

Direct Support Professional Training (DSPT)
Regional Advisory Meeting
Central Valley Regional Center
March 24, 2025 10AM-12PM

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions

- Service Hub Representatives-Margo Perkins, Anthony Ayerza, Renae Dominici, Ashley Gustin, Ismael Martinez, Judy Rogers, and Lydia German
- Regional Center Representatives-Dr. Anthony Ash, Blake Sheeham, Maria Varela, Kristina Corona, Ashly Perry -Quinata, Amaris Clayton, Jordan Renteria, and Melissa Cortez
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives-Roxanna Escalante, Bhagatveer Singh, Nancy Luna, Stephanie Hendricks, Richard Sikes, Ismael Talavera, and Marycruz Leyva
- SBCSS/CDE/DDS Representatives-Tina Silva SBCSS, 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:

- Stephanie displayed PowerPoint. From January 01, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Enrollment numbers are 16,630 with 11,350 tested and 10,762 that passed. The retention rate is around 64.7% Yr. 1 and 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

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 absent, Raymond gave report

- **Materials and supply issues:**

Tara Neilson went over the support 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. Conducts trainer monitoring, hiring, and annual trainer re-certification.
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 and if they did not receive a Welcome email.
- DSPs must be able to access their DSPT personal portal for the test.
- Attendance can be viewed up to ten business days after the training ends. The administrator and DSPs can view their attendance up to those ten days.
- Test results for virtual training can be viewed right away. DSPs must log in to view results.

Service Hub Report

Regional Center Report – Renae went over the In-Person trainings in Fresno. Stephanie Hendricks mentioned that she has DSPs for each In-Person training. She would appreciate a call as a reminder for the In-Person training. Hub went over updates.

- Kathy Lewis is officially retired and no longer teaching DSP.
- Elizabeth Carey will be teaching In-Person for Visalia area. Requested if the Regional Centers have any resources that can connect the hub to have a training at the regional center.
- Ashley Gustin will do an In-Person in Merced at the Merced Regional Center in the fall of 2025.
- Dr. Ash said Visalia and Merced Regional Center are part of the Central Valley Regional Center. He will connect Renae with RC reps for both Visalia and Merced for scheduling a DSP training. Please include Ashley Perry Quinata, Janelle Ditommaso and Dr. Ash when coordinating future advisory meetings.
- Central Valley Regional Center will collaborate with administrators if they need to get their DSPs certification for the QA visits.

Provider Representative(s) Input – Stephanie Hendricks asked the helpdesk how long does it take to get a response when a DSP reaches out? Tina Silva responded that initially back in December 2024, they were back logged. The helpdesk is now caught up. It is a 24-hour period for returned calls.

- Tina also suggested that administrators can email the helpdesk at dspt.helpdesk@sbcss.net to verify if a DSP has called.
- Administrator Roxanna Escalante has experienced her DSPs using incorrect emails. She would like to have assistance from the helpdesk to get those accounts cleared up so they can register for their classes. With the helpdesk and the hubs support, the DSPs can get those records updated.
- Ismael Talavera with Mars Group has great feedback with In-Person classes. He does not feel that virtual classes capture all the important aspects of the training.

DSP Trainer Input-

- Lydia German stated that the In-Person training classes are doing well. The virtual classes come with more interruptions with scheduling issues. DSPs sometimes leave or come late due to their work schedule. These are things that the instructors are working through.

Next Meeting – Virtual Platform Meeting in Fall of 2025

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