



Sacramento County Developmental Disabilities Planning and Advisory Council

Draft Minutes: Zoom Meeting Held August 21, 2024

Members Present:

Sharon Martin
Steve Andrews
Maureen Fitzgerald
Bonnie Douglas
Loretta Duncan-Fowler
Patty Pacheco

Members Absent:

Dr. Sue Gilmore

Guests:

Taylor Kayatta; Board Member of the Sacramento City School District
Peter Mendoza; State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Lisa Hooks; State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Elise Guerrero; Attorney and Child Advocate
John Decker; Alta California Regional Center
Amy Nishimura; Parent

The Zoom DD Council Meeting was called to order at 9:03am by Steven Andrews. There was a quorum present and the Minutes from the June, 2024 Developmental Disabilities Council Meeting was briefly discussed during this Meeting and the Minutes were approved.

All of the DD Council Members and the Guests did get an opportunity to introduce themselves to each other. Taylor explained his Professional Experience as an Attorney and also as a Certified Public Accountant to everyone. He then described his role as a Board Member of the Sacramento City School District. Taylor described some of the issues that the Grand Jury found within the Sacramento City School District and explained that the Staff and the Board of the School District is trying to correct the Special Educational problems.



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Here is the Link that illustrates the Grand Jury's Report regarding the Sacramento City's Special Educational Services:

<https://sacgrandjury.org/docs/reports/23-24/gj-2023-2024-grand-jury-final-report-062824.pdf> pages 4-15

Taylor provided a detailed description of the tremendous problems that He and his Wife had trying to get their 1 and a half year old son services. Their Son was developmentally delayed and did not talk or make any vocal noises like other children his age. After taking their Son to several Physicians and also to the Sacramento City School District, no one referred them to the Early Intervention Program within the Alta California Regional Center Organization.

Taylor said he discovered that many other Parents were struggling to obtain services for their children. He found the focus was on the minimum level for a child until the Parent understood their rights. He began to see that the Sacramento City School District had many Special Education long term plans over the past decades that had not gone anywhere. Taylor felt that someone needed to be a voice for Students and Staff with disabilities. Too often, he said Special Education is seen as a place to send kids rather than a service offered. In running for the School Board, he wanted to change that dynamic.

All of the Council Members along with Lisa Hooks expressed their concerns and Lisa spoke about the connection between the numbers of black men incarcerated who were not given assessments and evaluations for their behaviors and learning disabilities. Lisa did strongly verbalize that it is a Mandated Law within the Lanterman Act that all children between the ages of 0-36 months must be provided with the Early Intervention Program within each of the 21 Regional Centers here in California. Loretta Duncan- Fowler discussed the problems that she had over forty years ago trying to get her Son; Raymond special education services within the Sacramento city School District. Elise Guerrero also explained she also has had some professional problems at a Greenhaven Elementary



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School within the Sacramento City School getting Special Educational Services for Children. Amy Nishimura; a Parent explained that when she tried to get Special Educational Services for her 60 year old Daughter years ago within the Sacramento City School District it was Heart Breaking. She also discussed that even today it is still challenging to get services for a Developmental Disabled Adult.

John Decker offered to connect Taylor with Alta Regional's Director of Services; Jennifer Bloom. John thought there might be an opportunity for improving the connection between Alta Regional and the Sacramento City School Board.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am. There will be a DD Council Meeting on September 18, 2024. However, a Guest Speaker for this Meeting has not been established just yet.

Here is the Video and Audio for this DD Council Meeting:

Date: Aug 21, 2024 8:18 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

[Watch the Recording](#)

Passcode: Q@hG%9Xu



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