



California SEIU Developmental Disabilities Council



2013/14 Annual Report

Background: The SEIU California Developmental Disabilities Council was formed in 2007 and is made up of direct support and regional center workers at our 19 DD agencies across the state. Prior to 2007, nearly all DD chapters in California were unified through a subcommittee of legacy Local 535. Since the formation of the “21” locals would result in breaking up Local 535, the hearing officer overseeing the process recommended the formation of “industry councils” to preserve the statewide coordination within an industry. The hearing officer specifically used the DD chapters as the example to justify this recommendation. This Council, through hard work and strategic planning by member leaders, has steadily increased our recognition as a leader in our industry. We are committed to increasing union density and improving the wages and conditions of workers in the field of Developmental Disability while supporting dignity, respect, and quality services to the people we serve.

Power through Community Partnerships Catherine McCoy and David Mulvey have been representing our council at the monthly Lanterman Coalition of DD Stakeholders meetings. We played a leadership role in moving the Lanterman Coalition to adopt and promote a unified budget plan -- For the first time in two decades. Working in concert with our Lanterman Coalition partners we made repeated visits with key legislators, their staff, and generated broad based community support for phone calling, letter writing and community rallies. We were successful in many of our aims including: funding for the minimum wage increases, adding funding for overtime for supported living providers, restoring cuts to Early Start services, and removing the prohibition on paying family



insurance deductibles for Autism services. Finally we convinced the Governor to initiate a stakeholder process led by the Department of Health and Human Services to evaluate funding methodologies for Regional Centers and Direct Service Providers

Employment First Committee - David Mulvey continues to represent the council as a member of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities Employment First committee. With SEIU support, the Employment First Committee has successfully passed the Employment First legislation that the SEIU CA DD Council has been supporting for several years.

Legislation – Working closely with ARCA and Disability Rights California, we have been actively tracking and responding to legislative initiatives. Last Fall Governor Brown signed into law two bills the council was actively involved in crafting and supporting: SB 468 (Emmerson) on Self-Determination, & AB1041(Chesbro) Employment First Bill.



We have been actively engaged with the sponsor and author of AB 1089 Early Start - Foster Care Transfer bill to create a process that should be effective in minimizing the time to establish services in a new Regional Center after a foster care child in the Early Start moves to a new area.



The result was a much better bill and establishing the reputation of SEIU DD Council as a valuable partner in developing DD Related legislation.

We have opposed a number of bills that would have created additional unfunded workload for Regional Centers and service provider agencies.

Communications

We have redesigned and updated the DD Council website SEIUDD.org. We have also created a grass roots coalition called Keep the Promise Coalition in an effort to build community support for quality services for persons with Developmental Disabilities. The coalition has its own website keepthepromisealive.org and regularly communicates with its members.



Organizing - The council and its members continued to support organizing efforts in the DD Community. Organizing campaigns have included Mission Hope, California Autism Foundation, ARC of Amador & Calaveras, DDSO Sacramento and Stockton, and San Diego and Inland Regional Centers.

Legislation allowing Regional Center Clients to opt out of the traditional service delivery system in favor of an individual budget has been signed into law. We are currently working with the implementation taskforce to design a service model that includes the opportunity for new workers to choose a union voice.