



San Gabriel / Pomona
Regional Center

**SAN GABRIEL/POMONA VALLEYS
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES, INC.**

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2025**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

PRESENT

Tris Gonzales, Interim
Chairperson
Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige
Teshia Obi
Joseph Huang
Alayna Effinger
Melissa Song

STAFF

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Willanette Steward/Satchell
Erika Gomez, Liaison to the Board of Directors and the
RDDF

ABSENT

Adriana Pinedo
Tina Wright
Daniela Barrera

GUESTS

LaTasha Hammonds

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:
None

CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Trish Gonzales, called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was established.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.
M/S/C (Zarsadiaz-Ige & Effinger) The committee approved the minutes.
Abstain: Song

PUBLIC INPUT

None

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, presented the following:

- A. Voter Voice Campaign* – How You Can Get Engaged in Advocacy – ARCA has introduced Voter Voice, a platform that will allow the community to engage in various campaigns benefiting California’s developmental services system. This includes activities such as phone banking, writing letters, connecting with representatives, attending rallies, or simply remaining informed about legislative and budgetary issues. To register: votervoice.net/ARCA/Register
- B. Public Records Act Request* – Regional centers will become subject to Public Records Act Requests effective January 1, 2026. The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) has allocated funding to help support these functions for regional centers. As such, SG/PRC will release a position that will be responsible for overseeing, coordinating, analyzing, processing, evaluating, and responding to public records requests for the center, Public Records and Policy Compliance Manager.
- C. House Resolution 1:* – It has been about a month since HR 1 was signed into law, and individuals and their families are starting to recognize the direct impact of these changes on their lives. Many individuals with I/DD depend on Medicaid-funded services and resources, such as health insurance, nutritious food, and Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).
- D. American with Disability Act (ADA) – 35th Anniversary* - On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law to ensure the civil rights of people with disabilities. Throughout July, Californians have been celebrating this landmark legislation in a variety of ways. In Sacramento, on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and Disability Rights California (DRC) co-sponsored a celebration to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

E. Office of Administrative Hearings Advisory Committee – Department of General Services' Office of Administrative Hearings Advisory Committee (OAHAC) will have a public meeting to provide recommendations to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) regarding mediation and hearing operations as part of the Lanterman Act service and eligibility appeal process. Mr. Weller is serving on a three-year appointment that will expire in May 2026 and also serves on the sub-committee that is focused on Regional Centers Role within the Appeals Process and System Improvements.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH-UPDATE

Mr. Weller, on behalf of Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and Equity, reported that the Community Outreach Specialists are engaging with universities and colleges to educate students about the regional center system. He noted that during a recent panel with first responders, it was highlighted that graduates often lack sufficient knowledge about the developmental disability community.

He also shared that there are currently 544 employees, with 8 growth positions open.

Lastly, there are 300 people in the Self Determination Program.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting will be on September 10, 2025.