



San Gabriel / Pomona  
Regional Center

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

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS/ LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2026**

The following committee members were present at said meeting:

**PRESENT**

Tris Gonzales,  
Chairperson  
Karen Zarsadiaz-Ige  
Joseph Huang  
Adriana Pinedo  
Teshia Obi  
Tina Wright  
Daniela Barrera  
Alayna Effinger  
Jenny Liu

**STAFF**

Jesse Weller, Executive Director  
Yvonne Gratianne, Communications  
& Public Engagement Officer  
Salvador Gonzales, Director of Service Access and  
Equity  
Erika Gomez, Liaison to the Board of Directors and  
the RDDF

**ABSENT**

Melissa Song

**GUESTS**

Ann

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS**

**The Community Relations/Legislative Committee recommends the following:**

None

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**CALL TO ORDER**

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

The agenda was reviewed.

The minutes of the January 14, 2026, meeting were reviewed and approved with one note: Jenny Liu's name is to be included as present.

*M/S/C (Pinedo & Wright) The committee approved the minutes with the correction.*

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES & OTHER INFORMATION**

Jesse Weller, Executive Director, presented on the following:

- Legislative Engagement Roster for Community/Relations and Legislative Advisory Committee Members & 2026 priorities – Mr. Weller and Trish Gonzales, Board President reported on a recent meeting with Erika Gomez, Liaison to the Board of Directors, to discuss how to better maximize the Community Relations/ Legislative Advisory Committee's impact. The group explored ways to strengthen partnership with the Regional Center and increase the committee's presence and involvement in the community.

It was suggested that Miss Gratianne and her team share information about upcoming events so committee members can participate and stay engaged. The goal is to be more visible, proactive, and connected in community efforts.

Mr. Weller shared a legislator roster organized by committee members' home addresses to support targeted outreach and engagement aligned with 2026 priorities. Members discussed additional information they would like on the roster as well as next steps for implementation and expressed enthusiasm about moving forward.

Additionally, the committee agreed to add an "Open Forum" item to future agendas to allow members to raise concerns, share community updates, and bring forward items of interest.

- Association of Regional Center Agencies' (ARCA) Governor's Budget Position Letter - The committee reviewed a January 30, 2026 letter from the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) to Caroline Menjivar and Corey A. Jackson regarding the Governor's proposed 2026–27 budget for DDS. In it, ARCA acknowledged fiscal uncertainty but expressed appreciation that the proposed budget recognizes continued growth in the population served and includes funding to support the IDD community. The letter emphasized maximizing federal funding, investing in IT system modernization, strengthening DDS staffing in key areas, and ensuring regional centers have adequate staffing to implement initiatives locally. ARCA reaffirmed its commitment to collaboration throughout the budget process.

- Keeping California's Promise – Conversations with Candidates for Governor of California and the Disability Community - Hosted by the Lanterman Coalition, this statewide forum series asks every candidate the same questions about how they will protect and strengthen the promise of the Lanterman Act, a landmark civil rights law that guarantees services and supports for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In the face of federal changes and growing uncertainty, candidates will be asked how they plan to preserve California's commitment to disability rights, essential services, dignity, and inclusion.
- Parents Helping Parents Webinars – Mr. Weller shared the calendar for the 2026 Spring Events where the webinars will focus on exploring the transition to adulthood.
- 2026/27 Trailer Bill Language Updates – Summary
  - Rate Reform/Quality Incentive Program Contract Exemption
  - Early Intervention Programs Oversight
  - Life Outcomes Improvement System
  - Remote Services
  - Regional Center Oversight /Fiscal Allocation Letter
  - Federal Access Rule
  - Employment Access Alignment
  - Self-Determination Program Administrative Costs Funding
- Lanterman Act Updates - Recent updates to the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act reflect a shift in language, increasingly replacing the term "consumer" with "individual" or "person with a developmental disability".

**STATEWIDE/LOCAL UPDATES BY YVONNE GRATIANNE,**  
**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OFFICER**

Yvonne Gratianne, Communications & Public Engagement Officer, presented on the following:

- 2026 Grassroots Day – Sacramento (March 2–3): SG/PRC will send a full delegation, including Board members Phillip Loi, Trish Gonzales, and Adriana Pineda, along with a parent representative, two Public Information Specialists, Jesse Weller, and service provider Tammy Evrard.
- Emergency Preparedness Newsletter – *The Safety Signal* (1st Edition): The Communications & Publications Team launched the first edition of *The Safety Signal*, an emergency preparedness newsletter for individuals served, service providers, and community partners. Feedback and topic suggestions are welcomed. The second edition is planned for May or June.

- Dental Health Fair: Scheduled for February 21, 2026.
- DSP Collaborative Job Fair: To be held March 5. KTLA has been promoting the event.
- The Advocacy Connection – March 26, 2026: The previous session had a strong turnout, with a focus on emergency preparedness.
- Caregiving Workshop Series #3 - Series of Workshops for Caregivers of Older Adults that start on April 2, 2026, in Spanish.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH-UPDATE**

Salvador Gonzalez, Director of Service Access and Equity, shared that the Community Outreach Specialists will participate in the upcoming activities, including:

- Attending the Southeast Asia Support Group.
- Hosting the first Community Information Forum on February 19, 2026 via Zoom.
- Presenting their third POS session on March 12, 2026 focused on the African American community.
- Conducting a New Family Orientation on March 21, 2026.
- Attending a Lunar New Year event at First Avenue in the City of Arcadia.

### **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2026.