



San Gabriel / Pomona
Regional Center

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 2025**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

PRESENT

Tris Gonzales,
Chairperson
Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige
Joseph Huang
Alayna Effinger
Melissa Song
Adriana Pinedo
Daniela Barrera

STAFF

Jesse Weller, Executive Director
Willanette Steward/Satchell
Salvador Gonzales, Director of Service Access and
Equity
Erika Gomez, Liaison to the Board of Directors and
the RDDF

ABSENT

Teshia Obi
Tina Wright

GUESTS

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:
None

CALL TO ORDER

Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige, on behalf of Trish Gonzales, called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. A quorum was established.

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes of the September 10, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.
M/S/C (Huang & Effinger) The committee approved the minutes.
Abstain: Gonzales

PUBLIC INPUT

None

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, presented the following:

- A. *National Disability Employment Awareness Month* - The month of October commemorates and acknowledges the significant contributions of individuals with disabilities make to the workforce and economy in the country. The theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) 2025 is “Celebrating Value and Talent.”
- B. *Government Shutdown Status Update* – October 8, 2025 marked day 8 of the federal government shutdown. As of that afternoon, the Senate failed for the sixth time to advance funding bills to end the stalemate. Federal funding, which supports many programs for individuals and families, lapsed on October 1, 2025. However, state funding for the Department’s programs has already been approved through June 30, 2026.
- C. *California Issues Statement on Credible Medical Information Regarding Acetaminophen and Pregnancy* – “*Americans deserve clear medical guidance that is the result of a rigorous scientific process. We urge everyone to seek out credible medical guidance to inform their health care choices and to have conversations with their licensed health care providers.*”
- D. *SG/PRC supports SB 258 (Wahab)*– Current law permits sexual assault against a spouse when that spouse is unable to consent due to a disability. SB 258 aims to eliminate this discriminatory law and clarifies that there shall be no assumption that people with disabilities cannot consent.
- E. *SG/PRC supports AB 1172 (Nguyen)* – This bill allows emergency antiseizure medication to be administered in day programs and licensed homes, expanding service options, ensuring faster treatment, and preventing serious health risks.
- F. *SG/PRC supports AB 341 (Arambula)* – Many people with developmental disabilities face extreme fear or anxiety about dental care, leading to delayed

treatment or risky sedation. This bill will reduce barriers and improve access to essential care.

G. November 4, 2025, Special Election - California's Proposition 50 will appear on the ballot for the statewide special election on November 4, 2025. This measure is a legislatively referred constitutional amendment concerning congressional district maps. It was introduced in response to congressional redistricting, which California is responding.

H. 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 has hired a Public Records Act Manager, Maria Nuñez, who started on September 15, 2025. She will provide training to staff and to the Board of Directors.

I. City of Walnut – All Inclusive Park - Yvonne Gratianne, Communications and Public Engagement Officer, was invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony held on September 24, 2025. The city unveiled a newly reconfigured playground, a \$250,000 project designed to be fully inclusive for children of all abilities.

J. RDDF Annual Golf Scramble – The event was sold out. Members of the Board participated and everyone provided great feedback.

K. The Great ShakeOut – October 16, 2025 - This annual event encourages community organizations and individuals to assess their earthquake preparedness and safety measures.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH-UPDATE

Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and Equity, shared that his team participated in a Korean Symposium and the Self Determination Conference. They also met with equity partners.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige shared that Holly Robinson-Peete & Rodney Peete recognized the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD) for the Sirens of Silence program for its work with neurodivergent individuals and for

spreading kindness.

The LACoFD's Sirens of Silence program was developed by Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige and continues to grow.

- Trish Gonzales shared that she attended the Artisan Fair and was happy to see Alayna Effinger there supporting fellow committee member, Tina Wright.
- Ms. Gonzales also congratulated Mr. Weller on his 3 year anniversary with SG/PRC.

ADJOURNMENT:

The next not be a meeting in November.