforts that support the efficient delivery of quality services. Since 2013-14, regional center costs have grown from \$2.5 billion General Fund to \$3.1 billion General Fund in 2015-16. This represents a 24-percent increase despite a freeze on provider rates. Caseload growth over the

same period has been only 5.7 percent. Not all of the causes of this increase are known, although increases in autism services, an aging population, individuals transitioning from the developmental centers into the community, and individuals moving from their family homes into supported living arrangements, are all contributing to the increase.

To improve the oversight and understanding of the regional center system, the Budget includes targeted resources to improve the data systems and research capacity of DDS. The Budget includes \$1.9 million (\$1.3 million General Fund) and 14 positions for audit functions and to create a new fiscal and research unit that will help develop accurate, reliable, and data-driven programmatic information and service trends that can improve the administration of the regional center system. Provider rates throughout the developmental services system have become a complex and layered patchwork over time. Many rates have been frozen for years, although rates have been increased recently for state and federal mandates such as minimum wage increases and overtime. The core staffing formula used to adjust regional center budgets based on the number of consumers served has not been adjusted for the majority of classifications since 1991. Under the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver, the federal government is mandating many changes to the delivery of services in the community. In recognition of these demands, the Budget includes \$80 million (\$50 million General Fund) for the following targeted investments in the developmental services system:

- Establish 4-bed Alternative Residential Model homes rate — \$46 million (\$26 million General Fund). The rates for these homes are old and were originally based on a 6-bed model, so providers have two fewer beds from which to derive revenue while maintaining the same overhead. The smaller 4-bed model is increasingly used by regional centers. A large portion of regional center clients living outside their family home live in Alternative Residential Model homes.
- Case Managers — \$17 million (\$12 million General Fund). The federal government mandates a maximum caseload for each case manager employed by a regional center. These ratios were eroded during the recession to preserve direct services to regional center consumers and will be improved by the funding provided in the Budget.
- Compliance with Home and Community-Based Services Waiver requirements— \$15 million (\$11 million General Fund). The Department will target rate increases to providers to transition services like segregated day programs and sheltered workshops to models that are more integrated in the community and consistent with the Home and Community-Based Services Waiver. The Administration will also continue its work with the developmental services community to develop data-driven solutions to the issues facing regional centers and providers. Any additional targeted spending proposals are expected to be funded from the proposed extension of the managed care organization tax.

Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 3:35 PM
Subject: Governor's Proposed FY 16-17 Budget

Dear Council Members,

Today, the Governor released his proposal for the California Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 budget. Attached is an overview of the major changes to the DDS budget. This afternoon, Health and Human Services Secretary Diana Dooley held a community call. Here are highlights from that call.

Secretary Dooley:

Biggest satisfaction for me personally in this budget is that it builds on the progress we've made. So we're going forward, not backward. We worked with advocates to restore the Managed Care Organization (MCO) tax, we could have assumed that the tax passes or that it doesn't. We made the optimistic assumption that it will pass. It needs to pass in January. We are cautiously optimistic.

Based on that assumption, we built a budget on the progress we made coming off the devastating recession. We are in the 5th year of a recovery. Based on boom and bust cycles, there will be a recession that could be as early as next year or the following. We kept a surplus through Prop 30 and the Governor's commitment is to make investments that build the base for a stable future of California. Which is critical to those we serve in this agency. No one suffers more in a boom and bust environment than those we serve under this Agency. I share the Governor's commitment to a responsible march forward.

Other good news:

- Successful with fed with 1115 waiver to stabilize the safety net.
- Developed a tax reform proposal to change the way we tax health plans in CA (unrelated to the MCO tax). Other taxes will resolve some of the MCO challenges. Assuming we're able to fill the \$1.1 billion MCO tax hole, we will be able to continue the 7% restoration to IHSS hours and make an additional commitment to DD programs.
- Making a commitment of \$160 million to DD program to providing \$80 million for transition from developmental centers. Also, \$80 million for targeted increases, including rate adjustments for the alternative 4-bed model, reduce caseloads for Regional Center case managers, compliance with the home and community based waiver requirements, working with RC partners to engage in improve training their boards
- Increase by nearly 3% of SSI portion of SSI/SSP program, first increase since 2006, expect a small federal adjustment too
- Also building on the continuum of care program in child welfare, adding \$95 million to continue implementation

Questions:

Q: Capping provider hours, when will the exceptions to the cap be available

A: Administration is in the process of reviewing possible exception policies

Q: But this is to be in play by Feb 1, what do we do?

A: We are still reviewing

Q: Will you make a commitment that you will have the exception in place by Feb 1

A: On Feb 1, we will pay overtime per the federal law. We'll look at an exemption policy

Q: Re overall Medi-Cal budget, last year \$95 billion, today is \$87.9 billion, next year \$85.1 billion, what accounts for the reduction in estimates of the overall Medi-Cal budget going down?

A: Some of the information could be skewed because of accrual basis of accounting. There are rate changes, where some rates came in lower than we estimated

Q: Re reduced Regional Center case load, is there anything specific? Is it closer to federal requirements?

A: reduction is based on the Regional Center's ability to hire case managers, funding will provide for 200+ positions. It's not a reduction in case loads, it's an increase in case managers, reducing the ratio

Q: In the DDS budget, any positions funded in HQ to fund SD waiver or HCBS waiver?

A: Budget includes 4 positions for the HCBS waiver regulation

Q: When the budget is restored to the point of affording a bullet train does the Governor have a no vision for people homeless on the street, does the Governor have no vision for a healthy California

A: I'll take that as a comment, not a question, appreciate your perspective and point of view

Q: When there's a boom, rates in DD are frozen, when there's a bust, rates are cut. The rate structure has not benefitted from the boom. Is the Task Force closer to developing an actual cost analysis to determine how far below true economic survival current rates are? Will the Task Force develop recommendations during this fiscal year.

A: Yes, Task Force is working, we've made a commitment to look at rate structure. That comprehensive rate review will take time. We will not wait for that review to make adjustments. We're making \$80 million in targeted adjustments. I am not supportive of a cross-the-board adjustment, no matter the amount. That approach doesn't address the most critical need.

Q: the rate cuts and freezes were across the board, but targeted increases don't address the cuts. I'm grateful for the \$80 million, but it's not the 10% we asked for. Direct providers are going out of business

A: I appreciate the comment. The \$80million rate adjustment is independent of the MCO tax. Once the MCO is taken care of, we can visit the rates you've raised

Q: If we're assuming the MCO tax will be resolved are there implication for the CCI demonstration project

A: I'm a big champion of the CCI, we are improving care for enrollees and looking to expand it. The budget includes a continuation

Q: Re Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for ambulances, will there be an adjustment

A: first priority is to get the stabilization that comes from the MCO tax in January. Rates paid to Medi-Cal providers is on the agenda and we will continue to have conversations regarding spending priorities

Q: excited for funding and new positions for CalFresh budget to enroll and retain people in CalFresh. Will there be direct certification with school meals by improving the matching program?

A: we have a goal to enroll in 400,000 new children enrolled in CalFresh

Aaron Carruthers

Executive Director

State Council on **Developmental Disabilities**

January 7, 2016 9:45 AM

Jerry Brown proposes \$170 billion budget that bolsters reserves, school spending

Gov. Jerry Brown unveiled a \$170.6 billion state spending plan Thursday that reflects billions of dollars in new revenue, proposing that much of it go to K-12 schools, the developmentally disabled, and the blind, elderly and disabled.

But the fourth-term governor, who took office amid a recession that gutted state finances, highlighted the possibility of another economic downturn to refute calls for permanent spending increases. The budget includes several hundred million dollars in one-time spending and diverts several billion dollars into reserves.

“Everybody thinks when they’re up here, it’s all wonderful. That’s what they thought before the dot-com, and that’s what they thought before the mortgage meltdown,” Brown said, pointing to budget revenue charts. “And so here we are again.”

The spending plan formally opens months of budget negotiations at the Capitol, an annual exercise characterized in recent years by conflict between Brown and the more liberal, Democratic-controlled Legislature about how much money to spend on health and human service programs.

The budget would increase school spending to \$10,591 per student, more than \$3,600 higher than what it was at the tail end of the recession.

In addition, the current budget shifted \$3.7 billion into the rainy-day reserve approved by voters in November 2014. Thursday’s plan would shift \$2 billion more into the reserve, plus an equivalent amount for debt payments. That would increase the fund’s balance to \$8 billion by June 2017.

The budget includes more than \$80 million for the state’s network of regional centers, which arrange services for people with autism and other developmental disabilities.

In addition, the plan would increase payments for the blind, elderly and disabled from \$889 per month for individuals to \$906, and from \$1,496 per month for couples to \$1,527, effective in January 2017.

Brown re-introduced major proposals for which he failed to secure funding last year: A multi-billion plan to fund road repairs and a modified expansion of a tax on health plans to help generate about \$1 billion for Medi-Cal.

An earlier health plan tax proposal from the administration foundered last year amid opposition from health plans and legislative Republicans opposed to tax increases. An existing tax expires June 30.

Brown said his new health plan tax would pull in \$1 billion in federal matching dollars, as well as generating additional money to help pay for in-home care workers and programs for the developmentally disabled. It will require the votes of at least several Republican lawmakers, who are pushing for increases to developmentally disabled funding.

“I know it’s a heavy lift,” Brown said, adding later, “There’s no deal.”

Unlike last year’s health plan tax proposal – which would have hit the industry with several hundred million dollars in increased costs that likely would have been passed on to millions of Californians – the new proposal would net the industry \$90 million, Director of Finance Director Michael Cohen told reporters. The proposal would offset corporate and gross premium taxes paid by the plans, he said.

The transportation proposal is expected to be in line with the mix of taxes, fees and cap-and-trade money that Brown proposed last year to generate about \$3.6 billion annually for roads.

The governor’s proposal comes amid ongoing improvement in the state budget since the last recession, likely leaving Brown and lawmakers with more money to quibble over.

The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst’s Office projected in November that the state will end the current fiscal year, in June, with \$7.9 billion in reserve, \$3.3 billion more than lawmakers expected last year.

Though much of that surplus will go into a voter-approved reserve account, advocates for the poor have already urged the state to raise supplemental income payments to the elderly, blind and disabled. Supporters of developmentally disabled people want more money to restore recession-era cuts to programs affecting them.

In a pre-budget salvo earlier this week, Senate Democrats proposed a \$2 billion bond to build homes for homeless people with mental illnesses and said they will push for \$200 million in general fund revenue over four years to pay for rent subsidies for homeless people.

Since returning to office in 2011, Brown has largely resisted the most expensive social service program expansions legislative Democrats have proposed.

David Siders: 916-321-1215, @davidsiders

Read more here: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article53500915.html#storylink=cpy>



GOVERNOR
Edmund G. Brown Jr.

January 7, 2016

To the members of the Senate and the Assembly of the California Legislature:

Relative to years past, the state budget is in good shape. Education funding is at its highest level ever, fifteen million Californians are covered by Medi-Cal or Covered California, the minimum wage has risen to \$10 an hour, and for the first time, the state will provide almost \$400 million to low-wage working families through an earned income tax credit.

Our Rainy Day Fund is growing and the proposed budget for next year will have a healthy surplus even after spending several billion on long overdue infrastructure investments.

It must never be forgotten, however, that 69.5 percent of our General Fund revenues come from the volatile personal income tax which, as history shows us, drops precipitously in time of recession — an event not too far off given the historic pattern of the ten recessions that have occurred since 1945. During a moderate recession, revenue losses to the General Fund will easily total \$55 billion over three years.

That is the nature of our California economy and our state tax system. It's the reason why the Legislature unanimously placed Proposition 2 on the ballot and why the people approved it by nearly 70 percent.

Given the wide disparities that exist in our state and the millions who struggle in one form or another, understandably there will be proposals to fund a variety of worthwhile programs. But it would be short-sighted in the extreme to now embark upon a host of new spending only to see massive cuts when the next recession hits. In view of the \$27 billion deficit of just five years ago and the much larger one in 2009, it is clear that fiscal restraint must be the order of the day. It also goes without saying that we should be chipping away at the \$72 billion unfunded liability that weighs down our retiree health system.

I look forward to working with you to enact a timely and prudent budget.

With respect,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

ABLE Accounts May Be Available Sooner Than Expected

by Michelle Diamant | January 11, 2016



A machine processes stacks of one dollar bills at the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington. New tax-free savings accounts for people with disabilities will be more broadly available thanks to a change to federal law. (Thinkstock)

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A tweak to federal law is poised to greatly expand choice and speed up availability of accounts allowing people with disabilities to save money without risking their government benefits.

Tucked inside a tax bill approved by lawmakers last month is a provision that will permit individuals with disabilities to open new accounts established under the Achieving a Better Life Experience, or ABLE, Act in any state, regardless of where they reside.

The change means that people with disabilities across the country will be able to open ABLE accounts when the first state programs are up and running which could happen as soon as February or March, advocates say.

With the new accounts, people with disabilities will for the first time be able to accrue up to \$100,000 in savings without losing access to Social Security and other government benefits. Medicaid coverage will remain intact no matter how much money is saved in an individual's ABLE account.

Despite federal [passage](#) of the ABLE Act in 2014, states had to approve their own legislation and develop mechanisms to regulate and administer the new accounts before letting consumers take advantage. So far, 35 states have approved such legislation, advocates say, but some are farther along than others in implementing programs.

“Some of the smaller states don't have the capacity to create an ABLE program so this will allow more people with disabilities to access ABLE accounts and access ABLE accounts faster,” said Sara Hart Weir, president of the National Down Syndrome Society.

Without the recent legislative change, individuals with disabilities would have been limited by the timetable and specific offerings in their state. Now, families will be able to shop around to find the state program that best suits their needs and the availability of many options should promote competition among states to make their programs attractive, according to Chris Rodriguez of the National Disability Institute.

It's likely that each state ABLE program will only work with one or a handful of financial institutions and fees may vary, so enabling families to access

programs across state lines will dramatically increase their options, Rodriguez said.

Some states are already working to encourage residents to utilize in-state accounts by offering tax incentives, he said.

“It’s a pretty exciting development,” Rodriguez said of the federal provision allowing consumers to access accounts originating in any state. “I know it’s shaking things up. Some of the states are looking to quicken their development and others are sitting back and looking at whether they need to build a program.”

Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Nebraska are widely expected to be among the first to make ABLE programs available. Accounts are likely to be created and administered through dedicated state websites, advocates say.

To be eligible for an ABLE account, an individual must have a disability that originated before the age of 26.

Funds in the accounts can be used to pay for education, health care, transportation, housing and other expenses. Interest earned on savings in the accounts will be tax-free.

Supported Employment Services

Supported Employment (SE) services through the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and regional centers can be provided either through the vocational rehabilitation program or the Habilitation Services Program (HSP). SE services are aimed at finding competitive work in a *community integrated work setting* for persons with severe disabilities who need ongoing support services to learn and perform the work. SE placements can be individual placements, or group placements (called enclaves), or work crews, such as landscaping crews. Support is usually provided by a job coach who meets regularly with the individual on the job to help him or her learn the necessary skills and behaviors to work independently. As the individual gains mastery of the job, the support services are gradually phased out.

The DOR is the main vocational rehabilitation program SE service provider for adults with developmental disabilities. However, if the DOR is unable to provide services due to fiscal reasons, the regional center may be able to help individuals served get a job by funding SE under the HSP, or by referring them to other programs that provide SE-like services if these services are available in their area.

If you are interested in applying for SE services you should ask your [regional center](#) representative for help or you can apply directly to the local DR office in your community. The nearest DR office location and telephone number is listed in the State Government section of your telephone directory.



California Department of Developmental Services

1600 9th Street
P. O. Box 944202
Sacramento, CA 94244-2020

Our Mission

At *Progressive Employment Concepts* our mission is to provide opportunities for people with developmental disabilities which promote dignity, respect, and inclusion so that all our lives and communities are enriched.

Our Vision

- We envision communities as welcoming and **supportive**.
- We believe that all people have a right and responsibility to make **choices** affecting their lives. With choice come risks.
- We support people's **right to risk** as there is potential for learning in each choice we make.
 - We believe all people deserve **respectful** individualized support so that they can reach for and attain their goals.
- We do not believe that people need to be "fixed", as they are not broken.
 - We do not believe that people need to "get ready" for life.
 - We believe the right to live a life of **value** and **dignity** is a birth right.
- We believe that great communities welcome the **opportunity** to learn from **diversity** and value the unique, individual gifts that each member brings.
 - We believe that each individual's contribution no matter how large or small is **valuable** and **worthwhile**.
 - We believe that to exclude one is to exclude all.
- We believe that for individuals to be seen and **valued** for themselves we must resist the historical practices of grouping people by arbitrary labels.

InAlliance, Sacramento

Supported Employment Program

Supported Employment Program (SEP) places consumers in paid community employment and offers consultation and support at the level needed by the individual to achieve vocational success. Coaching, consultation and on and off the job support services are available as long as the consumer is employed. Services include:

- Job development based on consumer preference
- Personal and social adjustment coaching
- Job analysis and consultation with employers
- Job Club – job search information and resume development
- Interview preparation
- Job training (1:1 intensive support to start)
- Extended follow along support services
- Mental health services

Learn more about our **Supported Employment Program** contact Program Director Mike Herr at (916) 381-1300 x220 or email: mherr@inallianceinc.com

If you are a business owner or manager and want to learn more about how our **Supported Employment Program** can benefit your bottom line [click here](#).

Participant Profile:



Marcelo is an integral part of the Sam's Club maintenance crew where his duties include sweeping, breaking down boxes, collecting carts and helping customers locate merchandise on the sales floor. According to Marcelo's current ETS David Tibbs, coworkers and supervisors alike say that Marcelo is a star employee and that he plays an important roll in helping the company reduce asset loss.

Recently, Marcelo was put in charge of maintaining the store's café- keeping all surfaces clean and sterile, and restocking condiments and supplies. All of this diligent effort was rewarded when Marcelo received his Employee of the Year nod. In his free time, Marcelo enjoys working out at the gym and spending time with his family. He has also expressed an interest in learning to drive, owning his own car and improving his reading and math skills.

Program Pages

- [Community Training Program](#)
- [Supported Employment Program](#)
- [Supported Living Services](#)
- [Work and Life Skills](#)
- [Independent Living Services](#)
- [Communicate to Work](#)

Vocational Training and Employment/Futures Explored

VTE is an affiliate of Futures Explored serving adults with Developmental Disabilities in Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. VTE provides a wide range of supports designed to promote independence in the community. VTE was created in 1981 and merged with Futures Explored in 2004. Here are some of the programs VTE offers:

CCTP (Community College Transition Project): This program is designed to provide support to people with developmental disabilities attending local community colleges in order for them to be successful in this endeavor. VTE currently provides services at American River, Sacramento City, and Cosumnes River Colleges. VTE provides support in areas such as self advocacy, organization, navigating the financial aid and school systems, social skills, mobility, and health and safety.

The State Department of Child Support Services: This exciting employment opportunity provides job opportunities in an office environment. Utilizing high speed scanners and various computer programs, consumers working at this site transfer paper files into electronic format.

Alta Regional Center: This employment opportunity, added in 2011, focuses on preparing paper files and scanning them into electronic format.

Sodexo/UC Davis: VTE has partnered with Sodexo for over 20 years to provide job opportunities in a food service setting at the UC Davis campus.

Project SEARCH: A joint endeavor between VTE, San Juan School District, and Kaiser Permanente, the SEARCH program is designed to provide internship opportunities in a hospital setting. Consumers in this program rotate through 3 separate unpaid internships in different hospital departments during their 9 months in the program. Focus is placed on developing both the soft skills necessary to maintain employment and marketable job skills which can be transferred into various work locations. Once interns have completed their internship rotations, they enter Job Development and are placed into jobs in the community.

Mobility Training: VTE staff work 1 on 1 with clients to teach them how to safely use public transit to access various locations in their community.

Tailored Day Service: A 1:1 service of up to 6 hours per week. This service can be used for a variety of

training and support including attending Community College and working on Pre-Vocational skills.



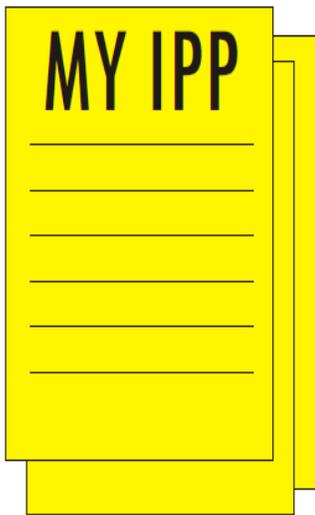
Services VTE Provides:

Job Training

- Job Supervision
- Follow up Services
- Job Assessment
- Support Services
- Retraining
- Advocacy
- Community College Support
- Job Development
- Mobility Training
- Tailored Day Service

THE SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM

The Department of Developmental Services is developing a new program called the Self-Determination Program that will let participants have more control over selecting their services and supports.



HELP MAKE THE CHOICES THAT AFFECT YOUR LIFE

1. Participate in the development of your Individual Program Plan (IPP) through a Person-Centered planning process.
2. Accept greater control and responsibility regarding the services and supports you need to achieve your goals.
3. You will still have a Service Coordinator to assist you. In addition, you may choose to use an Independent Facilitator (IF) to help plan and get services and supports.

YOUR INDIVIDUAL BUDGET

1. You will be given a specific budget to purchase the services and supports that you need to achieve your plan.
2. You must use a Financial Management Service (FMS) vendored by Alta California Regional Center (ACRC) to pay for your services.
3. You will be able to pick which providers or individuals deliver your services. They will require a background check but will not have to be vendored.



**CHANGE
AHEAD** ↑



Steps of the Self-Determination Program

HOW TO GET INFORMATION

- Learn more at www.altaregional.org or www.dds.ca.gov
- Attend an informal session on Self-Determination
- Ask your Service Coordinator to put your name on the “interested list “

HOW TO GET ON THE LIST

1. Attend a mandatory **Self-Determination Information Meeting** organized by Alta California Regional Center (ACRC).
2. After you have participated in the Informational Meeting, if you still think that Self-Determination is a good option for you or your family member, ask your Service Coordinator to put your name on the “**Official List**” of those interested in enrolling in the Self-Determination Program. Being on the list does not guarantee you will be selected as part of the first 2,500 participants statewide.

HOW TO BE SELECTED

1. ACRC will send the “**Official List**” of those interested to DDS.
2. DDS will select the 2,500 enrollees from among those who have attended a **Self-Determination Information Meeting**. The selection takes into consideration regional center, ethnicity, age, gender, disability and diagnosis to ensure those selected represent the statewide regional center population.
3. Those selected will be contacted by ACRC to enroll in Self-Determination Trainings to begin participation in the Program.
4. After the initial three year rollout, all people receiving regional center services will have the choice to participate in the Self-Determination Program.