



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711
commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov
www.scccod.net

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday, August 13, 2026
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Coastlines Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

****As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.****

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve *June 11, 2026 Minutes*
4. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 5.1. Human Services Department Program Budget Cuts and Related Legislation Updates - Jessica Cirkseña (*HSD Program Mgr.*)
6. Commission Priority Reports
 - 6.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
 - 6.2. Accessible Recreation Report
 - 6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
 - 6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
7. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports
 - 7.1. Legislative Priorities Ad Hoc Subcommittee Report
8. Correspondence
9. Staff Report
10. Announcements/Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2026, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TTY/TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.scccod.net

Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 11, 2026

TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Coastlines Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

PRESENT: John Daugherty (1st District), Leigh Kearns (2nd District), Tymothie Hale (2nd District), Becky Taylor (3rd District), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (4th District Co-Chair), Jessica Liddy Hayford (4th District), David Molina (5th District Co-Chair), Mitali Weiglein (5th District)

EXCUSED: Richard Gubash (3rd District)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Kaite McGrew (Commissions Manager)

GUESTS: Robert Ratner (Director, Housing for Health) and 1 member of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting convened at 12:45 PM.

2. Agenda Review

3. Approve May 14, 2026 Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written

Motion/Second: Taylor/Hale

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:

5.1. Presentation: Housing and the Disabilities Community

Ratner provided an overview of the current status of housing for people with disabilities and discussed the four priorities identified in the Housing for Healthy Santa Cruz 2024–2027 Plan: building a coalition, preventing homelessness, increasing connections to supportive services, and increasing housing affordability. He identified several ongoing gaps and areas of focus, including improving awareness of accessible and affordable housing opportunities among people with disabilities; addressing health issues that affect housing stability; integrating housing and supportive services; advocating for access to public benefits; developing communitywide mapping and marketing of accessible housing units; establishing site-based partnerships for in-home supportive services; expanding integrated health services; and incorporating universal design parameters. Ratner noted that work is underway in these areas, with varying levels of progress. Commission discussed the intersectionality of access to healthcare and healthcare information, particularly the overlap between access to mental healthcare and homelessness.

5.2. Consider Community Life Art Wall Exhibit Proposal

Motion authorizing Liddy Hayford to work with Community Life to install an exhibit for Disability Pride Month

Motion/Second: Daugherty/Gutierrez Baeza

Motion passed unanimously.

5.3. Consider Medi-Cal Asset Limit Advocacy Letter

Motion approving the letter as written.

Motion/Second: Daugherty/Hale

Motion passed unanimously.

5.4. CalABLE Savings Program Overview

Gutierrez Baeza provided an overview of the CalABLE Savings Program, a tax-advantaged savings program designed to help people with disabilities save and pay for qualified disability-related expenses. She highlighted the program's positive impact in helping individuals build financial resources while maintaining greater flexibility and independence. Qualified expenses must benefit the individual with a disability. Gutierrez Baeza also explained that eligibility documentation varies depending on the individual's disability, with multiple forms of documentation available to establish eligibility.

6. Commission Priority Reports:

6.1. Accessibility Awareness Report: No Report

6.2. Accessible Recreation Report

Gutierrez Baeza provided an update on the status of Mobi Mats and accessibility improvements at local beaches. County Parks has indicated that it does not want to pursue Mobi Mats at this time. Discussions regarding Mobi Mats at Capitola Beach are ongoing with the City of Capitola. Gutierrez Baeza also reported that County Park Friends has established a partnership relationship with City of Capitola on the Treasure Cove project. They have members on the Board and have requested assistance with developing grant applications. Hale noted that the picnic areas at Natural Bridges State Beach are not wheelchair accessible, including the outdoor grill area.

6.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: None

6.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report:

Daugherty reported that he contacted METRO's Disability Outreach Coordinator to request a walkthrough of METRO's accessibility training process. The training may include reserving rooms at public libraries and providing lesson plans and other materials. Daugherty will follow up and provide additional information.

Gubash left the meeting.

7. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Staff Report: None

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters

Molina shared that the most recent IHSS Advisory Commission meeting was canceled for lack of agenda items. Gutierrez Baeza was newly appointed.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

IHSS Budget Updates for the Commission on Disabilities

1

Agenda

- Purpose: Provide context and insight into IHSS funding, state budget proposals, and trends in caseload and program growth.
- Scope: Overview->Budget proposals->Caseload growth->Local implications

2

2

IHSS Overview

- Program purpose & Eligibility: IHSS is a statewide Medi-Cal benefit offering personal and domestic care services to Californians who are aged, blind, or disabled, enabling them to remain in their homes.
- Funding Structure:
 - Paid by federal, state, and county governments
 - Key cost drivers: caseload size, cost per hour/wages, and hours per case
 - Funded through MOE structure

3

3

FY 26-27 State Budget Proposals

- Eliminate the Permanent Backup Provider program
- Align IHSS eligibility with Medi-Cal timelines
- Shift state's share of growth in IHSS service hours to counties

4

4

FY 26-27 Final Actions

- Disability advocates and counties opposed these cuts, highlighting risk to recipients
- All three IHSS specific proposed cuts were rejected

5

5

Ongoing budget impacts

- HR1 impacts
- Community First Choice Option (CFCO) penalties
- Outdated formula for IHSS admin funding

6

6

Caseload

- As of June 2026
 - Statewide:
 - 919,640 recipients
 - 831,477 providers
 - Local:
 - 4059 recipients
 - 3891 providers
- Local increase of 25% in caseload growth over the last 2 years

7

7

Caseload growth and local implications

- As of June 2026:
 - Statewide:
 - 20% growth over the past two fiscal years
 - Local:
 - 25% growth over the past two fiscal years

8

8

IHSS Advocacy

- Disability Rights California
- Justice in Aging
- The Arc of California

9

9

Thank you

Contact:

Jessica Cirkseña, Program Manager

Jessica.Cirkseña@santacruzcountyca.gov

10



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

P: (831) 454-2772 F: (831) 454-2411 TDD 711

commissions@santacruzcountyca.gov

www.scccod.net

Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2nd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Board Chambers or Redwood Room*
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

***Meetings will be held in either of these rooms unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scccod.net as soon as information becomes available.

2026 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 8, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
February 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
March 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
April 9, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
May 14, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
June 11, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
August 13, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
September 10, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
October 8, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
November 12, 2026	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.