

**Board of Directors' – Client Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 20, 2025**  
**6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Committee Members Present:** Robert Taylor (Chair-LK), Dave Matson (UK)

**Committee Members Absent:** Debra Zeno (EK), Will Lewis (EK)

**RCRC Members Present:** Sedona B (Executive Assistant), Heather Odle (Executive Director)

**Members of the Public Present:** Charlene Gonzalez (Client Advocate and Representative for People First – Lake County), Dolores Delgado (Spanish Interpreter), Crisalyn Miranda (Clients' Rights Advocate), Diana Perez, Juanita

**AGENDA**

1. **Open the Meeting:** CAC Chair, Robert Taylor opened the meeting at 6:03pm
2. **Introduction:** Robert called on attendees to introduce themselves and share their interests.
3. **Announcements:**
  - a. Charlene is working on the People First of Lake County handbook. They are discussing the new conference dates as well.
  - b. Robert shared that at the February meeting he and Dave will share an update on the Redwood Summer Games that are held in Redcrest in Humboldt County in August.
  - c. Heather shared that Dr. Smalley is retiring from RCRC. Her last day is September 5<sup>th</sup>. The regional center is excited for her to enjoy her retirement, but we will miss her leadership and her fierce advocacy working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Dr. Smalley is a board-certified Behavior Analyst and came to us from Hawaii, originally from the east coast. Talking with Dr. Smalley, she prioritizes the client's needs. We will miss her person-centered dedication to the mission and dedication to helping people living their best lives. Jonathan Padilla will be taking over as Interim Executive Director. We are all confident that he will do very well in leading RCRC with his history with both Community Services and Client Services.
4. **OCRA Presentation - Plain Language Medicaid Guide (Crisalyn Miranda):** Crisalyn shared that SCDD is continuing to put out updated presentations regarding Medicaid changes. She then presented a PowerPoint called "Medicaid: Changes you should know".
  - a. What does Medicaid do?
    - i. Medicaid is the US government's public health insurance program.
    - ii. California and the US government share the cost of running Medicaid.
    - iii. In California, our Medicaid program is called Medi-Cal.
  - b. Medicaid-funded programs
    - i. There are a lot of programs that use Medicaid money (WIC, Headstart, Early Start, foster care, CA Children's Services, public school meals, after-school programs, speech therapy, Adult Protective Services, nursing facilities, etc)
    - ii. Programs for people with developmental disabilities that use Medicaid money include:

1. Regional Center Services

2. Self-Determination Program Service
  3. In Home Support Services (IHSS)
  4. Durable medical equipment (wheelchairs, CPAP machines, etc)
- c. What happened?
- i. The HR1 bill, also known as the Big Beautiful Bill, became law on July 4, 2025.
  - ii. HR1 reduces the amount of money states get for Medicaid (billions of dollars).
- d. How does this affect me?
- i. California will get less money for programs that help the community.
  - ii. California will need to make changes and/or find other ways to pay for helpful programs.
  - iii. California might need to change the budget, change who gets services and/or give out less services.
- e. When do the changes happen?
- i. It may take a year or more to know specific changes.
  - ii. States need to make a plan for the Medicaid work requirements by January 2026.
  - iii. The work requirement plans should be in place by December 31, 2026.
- f. What can I do now?
- i. Build Self-Advocacy Skills
    1. Speak up about problems!
    2. Make a list of resources to help you when you need it.
  - ii. Build your support circle.
    1. Talk to your Service Coordinator about services you need.
    2. Get connected with your community.
  - iii. Talk to decision makers.
    1. Talk to your US House of Representatives about programs that are important to you.
- g. Resource Agencies
- i. State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
 

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 505 S. State Street  
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 Website: <https://scdd.ca.gov/>

    1. They are holding many training sessions, webinars and updates on Medicaid changes and what happens. The next meetings scheduled are Aug 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am and Aug 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.
  - ii. Disability Voices United (DVU)
 

8939 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Ste 110-196  
 Los Angeles, CA 90045  
 Phone: (530) 564-6388  
 Email: [info@dvunited.org](mailto:info@dvunited.org)  
 Website: <https://disabilityvoicesunited.org/>
  - iii. Office of Clients Rights Advocacy (OCRA)
 

427 F Street Ste 232  
 Eureka, CA 95501  
 Phone: (707) 268-1388  
 Email: [OCRA.RCRC@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:OCRA.RCRC@disabilityrightsca.org)

5. **Review 2025 CAC Goals (Standing Item):**

- a. **Transportation: Client Driver Training** – Robert would like to talk about Redwood Taxi in 2026. In this meeting, Robert shared his experience with client driver training. He feels that drivers who take clients to places need to get specialized training with the DMV before they can transport clients. Those clients who need wheelchairs or other accommodation should be transported in a van. Charlene added that drivers should have background checks.

Robert shared Redwood Taxi’s website is <http://www.redwoodtransportation.net> or you can call and ask for Taelor Gutierrez, Client Support Manager at (707) 223-2227 and (866) 948-8100 ext 103, or email her at [taelor@rtca.net](mailto:taelor@rtca.net) for more information.

- b. **Differences Between Supported Living Services (SLS) and Independent Living Services (ILS)**
  - Robert invited an open discussion on the pros and cons of supported living.
  - i. Charlene is no longer on SLS and is now on ILS. She likes ILS better because she can make her own choices and doesn’t need to get permission to do things. A lot of her previous housemates were receiving 24-hour care.
  - ii. Robert has both ILS and SLS and likes having both types of support.
  - iii. Dave has SLS and he likes going on trips with his various groups. He also has a worker and staff at home, and he likes having staff in the home with him.

6. **Develop Agenda for the Next Meeting:**

- a. Open the Meeting (1 min.)
- b. Introductions (4 min.)
- c. Announcements (5 min.)
- d. Review 2025 CAC Goal:
  - i. Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) (10 min.)
  - ii. Employment and Training for Clients (10 min.)
- e. Develop 2026 CAC Goals (20 min.)
- f. Determine 2026 Meeting Dates (5 min.)
- g. Develop Agenda for the Next Meeting (5 min.)
- h. Close the Meeting

- 7. **Close the Meeting:** Robert thanked everyone for attending and ended the meeting at 7:04pm

**Next meeting is Wednesday, October 15, 2025.**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sedona Bowser, Executive Assistant