

Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)  
Regional Advisory Meeting  
Regional Center of the East Bay & Golden Gate  
February 24, 2025 10:30 AM - 12 PM

## Minutes

### Welcome, Introductions

- Service Hub Representatives-Anthony Ayerza, Margo Perkins, Renae Dominici, Craig Lang, and Abraham Hill
- Regional Center Representatives-Michael Minton RCEB, Sean Galvin GGRC, and Germ Smith GGRC
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives-Billy Leung, Patricia Harris, and B. Gonzales
- SBCSS/CDE/DDS Representatives-Tina Silva SBCSS, Tara Neilson CDE, Brett Snyder DDS, and Stephanie McNay DDS

### Purpose of DSPT Advisory Committee Meeting-

- To ensure that the Challenge Testing and Training are sufficiently scheduled to meet the needs of eligible DSPs within the Service Hub's regional center catchment area
- Provide updates from DDS and CDE on DSPT program issues
- Address and resolve issues related to the DSPT program within the local regional center catchment area
- Provide Training and Testing aggregate results

### California Department of Developmental Services Report-

#### Program updates:

- DSPs can only miss up to 3 hours before the system drops them from the training.
- DDS is currently working on curriculum update to include Spanish translation.
- Stephanie went over DSP expectations and guidelines when attending a virtual training.
- Reviewed training expectations such as DSPs cannot provide any services to clients during their training.
- Stephanie McNay displayed PowerPoint with data from January 2024 through December 2024. Enrollment numbers 16,630 tested 11,350 and 10,762 passed. The retention rate is at 64.7% for Yr. 1 & 74.2% Yr. 2.
- Listed reasons why DSPs may not have completed their training. Scheduling is the highest reason with personal being the second highest.

- Stephanie with DDS went over Workforce Initiatives-
  - (a) DSP Stipend ended August 30, 2024
  - (b) DSP University – In progress to complete contract. Pay differential. Optional
  - (c) DSP Bi-/Multi-Lingual Pay Differential
  - (d) DSP Internship – 3-month training and internship, service providers and diverse groups. Opportunity for a DSP to see if they would like to continue to be a DSP.
  - (e) Technology Pilot – Provide more independence regarding their technology skills.
  - (f) Regional Center Staff Tuition Reimbursement – any healthcare related program can receive up to 10,000 a year. The application process has closed. Please Contact 1-800-622-8904. DDS email: [ccfdsp@dds.ca.gov](mailto:ccfdsp@dds.ca.gov)

**Program quality management system:**

- Classroom observations are taking place by DDS and by Hubs.
- **Legislation:**  
Stephanie mentioned that DDS is currently working on curriculum contract to include Spanish translation.

**California Department of Education Report**

- Tara Neilson went over the support and role CDE plays with DDS and the Hubs. Works specifically with the service hubs. Process payments and supplies. Provides support and direction with the DSP hubs and DSP instructors.
- **Local coverage (issues, development of formal agreements)**
  1. Coordinates training schedule (Online/In-Person), facility/classroom reservation, and provides trainer materials and equipment.
  2. Provide statewide support for DSPT training, 4 Hubs - Riverside, Fresno, Orange, and Butte.
  3. Provides Professional Development for DSP instructors in August Recertification.
  4. Maintains Department of Social Services vendorization and course certification of DSPT curriculum for Residential Facility Administrators.

**San Bernardino County Office of Education Report**

- The Helpdesk is available from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM Monday-Friday. Advise staff and administrators to not create accounts for their DSPs. Please have DSPs call the helpdesk to get assistance to register at 1-800-910-4604.
- DSPs need to have access to their accounts. Must read the welcome email prior to class.
- In-Person and Virtual Trainings are being offered. DSPs need to pay attention to which platform they are registering for.

- Duplicate accounts have been a challenge for the helpdesk to correct. Please advise the DSPs not to create any other accounts. This causes delays and issues for the DSP to get registered.
- Tina Silva went over PowerPoint regarding navigating the DSPT website.

### **Service Hub Report**

- Dr. Cindy Christovale will be offering Challenge Test on May 27, 2025 in Hayward at the Eden Area ROP.
- Sean Bush will continue to serve the Marin County and have In-Person training at Cedars of Marin location.

### **Regional Center Report**

- Michael Minton RCEB inquired on how the pay for DSPs would be tracked for differential pay? Stephanie responded that DDS is working on how that would work. The timing of implementation is soon but there is no official date for the pay differential program.
- Sean Galvin with GGRC would like to find a site in the South San Francisco area to serve those folks again.
- Sean said the challenges that GGRC are dealing with are staffing, the test not being in a DSPs native language, and at times not being able to get a hold of the helpdesk.
- Germ with GGRC is continuing working with those DSPs that are behind or past their recertification period. Germ assists with the technology side of it to ensure the DSPs can get into a training.

**Provider Representative(s) Input – None currently.**

### **DSP Trainer Input-**

- Abraham Hill likes the edit of the Welcome Letter reviewing classroom expectations. Abraham said it helps support the instructors from DSPs not being in their car or working during the training. Renae noted that instructors have the Hubs full support in having a DSP take a different training if behavior is not corrected after the first notice.
- Abraham mentioned reaching out to Horizon for In-Person training. Abraham would instruct In-Person in the South of San Francisco to meet that area. Amanda Pyle was the contact for Horizon, a day program that Abraham taught on the weekends at.
- Another location is a conference room that is beautiful in the San Mateo area.
- Sean with GGRC said he will investigate the conference space at their RC for Abraham to instruct.

**Next Meeting – Virtual Platform, CDE and DDS would like to meet in the Fall each year. Months October, November, or December.**

**Recap and Closure-** Input from vendors/administrators are always appreciated in helping improve the DSP program.