

To: Board of Directors

Date: July 1, 2026

Committee Schedule and Agenda for the WRC Board of Directors Board Meeting, **Wednesday, July 8, 2026.**

Attached is the agenda for the **July 8, 2026, WRC Board of Directors Board Meeting which will be held virtually on Zoom Webinar.**

All Board of Directors will receive a link inviting you to be a panelist at the July 8, 2026 meeting. On the day of the Board meeting, **please click on your link to ensure you join the meeting as a panelist (speaker). This link is unique to you and should not be shared with anyone else.**

All members of the public who wish to attend the meeting should follow these instructions to register:

1. Sign up for a [free Zoom account](#) if they have not already done so
2. [Click on this link to register](#) to attend the meeting
 - Attendees will be asked for their name and email address
 - This is so we can take attendance instead of using a sign-in sheet
 - Attendees will receive an email with a link to join the meeting
 - **Webinar ID: 882 2305 6853 # • Password: 473989 #**
3. On the day and time of the meeting, attendees should click the link to join and enter the password. Spanish interpretation will be available upon entering the meeting

The public session Call-to-Order is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Much of the work of the Board is done in the WRC various committees, including Finance, Policy, Client Services, and others. Your participation is needed and welcomed.

The following Committees are scheduled to meet:

Committee Name	Date & Time	Location
Board Development Committee	July 20, 4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Client Services Committee	July 7, 5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Consumer Advisory Committee	July 22, 5:00 p.m.	Burger King 10812 Jefferson Blvd, Culver City
Finance Committee	July 8, 5:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Policy Committee	July 16, 4:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Self Determination	July 14, 6:00 p.m.	ZOOM Video Conference
Service Provider Advisory Committee	July 21, 10:30 a.m.	WRC

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

Via Zoom

6:00 p.m. – Closed Session • 6:30 p.m. – Public Session

A G E N D A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed Session 4663 (a) (1) (2) (3) (4) (5) (b) <i>'Real estate', 'appointment, employment, evaluation, of performance or dismissal of a Regional Center employee'. 'Pending litigation'. Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 4660.</i> 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Session Call to Order 	Almarietha Mathews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome 	Almarietha Mathews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission Statement 	Almarietha Mathews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of Conduct 	Terry Magady
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call of Board Members – Quorum 	Almarietha Mathews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President's Report 	Almarietha Mathews
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Director's Report 	Jane Borochoff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment on Agenda Items 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPROVAL OF Minutes of June 10, 2026 Board Meeting 	Todd Rubien – ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee Reports 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Development 	Jennifer E. Cohen
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APPROVAL OF Standardized Social Recreation, Camping and Non-Medical Therapies Service Standard 	Dr. Wakelin McNeel - ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance 	Kyle Jones
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy 	Terry Magady
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Provider Advisory (SPAC) 	Justin Levi
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer Advisory (CAC) 	Esther Kelsey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment 	Almarietha Mathews - ACTION

Pursuant to California Welfare and Institutions Code 4660 (c), time shall be allowed for public input on all properly noticed agenda items prior to board action on that item.

The Next Board Meeting is on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

It is WRC's mission to support people with developmental disabilities, their families, and communities of choice by facilitating access to person-centered, culturally responsive services and resources.

La misión de WRC es apoyar a las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo, a sus familias y a las comunidades de su elección facilitando el acceso a servicios y recursos culturalmente sensibles y enfocados en la persona.



Business etiquette is essential to a well-run, successful meeting. Everyone who attends all WRC Board-related meetings agrees to:

- Understand and promote collaboration by allowing for a productive, safe and welcoming environment;
- Treat everyone with respect and consideration;
- Allow for open and inclusive discussions that do not demean, discriminate or harass others;
- Refrain from using discriminatory or demeaning language or language that could be considered bullying, threatening or intimidating;
- Critique ideas and suggestions but not individuals;
- Respect the responsibility and authority of the Board Chair in preserving order and decorum; and
- Avoid disrupting others when speaking and waiting for the Board Chair to determine the next speaker(s).

If, after being warned, anyone's actions violate this Meetings Code of Conduct, they may be asked to leave the meeting by the Board Chair.

Board Meetings Code of Conduct was Adopted on June 3rd, 2020.
Amended by the Board of Directors June 8, 2022.

La etiqueta en los negocios es esencial para el éxito de una reunión. Todas las personas que asistan a las reuniones del consejo del WRC se comprometen a:

- Comprender y fomentar la colaboración permitiendo un entorno productivo, seguro y acogedor;
- Tratar a todos con respeto y consideración;
- Permitir debates abiertos e inclusivos que no degraden, discriminen o acosen a los demás;
- Abstenerse de utilizar lenguaje discriminatorio o degradante o que pueda considerarse acoso, amenaza o intimidación;
- Criticar ideas y sugerencias, pero no a individuos;
- Respetar la responsabilidad y la autoridad del presidente de la Junta para mantener el orden y el decoro; y
- Evitar interrumpir a los demás al hacer uso de la palabra y esperar a que el presidente de la Junta determine el/los siguiente(s) orador(es).

Si, tras haber sido advertido, alguien infringe este Código de Conducta en las Reuniones, el presidente de la Junta podrá pedirle que abandone la reunión.

El Código de Conducta para las Reuniones del Consejo fue adoptado el 3 de junio de 2020.
Modificado por el Consejo de Administración el 8 de junio de 2022.

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Coastal Development Services Foundation

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 | 6:30 P.M.

Via Zoom



MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Meshell Baylor
Nilo Choudry
Jennifer E. Cohen
Justin Levi
Terry Magady
Almarietha Mathews
Dr. Wakelin McNeel
Todd Rubien
Carmen Tripp
Todd Withers

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Jones

STAFF PRESENT: Jane Borochoff, Peggy Bottger, Linda Butler, Candace Hein, Allyson Hemar, Pablo Ibañez, Michael McAllister, Dr. Ricardo Pacheco, Andy Ponce, Sarah Reynoso.

GUESTS: Jose Luis Donayre (Interpreter), Antonietta Schulz (Interpreter), Willie Ramirez (DDS), Alba Alvarado, Dmarcus Baptist, Sydnee Campbell, Lulu Cheong, Kenneth Emelobe, Roxie Fernandez, Makiesha Franklin, Francis Gomez, Nadiia Grant, Honora Harrison, Geobanna Jimenez Villarreal, Esther Kelsey, Sang Lee, David Lester, Vicki Lyttle, Laura Moses, Edward Parker, Michelle Playford, Janine Rambo, Julie Rodriguez, Kathy Samuel, Robert Schwartz, Annetta Sparks, Azucena Tejada, Ephrem Tilahun, Yeray Taina Vasquez, Lena Washington, David Wyles.

CALL TO ORDER (ACTION*)

Meeting was called to order by Board President, Almarietha Mathews, at 6:38 p.m. The Mission Statement was read by Almarietha Mathews and Meeting Code of Conduct was read by Terry Magady.

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

It was established that the members present represented a quorum necessary pursuant to Section 7.03 (6) of the bylaws of Westside Regional Center which states:

(h) Quorum. A majority of the Directors serving on the Board at the time of the meeting of the Board shall constitute quorum at any meeting of the Board

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President, Almarietha Mathews, welcomed everyone to the annual meeting and final board meeting of the fiscal year. She thanked board members, the WRC management team, and staff for their dedication.

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She announced that September would be a "dark month" with no board meeting. Regular board meetings will resume in October.

Almarietha recognized June observances such as LGBTQ Pride Month, Father's Day, and Juneteenth — reflecting the organization's core values of equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Jane Borochoff expressed her gratitude for the board's service and reflected on major accomplishments.

WRC successfully relocated to its new facility after 38 years in Culver City. The new space is still being finalized. It recently hosted its first hybrid meeting with over 100 participants. An application for new building signage is currently in the permitting process.

A COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) for staff, approved by the board and effective January, has positively supported the workforce.

Jane introduced Sarah Reynoso as the new Human Resources Manager. Sarah will prioritize hiring for open positions in service coordination, IT, HR, and intake.

WRC is working on multiple outstanding finance audits and addressing board composition compliance. Efforts are also underway to correct caseload ratios and improve website transparency.

Over 822 individuals (more than 5% of WRC's total clients) are now enrolled in the Self-Determination Program (SDP). WRC is among the per-capita leaders in the state.

Maria Fukuda has completed Person-Centered Thinking (PCT) training and was announced as an official trainer.

Jane noted that the state budget and trailer bills are not yet finalized, and the Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) continues to advocate for better language and funding.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA (3 minutes)

Lulu Cheong (parent/client) requested sample-size transparency for the POS survey and suggested an open-ended feedback question. She also recommended a deeper partnership with the Family Resource Center for transition-age employment support.

Edward Parker asked whether the presentation slides would be available; staff confirmed they are in the board packet and are also posted on the WRC website.

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PRESENTATION OF 2026-2027 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT

Dr. Ricardo Pacheco, Associate Director of Community Services, presented the annual performance contract as required by the Lanterman Act (Welfare & Institutions Code §4629(c)). Public input was gathered via a community meeting on May 7 and a survey open through May 14.

APPROVAL OF WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER 2026-2027 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT (ACTION)

Jennifer E. Cohen (Motion) and Meshell Baylor (Second) to approve WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER 2026-2027 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT. There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER 2026-2027 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT.

APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2026 (ACTION)

Jennifer E. Cohen (Motion) and Justin Levi (Second) to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2026. There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board Development

Committee Chair, Jennifer E. Cohen, reported that board members have mandatory training on September 16 that will be facilitated by David Lester. There was additional conversation regarding board composition and recruitment efforts.

A recruitment flyer was developed by the committee and posted to websites and social media channels to encourage applicants. The committee also interviewed two candidates.

Votes were needed to renew member terms and to approve the new slate of officers for FY2026-27.

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APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2 YEAR TERM (2026-2028) MESHELL BAYLOR, JENNIFER E. COHEN, AND KYLE JONES

Justin Levi (Motion) and Terry Magady (Second) to approve the renewal of terms for Michelle Baylor, Jennifer E. Cohen, and Kyle Jones for an additional two-year term (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2028). There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2 YEAR TERM (2026-2028) MESHELL BAYLOR, JENNIFER E. COHEN, AND KYLE JONES

The members then voted on the FY2026-27 slate of officers, who are: Almarietha Mathews (President), Terry Magady (Vice President), Nilo Choudry (Treasurer), and Todd Rubien (Secretary).

APPROVAL OF BOARD OFFICERS FY2026/27

Justin Levi (Motion) and Dr. Wakelin McNeil (Second) to approve the 2026-2027 officer slate: Almarietha Mathews (President), Terry Magady (Vice President), Nilo Choudry (Treasurer), and Todd Rubien (Secretary). There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF BOARD OFFICERS FY2026/27

Almarietha then shared the committees and their members:

- Executive Committee: Almarietha Mathews, Terry Magady, Nilo Choudry, Todd Rubien
- Board Development: Jennifer E. Cohen, Meshell Baylor, Justin Levi, Almarietha Mathews
- Finance: Kyle Jones, Nilo Choudry, Meshell Baylor, Todd Withers, Almarietha Mathews
- Client Services: Dr. Wakelin McNeil, Carmen Tripp, Todd Rubien
- Policy: Terry Magady, Nilo Choudry, Jennifer E. Cohen, Almarietha Mathews
- SPAC: Justin Levi
- PAC: Nilo Choudry, Todd Rubien

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Client Services

Committee Chair, Wakelin McNeel, reported that the committee met on June 2 and reviewed Adaptive Skills Training service standard procedures and the service standard review schedule. The next Client Services meeting will be via Zoom on July 7. Wakelin then asked the committee to vote on two items.

APPROVAL OF THE ADAPTIVE SKILLS TRAINING STANDARD

Almarietha Mathews (Motion) and Todd Rubien (Second) to approve the Adaptive Skills Training Standard. There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF THE ADAPTIVE SKILLS TRAINING STANDARD

APPROVAL OF SERVICE STANDARD PROCEDURES

Almarietha Mathews (Motion) and Terry Magady (Second) to approve the Service Standard Procedures. There was no discussion.

10 AYES
0 NO
0 ABSTENTION

The motion passed.

RESOLUTION: APPROVAL OF SERVICE STANDARD PROCEDURES

Finance

The Finance Committee meeting was postponed to the week of June 15. An update will be provided at the July board meeting.

Policy

Committee Chair, Terry Magady, reported that the committee met on May 14 to identify the policy to review at the next meeting. The Zero Tolerance Policy for Abuse and Neglect will be reviewed at the next meeting on July 16.

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Service Provider Advisory (SPAC)

Committee Chair, Justin Levi, reported that SPAC met on May 19 and shared that the committee discussed remote services and SIR training and is considering eight new potential members that will be interviewed by the Board Development Committee.

Consumer Advisory (CAC)

Linda Butler reported on behalf of Committee Chair, Esther Kelsey. CAC attended the Transition Fair at Proud Bird with a table on self-advocacy. Wesley Witherspoon presented on the candidates for Governor and Mayor of Los Angeles. Esther Kelsey presented on Cinco de Mayo at the SLARC/AAC meeting. CAC members participated in the Westside Special Olympics in Long Beach. Linda also reported that the monthly drumming circle continues in its 10th year and groups are growing and actively recruiting new members.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes)

David Wyles (Self-Determination Committee): requested that SDP be added to the regular board meeting agenda and shared a personal account of his son's experience with SDP. He also raised concerns about potential federal Medicaid cuts impacting regional centers.

Francis Gomez (Guest): expressed appreciation for the new facility and requested larger meeting rooms to accommodate growing community groups. Jane Borochoff confirmed larger rooms on the 3rd floor are finishing construction and will be available soon.

Linda Butler (Staff): announced CAC groups are growing and actively recruiting and asked about the date for the upcoming Self-Determination Fair. David Wyles confirmed the date is still to be determined.

Lulu Cheong (Guest): inquired about the number of current vacancies and expected hiring timelines. Jane Borochoff explained vacancies fall into three categories — attrition replacements, restructured roles, and growth positions — with more information to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned by Almarietha Mathews, Board President, at 8:04 p.m.

Todd Rubien

Board Secretary

Join the Westside Regional Center Board of Directors

Your Voice Matters

Who Should Apply

- Individuals served
- Family members of individuals served
- Professionals in the community

Eligibility

- Applicants must reside within our service area

Board Responsibilities

- Provide oversight and strategic guidance
- Support program development and community impact



Board Members

- Advocate for individuals with *developmental disabilities*
- Help shape policies and programs
- Collaborate to *create meaningful change*



Apply at: tinyurl.com/wrc-bod

Jane Borochoff | (310) 258-4200

Help shape a more inclusive future for our community

Save the Date!

**Westside Regional Center
Grand Opening**

August 30, 2026

*Featuring Special
Guest Star*

Sofia Sanchez

of The Hunger

*Games: The Ballad of
Songbirds & Snakes*



**WESTSIDE
REGIONAL
CENTER**

The logo for Westside Regional Center, featuring a stylized sun or wave symbol to the right of the text.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE (POS) POLICY

Social Recreation, Camping and Non-Medical Therapies

Social recreation, camping, and non-medical therapies are services and supports aimed at promoting social interaction and inclusion, shared interests, relationship building, social networks, and/or community ties. These services are available to individuals and may include, but are not limited to, art, dance, music, camping, or other community integrated activities ([Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4688.22](#)).

All individuals who are eligible to receive regional center services may request services and supports through the Individual Program Plan (IPP) process. The IPP process will determine on an individual basis the appropriate service(s). Agreed-upon services must be documented in the IPP and pertain to an identified goal. Services must be integrated, age-appropriate, and inclusive of people of all abilities and backgrounds, or contribute to participation in these activities in the future.

The regional center will refer individuals and families to cost-effective, existing community-based resources. When funding services directly, the IPP team may consider individualized services or one-on-one services, including private lessons and supports the individual may need to access them. While individualized services or private lessons may not directly provide socialization, participation should support the acquisition of skills that promote community inclusion and future socialization opportunities. Funding for transportation to access these services will be determined by need during the IPP process.

Delivery of social recreation, camping, and non-medical therapies may be through participant-directed services. The regional center may use a financial management service (FMS) when authorizing social recreation, camping and non-medical therapies if the provider is not vendored by a regional center and the identified service primarily is delivered to the general population.

Funding of these services will not be restricted to services that are specialized and/or intended to mitigate a developmental disability or required to meet both a recreation and social need. The regional center will not require: (1) an exchange of respite or any other authorized regional center service or support, (2) In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) to be exhausted, or (3) the individual or family to pay a copayment. Services will be agreed to at the IPP, however the regional center generally will not prohibit or disfavor purchase of social recreation, camping and non-medical therapies services.

Exceptions to the POS policy will be considered on an individual basis.

WESTSIDE REGIONAL CENTER
BUDGET STATUS REPORT as of June 30, 2026
100% of Year

	B-4 ALLOCATION Fiscal Year 25-26		YTD EXPENDITURES 12 months of expenditures in base	% OF ALLOCATION
OPERATIONS	\$ 40,843,406	*	\$ 40,604,733	99%
PURCHASE OF SERVICES	\$ 711,986,854		\$ 619,473,656	87%
TOTAL	\$ 752,830,260		\$ 660,078,389	88%

NARRATIVE

OPERATIONS

WRC's projected expenditures will be within our budget allocation. We project a balanced budget for FY 25-26. Note- Some of WRC's operations allocation are restricted funds due to policy mandates.

PURCHASE OF SERVICE

Based on the B-4 Budget Allocation for FY 25-26, WRC is projecting a balanced POS budget.

* Expenditures through 6/30/26

SPAC Meeting Notes

June 16, 2026

The SPAC Committee held a productive discussion regarding the primary concerns and priorities identified by service providers. Attendees agreed that these discussions will serve as the foundation for developing the committee's agenda and work plan moving forward.

We also want to thank the 8 people who volunteered to serve on the SPAC committee following the SPAC committee recruitment process. The Board Development Committee has nearly completed interviews of applicants for the SPAC candidates. The selection process is expected to be finalized within the next several weeks.

Good evening board members & Guest:
7/8/26

Here is the CAC report for July.

May 15th

A Peer Advocate of CAC did a presentation at one of the groups regarding who's running for Governor of California. He also talked about the different levels of Government. Karen Bass will have a runoff with Nithya Raman in the General Election in number 2026.

June 14th

CAC participated in a Juneteenth Celebration. We marched in playing the drums, we sang the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing", and they did the history of Juneteenth.

June 17

The advocates did an active shooter Training. This was through SCDD, and they covered topics like what is an active shooter, what is an active shooter environment, acting safely, communicating with Law enforcement and much more.

June 19th

Advocates went to support Maxine Waters' Campaign. She is running for re-election for the U.S. House representing California's 43rd Congressional District. Her year ends in 2027. Maxine will be on the general election on November 3, 2026. She advanced from the primary election.

CAC continues to partner with different regional Centers. For example, SLARC, HRC, NLARC and SCDD. CAC continues to support one another in their IPP meetings.

CAC has a complaint about Todd Rubien who is a Board member. He called a CAC member Esther Kelsey the N. (Lover.) That is a derogatory, hateful, abusive, disrespectful, and hurtful name that you can call someone. Under no circumstances should this be said!

And that's the Report!

JULY SELF ADVOCACY CALENDAR 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>For More Information, please contact Linda Butler @ (310) 258-4245</p>		<p>1. PUBLIC RELATION @ EL Pollo Loco 5529 Sepulveda Blvd Culver City (Cross street Berryman) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>2. EXERCISE Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park 10400 Braddock Dr. Culver City Cross street Le Bourge Ave 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>3. HAPPY 4TH OF JULY</p>
<p>6. TRAVEL GROUP @ Wendy's 9036 Venice Blvd Culver City (Cross street Culver Blvd) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>7.</p>	<p>8. WRC BOARD MEETING ZOOM PLEASE REGISTER 6:30PM-8PM</p>	<p>9.</p>	<p>10. EXERCISE Dr. Paul Carlson Memorial Park 10400 Braddock Dr. Culver City (Cross street Le Bourge Ave) 5PM-7PM</p>
<p>13. RELATION @ WESTFIELD MALL FOX HILLS MALL 6000 Sepulveda Blvd Culver City (Cross street Slason Ave) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>14. SELF DETERMINATION ZOOM 6PM-8PM</p>	<p>15. Volunteer Information Del Taco 11446 Jefferson Blvd Culver City (Cross street Slason Ave) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>16. CULVER CITY CONCERTS @ Trader Joe's 9290 Culver Blvd Culver City (Cross St INCE Ave) 7PM-9PM</p>	<p>17.</p>
<p>20. EXERCISE Lindberg Park 5041 Rhoda Way Culver City (Cross street Ocean Dr.) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>21.</p>	<p>22. CAC Burger King 10812 Jefferson Blvd Culver City (Cross Street Cota Ave) 5PM-7PM</p>	<p>23. CULVER CITY CONCERTS @ Trader Joe's 9290 Culver Blvd Culver City 7PM-9PM (Cross St INCE Ave)</p>	<p>24. EXERCISE Lindberg Park 5041 Rhoda Way Culver City (Cross street Ocean Dr.) 5PM-7PM</p>
<p>27. AAC/SLARC 2500 Western Ave Los Angeles, Ca (Cross Street Adams Blvd) 10AM-12PM</p>	<p>28.</p>	<p>29.</p>	<p>30. CULVER CITY CONCERTS @ Trader Joe's 9290 Culver Blvd Culver City 7PM-9PM (Cross ST INCE Ave)</p>	<p>31.</p>



The State Council is Celebrating!





July is the month we celebrate the lives and contributions of people with disabilities. Throughout the month, SCDD will send resources created by people with disabilities. By putting the voices and work of disabled people front and center, we hope for us all to support disabled creators and entrepreneurs and to learn something new!

Also check out our SCDD Storytellers' Blog to read stories from our panelists this month! This week, our State Council Chair, Julie Gaona, has shared her story! It's called [No Limits: My Journey of Love, Independence, and Advocacy](#). Check back each week for new stories!

<https://scdd.ca.gov/scdd-communications-blog/>

We will close out the month with two panels, one in English and one in Spanish. Disabled advocates and leaders will share with you why they are Disabled and Proud! Flyers are at the bottom of this newsletter.



Podcasts by People with Disabilities

Listening to podcasts by and for people with disabilities is one way to hear people's genuine voices. Their stories are raw, sometimes hard to hear, often jubilant, and unfiltered by those who often try to speak for them. They may not always say things we agree with or support but that doesn't diminish what they have to say. Listen, learn, and form your own opinions as we continue to celebrate Disability Pride!

Below is a list of some podcasts showcasing a variety of opinions and perspectives. The title of each podcast is a live link. Below each description is the same link with the full link name.

[Disability Visibility Project](#)

In-depth interviews and discussions with disability community leaders and creators, on disability identity, culture, activism and politics, with an emphasis on intersections of disability and race, gender, sexuality, and other marginalized identities.

While the podcast ended when the host, Alice Wong, died in November 2025, her 100 episodes live on.

<https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/podcast-2/>

[The Heumann Perspective](#)

Join Judy Heumann, an internationally recognized bad-ass disability activist in conversation with disabled changemakers and their allies. These conversations around disability culture, art, entertainment, policy and advocacy are sure to light a rebellious fire under you to fight harder for all people. Judy died in 2023, but her Podcast lives on!

<https://judithheumann.com/heumann-perspective/>

[Parálisis Cerebral](#)

Parálisis Cerebral Respuestas (Cerebral Palsy Answers) is a bilingual podcast Spanish/English, that seeks to answer all your questions about Cerebral Palsy! Join Azucena Garcia every week for in-depth interviews with doctors and individuals living with Cerebral Palsy to get the answers!

<https://www.azucenagarcia.com/podcast>

[The Awareness Show](#)

A podcast by Michelle Padilla about rare diseases such as 22q11, their causes and impacts.

<https://www.youtube.com/@michellepadilla1884/featured>

[Disabled and Proud](#)

Adaptive athlete Brooke Millhouse hosts this podcast that highlights disabled guests sharing their experiences and perspectives. True to its name, [Disabled and Proud](#) celebrates disability identity while exploring the triumphs, challenges, and everyday realities of living with a disability.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/disabled-and-proud/id1621152878>

[The Accessible Stall](#)

Casual conversations and friendly arguments about both light and heavy everyday disability topics, with two good disabled friends who often have different takes on disability issues.

<https://www.theaccessiblestall.com/>

[Barrier Free Futures](#)

Interviews with disability activists and other disabled people in the disability community, on current disability issues, history and experiences.

<https://barrierfreefutures.libsyn.com/>

[Down to the Struts](#)

A look at accessible design, both physical and cultural, from a wide variety of angles and voices.

<https://www.downtothestruts.com/episodes>

[Power not Pity](#)

Exploring the full range of disability experience, particularly through the stories and work of disabled people of color.

<https://www.powernotpitypod.com/episodes/>

[Disability Arts Online, Disability and.....Podcast](#)

The Disability and...Podcast gets right to the heart of some of the most pressing issues in arts, culture and beyond with a series of bold, provocative and insightful interviews with disabled artists, key industry figures and the odd legend.

<https://disabilityarts.online/magazine/podcasts/>

[Living My Best Disabled Life](#)

Olivia Murphy, who has cerebral palsy, hosts this podcast covering a wide range of disability-related issues to promote understanding and break down barriers. Her fresh perspective and authentic storytelling make complex topics approachable for listeners of all backgrounds.

<https://livingmybestdisabledlife.wordpress.com/podcast-episodes/>

[Bad Attitudes](#)

Bad Attitudes: An Uninspiring Podcast About Disability is a light-on-the-inspiration, heavy-on-the-sarcasm look at the realities of living life disabled — from the perspective of a real-life disabled person. No inspiration porn here!

<https://www.badattitudespod.com/>

[Adulthood with Autism](#)

A movement for neurodivergent adults created by autistic occupational therapist, April Ratchford OTR/L.

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/adulthood-with-autism/id1726252789>

[Autistic](#)

A curated selection of podcasts by autistic creators.

<https://www.autistic.com/autistic-voices/>

[Beyond 6 Seconds](#)

Carolyn Kiel talks with neurodivergent entrepreneurs, creators, advocates & more about their lives and identities. Their stories shatter misconceptions, break stigma and showcase the vibrance of neurodiversity.

<https://www.beyond6seconds.com/>

[Black Disabled Men Talk](#)

In 2019, a group of Black disabled men launched a broadcast called Black Disabled Men Talk with four dedicated members, and for three years, they came together to discuss serious issues like police brutality to masculinity, sexuality, family as Black disabled men and more.

<https://blackdisabledmentalk.com/blog-feed/>

[ListenABLE](#)

Hosts Dylan Alcott and Angus O'Loughlin speak to people living with disabilities about their lives and ask them the questions you thought were off-limits. You'll laugh. You'll cry. You'll learn something. This is a podcast for everyone - disabled or abled, and hopes to break down stigmas, change perceptions, and to challenge what you think it's like to live with disability.

<https://play.listnr.com/podcast/listenable>

[Able Voices](#)

Dr. Rhoda Bernard, founding managing director of the Berklee Institute for Accessible Arts Education, is proud to present the *ABLE Voices* podcast, featuring disabled artists and arts educators. Each *ABLE Voices* episode is guest-hosted by a disabled artist. Guests on *ABLE Voices* discuss their experiences navigating their careers, their artistic development, their arts education, and their creative process. *While this podcast was not created by a disabled person, because the hosts are disabled, we chose to include it.* <https://college.berklee.edu/BIAESN/able-voices-podcast>

[IDD Get to Know Me](#)

A mental health podcast where nothing is off the table. Join self advocate and hosts, Victor Pereira and Daniel Share-Strom as they explore topics and how they relate to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-idd-get-to-know-me-77764676>

Your Turn!

Do you have a favorite podcast by and for people with disabilities? Send us a short description and a link! We may feature it!

If you have any questions or comments about this content, please email:
northcoast@scdd.ca.gov.



Two Special Events - July 29 and 30





Water safety for autism: Life-saving resources, swim schools, & gear for a worry-free summer

With summer officially upon us, staying safe around water starts with the right tools and information. Our updated [Swim and Water Safety resource guide](#) includes [pool and beach safety graphics you can share directly with local lifeguards](#),

a locator to find [autism-friendly swim schools near you](#), and a curated list of [safety and tracking products](#) designed for families managing wandering and elopement concerns. Bookmark it now and share it with anyone in your child's circle who should have it.



PROUD TO BE ME



#DISABLEDANDPROUD

Join the CELEBRATION with SCDD and the Self-Advocacy Advisory Committee (SAAC), & Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN)

What is Disability PRIDE? Disability Pride is the idea that people with disabilities should be proud of their disabled identity. People with disabilities are the largest and most diverse minority, representing all abilities, ages, races, ethnicities, languages, religions and socio-economic backgrounds. **The world works better with us!!**

Our panel of Self-Advocates will share why they celebrate Disability Pride!

Wednesday, July 29, 2026 (English) at 6:00pm-7:30pm

- **Join Zoom Meeting <https://tinyurl.com/32umt5a4>**
Or by phone: 1-855-703-8985
Meeting ID: 834 5179 3133
Passcode: 716462
- **For questions/requests: dena.hernandez@scdd.ca.gov / 209-473-6930**
- **Please make accommodation requests by July 15**

English Panel Presentation - July 29 6:00 - 7:30

Zoom link: <https://tinyurl.com/32umt5a4>

Meeting ID: 834 5179 3113

Passcode: 716462

For questions/requests: dena.hernandez@scdd.ca.gov





Orgullosos de ser yo



#DISABLEDANDPROUD

Únase a la **CELEBRACIÓN** con SCDD, en colaboración con el **Comité Asesor de Autodefensa (SAAC)** y la **Red Estatal de Autodefensa (SSAN)**.

¿**Qué es el Orgullo de la Discapacidad?** El Orgullo de la Discapacidad es la idea de que las personas con discapacidades del desarrollo deben sentirse orgullosas de su identidad como personas con discapacidad. Las personas con discapacidad constituyen la minoría más grande y diversa dentro de la población, representando a todas las capacidades, edades, razas, etnias, religiones y orígenes socioeconómicos.

¡¡El mundo funciona mejor con nosotros!!

¡Nuestro panel compartirá por qué celebran el Orgullo de la Discapacidad!

Jueves, 30 de julio de 2026 (en español), de 6:00 p. m. a 7:30 p. m.

- Unirse a la reunión de Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/3ajzsr5x>
ID de Junta: 869 3284 5016 Código de acceso: 540641
Teléfono: 1-855-703-8985
Para preguntas o solicitudes: dena.hernandez@scdd.ca.gov / 209-473-6930
- Por favor, realice las solicitudes de alojamiento antes del 16 de julio.

Presentación de panel en español 30 de julio de 2026, de 6:00 a 7:30

Unirse a la reunión de Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/3ajzsrsx>

ID de Junta: 869 3284 5016

Código de acceso: 540641

Para preguntas o solicitudes: dena.hernandez@scdd.ca.gov

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COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT

dpss | **Medi-Cal** | **BenefitsCal**

Medi-Cal Dental Coverage Changes Effective July 1, 2026

Some customers aged 19 and older will lose dental coverage due to changes in eligibility based on immigration status.

Don't wait! Schedule your dental appointment today and use your benefits before they end.

[Learn more](#)

A photograph of a dentist in blue gloves examining an elderly patient's teeth in a dental office.

Community Reminder: Medi-Cal Dental Coverage is Changing for Some Adults Beginning July 2026

Schedule your dental appointments before benefits change

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) is reminding Medi-Cal beneficiaries that dental coverage will change for some adults beginning July 1, 2026.

Due to recent state and federal policy changes regarding Medi-Cal eligibility requirements, some beneficiaries 19 years and older, with unsatisfactory immigration status, will no longer receive full-scope dental benefits after June 30, 2026. Beneficiaries affected by this change are encouraged to schedule and complete dental checkups, cleanings, and any needed treatment while their dental benefits remain active.

Who is affected?

This change applies to certain Medi-Cal members age 19 and older who do not qualify for federally funded full-scope Medi-Cal, are not pregnant, and are not within 12 months postpartum.

What is not changing?

Full-scope Medi-Cal benefits, including full dental coverage, will continue for:

- Children under age 19, regardless of immigration status.
- Pregnant and postpartum beneficiaries who are pregnant or within 12 months after giving birth (regardless of immigration status).
- Former foster youth under age 26 who were in foster care on their 18th birthday.

What services will remain available?

Beneficiaries impacted by this change will continue to receive Medi-Cal health coverage, including primary care services, prescription medications, and emergency dental services.

Act Now

Beneficiaries affected by this change are encouraged to schedule dental appointments as soon as possible and receive their covered dental services before July 1, 2026, while their full-scope dental benefits remain active.

For questions about Medi-Cal eligibility or benefits, visit [BenefitsCal.com](https://www.benefitscal.com), call the DPSS Customer Service Center at (866) 613-3777, or contact Medi-Cal Dental at 1-800-322-6384.

DPSS is actively communicating these upcoming changes across multiple community outreach channels. We encourage all beneficiaries to carefully review any eligibility notices to stay fully informed about their benefits.

To learn more, visit the [Health Care page](#) on the [Department of Public Social Services](#) website.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services
12860 Crossroads Parkway South, City of Industry, CA 91746



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This service is provided to you at no charge by the [County of Los Angeles](#).

'Trump Accounts' Launch Saturday: What You Need To Know

Federal program will launch July 4 with BNY, Robinhood, and the IRS behind investment accounts for children.

[Angela Woodall and Corey Washington](#), Patch Staff

Posted Wed, Jul 1, 2026 at 3:28 pm PT | Updated Fri, Jul 3, 2026 at 11:05 am PT

Trump Accounts will give eligible newborns \$1,000 in seed money, but families face market risk, limited investment choices, and unanswered questions about fund-switching, disclosures, and safer options as children near adulthood. (AP Photo/Jose Luis Magana)

SACRAMENTO, CA — President Donald Trump's new, controversial namesake investment accounts that promise to give millions of children a financial head start launch Saturday.

"[Trump Accounts](#)" will hit the market July 4, with the promise that families will have another option to invest in their children's future by giving young Americans an early stake in the stock market.

Trump Accounts are tax-advantaged investment accounts created for minors.

The public-private program gives select newborns a \$1,000 federal starter contribution and allows parents, relatives, employers, local governments, charities, and philanthropies to add money over time.

The federal pilot contribution applies to children born from Jan. 1, 2025, through Dec. 31, 2028. Families may also open accounts for older children, as long as the child is a U.S. citizen, has a valid Social Security number, and is under 18.

The money must go into low-cost U.S. equity index funds that follow the broader stock market. Those funds could include funds tied to the S&P 500 or similar broad-market indexes.

Young account holders generally cannot withdraw the money until they turn 18. After that, withdrawals may be limited to approved uses, such as college costs, business startup expenses, or a home down payment.

Supporters say the accounts will give children early exposure to the stock market and help families build wealth over time.

They argue that even a modest starter contribution can grow if markets rise over many years. At a 7 percent annual return, a \$1,000 investment would grow to about \$3,570 after 18 years.

However, families who sign up will have to weigh the appeal of free seed money against the risks of putting a child's promised government-backed savings into the stock market before all of the program's risks, rules, and safeguards are clear.

Is My Child Eligible?

A newborn qualifies for the \$1,000 federal contribution if the child is a U.S. citizen, has a valid Social Security number, and was born between Jan. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2028.

A parent with requisite tax forms may open an account for a child who is a legal U.S. citizen even if the parent is undocumented.

The federal payment will not help families with diapers, rent, food, child care, or other immediate costs. The account is built for long-term investing, and the money generally stays locked up until the young beneficiary becomes an adult. Withdrawals may also be taxable.

How Do Parents Open Accounts?

Parents can begin contributing to Trump Accounts in July 2026. Families may start the process by filing IRS Form 4547 or by using the official Trump Accounts website.

Families that sign up are expected to receive follow-up information with instructions for completing the account-opening process. The White House has said a registration website will be available before the program launches. The accounts are scheduled to become available July 4, 2026.

Can I Enroll My Older Children?

Children born before 2025 will not receive the \$1,000 federal pilot contribution.

Families can still open accounts for older children who meet the program's basic eligibility rules, and those accounts may still receive private or philanthropic contributions.

Some older children could qualify for money from Michael and Susan Dell, who announced a \$6.25 billion donation connected to the program. Their gift is expected to provide \$250 to children age 10 and under who live in ZIP codes with median family incomes of \$150,000 or less and who do not receive the \$1,000 federal contribution.

Families can use U.S. Census Bureau ZIP code data to check whether their community meets the income threshold.

Who Will Run The Accounts?

The U.S. Treasury Department said BNY Mellon will serve as a financial agent of the federal government.

BNY will manage the first accounts and help build a new Trump Accounts app. Robinhood will serve as the brokerage firm and initial trustee. Robinhood and the National Design Studio, a federal agency, will help design the app's user interface.

Robinhood CEO Vlad Tenev [described](#) the program to CNBC as “an evolution of the American dream,” saying the idea shifts wealth-building from homeownership alone toward ownership in American companies.

BNY CEO Robin Vince [said](#) the program would expand access to financial opportunity, strengthen U.S. capital markets, and give more children a foundation for long-term financial security.

What Companies Are Involved?

A group of major companies has pledged support for Trump Accounts, including Dell, Block, Uber, Mastercard, BlackRock, Visa, Charter, Charles Schwab, Chime, SoFi, State Street, Comcast, Chipotle, and Steak 'n Shake. On Wednesday Trump announced U.S. chip company Micron will invest \$250 million, [The New York Times](#) reported.

Many of those commitments appear to involve matching contributions for employees' children, though public announcements do not spell out every company's dollar amount, eligibility rules, timeline, or method of payment.

The Dell pledge is the most clearly defined. The donation would provide \$250 to eligible children age 10 and under in qualifying ZIP codes if their parents open accounts.

What Protections Do Families Have?

The idea resembles “baby bonds” programs that California, Connecticut, and the District of Columbia have tested or launched. Those efforts generally target children growing up in poverty, children in foster care, or children who lost a parent to COVID-19.

Trump Accounts take a broader approach. Wealthier families may participate, private investment firms will help administer the money, and the accounts will tie children's savings directly to U.S. stock-market performance.

The program blocks several risky investment choices. Families cannot put Trump Account money into individual stocks, cryptocurrency, private companies, speculative products, or high-fee actively managed funds.

Instead, the money must go into low-cost mutual funds or exchange-traded funds that follow broad U.S. equity indexes. That design spreads each account across many publicly traded companies instead of allowing a parent, broker, government official, or political figure to pick a small group of winners and losers.

The rules also limit fees. Public guidance says eligible funds may charge no more than 0.10 percent in annual fees.

What Are The Risks For Families?

The main risk is market loss. A broad index fund can reduce the damage caused by one company's collapse, but it cannot shield an account from a stock-market downturn. If the broader market drops 20 percent, 30 percent, or more, Trump Account balances can fall too.

Index funds also do not guarantee that the underlying companies are safe, scandal-free, politically neutral, or financially stable. A company can face lawsuits, layoffs, regulatory investigations, or reputational damage and still remain in a major index if it meets the index's rules.

Families may also have few options for lowering risk as the account holder nears adulthood. Current guidance points to equity index funds during the growth period and does not clearly identify a cash, bond, money-market, or target-date option that would let families move money into safer holdings before the beneficiary turns 18.

Can Parents Switch Funds?

Parents may be able to choose among eligible investments if the program offers more than one fund.

But public guidance does not clearly explain how fund changes will work. It does not say how many fund choices families will see, whether an account will start in a default fund, how often a parent may switch funds, whether the app will handle those changes, or whether any trading limits will apply.

The rules also appear to keep families inside a narrow investment lane. Unless future guidance expands the menu, parents cannot shift the money into individual stocks, cryptocurrency, bonds, cash, international funds, or a custom portfolio.

What Do Critics Say?

Critics say the accounts do not address the needs children face in their earliest years, when poverty, food insecurity, housing instability, and lack of health care can have long-term consequences.

They also say the program does not offset Republican-backed cuts to other programs that serve children and families, including food assistance and Medicaid, which the Congressional Budget Office estimated would reduce household resources from Medicaid, SNAP, and other in-kind transfers by \$900 billion from 2026 through 2034.

Opponents warn that the accounts could widen the wealth gap. Higher-income families that can afford to make the maximum yearly contributions would gain the most from tax advantages and long-term market growth. Lower-income families that cannot set aside money would rely mainly on the starter contribution and any outside donations.

Scam Warning

Treasury officials warned families to watch for fraud as the program rolls out. The Treasury Department said legitimate activation emails will come only from no-reply@TrumpAccounts.Treasury.gov.

Officials said families should not respond to phone calls or text messages claiming to activate Trump Accounts. Families should use only the official Trump Accounts portal.

Patch Editor Corey Washington and the Associated Press contributed to this report.

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California Bill to turn youth caregiving into college and career credits heads to governor

STAFF REPORT | Jul 3, 2026

SACRAMENTO — A bill aimed at transforming the quiet sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of California children into recognized career pathways is heading to the governor’s desk.

The Legislature has passed Assembly Bill 2324, authored by Assemblyman Jeff Gonzalez, R-Indio. The bipartisan legislation formally recognizes the state’s “youth caregivers”—children and teens who provide essential care for family members—and directs state education officials to integrate those real-world skills into career technical curriculum.

For Gonzalez, the legislative victory is intensely personal. The inspiration for AB 2324 stems from his own household’s daily reality caring for his son, RJ, who lives with severe disabilities.

“Caregiving isn’t something my family reads about—we live it every day,” Gonzalez said. “My wife, my children, and I have all helped care for RJ, and I know the sacrifices young caregivers make across California.”

The bill targets a massive but often invisible demographic. Advocates estimate that between 200,000 and 400,000 youth caregivers live in California, balancing schoolwork and adolescence with the heavy responsibilities of assisting relatives who have chronic illnesses, disabilities, or age-related needs.

Under AB 2324, California’s Career Technical Education Model Curriculum Standards will be directed to consider incorporating youth caregiving into the existing healthcare and human services career pathway. The bill also explicitly encourages schools to provide better emotional, academic, and social support for these students, who frequently face high rates of stress and absenteeism.

By formalizing this pathway, supporters hope to address a dual crisis: alleviating the isolation felt by young caregivers while simultaneously building a pipeline to combat California’s severe shortage of direct support professionals.

“They develop incredible compassion, responsibility, and real-world skills that deserve to be recognized,” Gonzalez said. “AB 2324 tells these young people that we see them, we value them, and we want to help them succeed.”

The legislation carries strong backing from major state care networks, sponsored by the Association of Regional Center Agencies, the California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS, and the California Association of Local Behavioral Health Boards & Commissions.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has 30 days to sign or veto the legislation once it formally reaches his desk.