

Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)
Regional Advisory Meeting
Tri-Counties Regional Center
covering Ventura, Santa Barbara, and SLO counties
& San Andreas Regional Center covering San Jose area
March 10, 2025

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions

- Service Hub Representatives-Margo Perkins, Renae Dominici, Terri Nelson, and Jamie Rivera-Vallesterio
- Regional Center Representatives- Tri-Counties RC: Jeff Edler, Liz Aced-Arnett, Miguel Magana, and San Andreas RC: Molly Sullivan, Savanna Hartman, Hazel Jordan, Mia Garza, and Ann Sieber
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives- Veronica Arenas Soto, Dr. James Cleary, and Didi Daniel
- CDE/SBCSS/DDS – Tina Silva SBCSS, Raymond Usac DDS, Stephanie McNay DDS, Brett Synder DDS, Amanda Hirschmann DDS, and Tara Neilson CDE

Purpose of DSPT Advisory Committee Meeting-

- To ensure that the Challenge Testing and Training courses 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:
 1. Enrollment numbers as of January 2025- Enrolled total is 16,630
Tested 11,350 Passed 10,762. Retention Rate 64.7% Year 1, 74.2% Year 2
 2. Stephanie showed PowerPoint. The goal for DDS is to get the retention rate at 85%.
 3. Listed reasons why DSPs may not have completed their training. Scheduling is the highest reason with personal being the second highest.
 4. DSPs may **not** miss more than **3 hours** of classroom instruction.
 5. Reviewed training expectations such as DSPs cannot provide any services whatsoever to clients during their training.
 6. Also, DSPs will be expected to remain respectful and conduct themselves as professionals.

- Raymond 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
- Legislation:
No updates currently

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. DSP August Recertification Conference will be held August 2025. Will have professional development.
 2. Feedback from DSPs has been positive during their training experience.

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

- Jamie Rivera-Vallestero will be having a Challenge Test at located in San Jose. Terri Nelson will do a Challenge Test this July at Tri-Counties RC. Both instructors offer virtual classes as well.

Regional Center Report

- Jeff Edler will be the lead contact for Tri-Counties since Tracy Jackson retired.
- Liz Aced, Tri-Counties gave an update; the only issue is the DSPs get stuck on registering and scheduling the training. Liz has posted the help desk number for the facilities and their staff.
- Miguel Magana with Tri-Counties also said the feedback he is getting is that DSPs would like to have more In-Person classes. The area is Tagalog. The In-Person really helps with those who have a language barrier. Renae with Central California Hub will look for a DSP instructor that can speak Tagalog to teach in this area. Miguel asked if there are currently any instructors in the Santa Maria area? Not at this time was the response. Again, the hub will be looking for an instructor to serve that area.
- Liz Aced said having someone in the Oxnard and Ventura area would be so helpful if the instructor spoke Tagalog.
- QA Hazel Jordan, San Andreas for the update. Hazel said the only update is that DSPs seem to think that they do not need DSP training. Hazel is working with the facilities on who still needs their certification. Have not heard any other concerns.
- Also, I mentioned to Ann Sieber, San Andreas that our Hub will have our DSP Instructors attend a three-day professional development training course. This will include Person Centered and HCBS to integrate into their instruction. Taking place at the end of June 2025 with Jamie Markey.
- **Provider Representative(s) Input** – Veronica Arenas Soto, vendor said DSPs struggle hearing back from the helpdesk. What could the DSP do to encourage better communication with the helpdesk for assistance? Tina said they have a call list but, unfortunately, the DSP may not see that they did receive a return call. Please reach out to Tina if that situation takes place again at 1-800-910-4604 or email at Tina.Silva@sbcss.net . This is the same concern as last year with troubles connecting to the helpdesk.
- Veronica Arenas Soto also asked if training is being offered in the Santa Maria area. Renae responded that she would reach out to the other Hub to see if there was an instructor that is close to that area. Currently, there is not an instructor in that area at our hub.

DSP Trainer Input – Jamie and Terri both attended and continue to offer trainings virtually and In-Person. The enrollment numbers were not good for the last In-Person training in San Jose. Going to keep on trying to have the In-Person and hope for a higher enrollment.

Next Meeting – Virtual Platform. DDS and CDE would like to have all advisory meetings in the Fall each year. October, November, and December of 2025.

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