

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
October 01, 2025

Minutes

Welcome, Introductions

- Service Hub Representatives-Renae Dominici, Ofelia Pettross, and Jamie Rivera-Vallestero
- Regional Center Representatives- Tri-Counties RC: Jeff Edler, Freddie Garcia, Liz Aced-Arnett, Miguel Magana, Briana Hartwell, Adela Cortinas, and San Andreas RC: Hazel Jordan and Elsa LeDon
- Regional Center Vendor Community Care Facility Provider Representatives- Cami Herskovitz
- CDE/DDS – Stephanie McNay DDS, Brett Synder 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- August 31st 2025 Enrolled total is 12,134, Tested 8,378 Passed 8,032. Retention Rate 63% Year 1, 70% 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. As of July 1, 2025 DDS is now doing the helpdesk. DDS would like all Helpdesk inquiries to be emailed to ccfdsp@dds.ca.gov
 5. FAQs on Home Page DSPT www.dsptrain.org
 6. Due to budget restraints, individuals must be under a vendor to take DSP training. No Authorization Letters are being issued for this reason currently.
 7. Due to transitions within departments, In-Person/Challenge Test are on Hold.
 8. Admin/vendors assist their DSPs with the medication skills supplies for testing.
 9. DSPs can have help from co-workers/administrator/family to register. DSPs must

know their passwords and email for testing purposes and register themselves.

- 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 Trainers are recertified each year
 2. Curriculum is currently on hold due to all the transition pieces with the Helpdesk.
 3. Offering ASL twice a year. One in the Fall and one in the Spring.

Service Hub Report –

1. Renae Dominici with the Central California Service Hub went over scheduling. Will reach out to instructors to teach (3) hour time slots if available. Avoid training right in the afternoon to better serve the DSPs schedule with needing to work during that time.
2. Once In-Person trainings resume, an email will be sent out to the Regional Centers and administrators to notify them.

Regional Center Report –

1. Freddie Garcia, QA Manager TCRC, asked if there are any other accommodations for the hard of hearing DSPs? Stephanie McNay, DDS responded that there are closed captions available on the Zoom platform. If ASL is needed, there are two training courses a year to also accommodate the DSPs that are hard of hearing.
2. Freddie, TCRC also asked if there are paired learning opportunities for the DSPs in the virtual platform? Stephanie with DDS said yes. DSPs are put into breakout rooms with groups to work on activities together. They usually have the same group each day and can bond over their time together and work as a team.
3. The question was asked how an administrator would go about getting certified to then teach the DSP training to their staff? Stephanie and Renae both responded that being hired to teach DSP training is a complex process. One out of the four hubs would hire directly. The new hire will go through a hiring process and must meet all the requirements to instruct. All instructors/trainers are required to attend the yearly conference for 3 to 4 days. As well as individual training and shadowing a veteran trainer before branching out on their own. The program is not meant to hire administrators just to serve the purpose of getting people certified within their own facility. It is meant to serve the community and state and would need to be something an individual would continue to teach throughout the year.

4. Freddie went over the Tri-Counties RC update: Having 9 QAs on staff, and 1 Behavior Analyst Certification Board, BCBA on staff.
5. Hazel Jordon, SARC had one question regarding the Authorization letter for DSPs and vendors. Stephanie, DDS went over the policy that is now in place for the authorization process. It is currently on hold due to budget restraints.
6. Hazel also asked Jamie Rivera-Vallesterio, DSP Instructor if someone does not pass, can they get any notification on what they did not pass on the test? Jamie and Stephanie responded that at this point and time, it is a pass or fail result.
7. Stephanie DDS also offered that if there is a language barrier, the program can partner the DSPs up with an instructor with the state that can assist with their language. Spanish quizzes are available for study material. However, the test is English Only.

Provider Representative(s) Input –

1. Cami requested some more classes with shorter hours of training to better work with the DSPs work schedule. Example, 10 AM to 1 PM, 7 AM to 10 AM, or 5 PM to 8 PM. Midafternoon is the busiest time for DSPs to be working.
2. Cami asked if there are any make-up options if a DSP misses a portion of the training? Stephanie with DDS responded that there are no make-up options. The DSPs are required to take the whole 35-hour training over again if any time is missed.

DSP Trainer Input –

Jamie Rivera-Vallesterio said she is happy to accommodate doing shorter hours of training to meet that need.

Next Meeting –

Virtual Platform. DDS and CDE would like to have all advisory meetings in the Fall each year. Either October, November, or December.

Recap and Closure-

Input from vendors/administrators are always appreciated in helping improve the DSP program.