

Please see below message from Dr. April Lopez, Chair

Please join me in welcoming Aaron Carruthers as the Executive Director of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). He brings many years of experience with legislation, advocacy, state administration, and council leadership.

Executive Director Carruthers first joined SCDD in June 2014, serving as our Chief Deputy Director. Since that time he has worked with headquarters and regional staff throughout California to rebuild positive relationships among Council Members, staff, and key community partners. Executive Director Carruthers has been instrumental in SCDD's recent achievements dealing with the alignment of the federal Developmental Disabilities and state Lanterman Acts. He led the SCDD's regional community engagement operation to advance the goal that an estimated 690,000 people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and their families are able to exercise self-determination, be independent, be productive, and integrate in all facets of community life.

Prior to his work with SCDD, Executive Director Carruthers served as Chief Deputy Director of the California Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission, overseeing a \$9 billion investment in the community mental health system. He implemented rehabilitation programs for over 170,000 inmates in California's 34 prisons and 130,000 parolees in 58 counties and administered mental health service programs for prison inmates. He has been a board member of the University of California, Davis' Institutional Review Board enforcing medical ethics. Executive Director Carruthers has extensive legislative and policy experience having served as a principal consultant for State Senator Darrell Steinberg from Sacramento, a member of the California Attorney General's core team, a legislative aide for State Senator Liz Figueroa, and a field representative for State Assemblymember Liz Figueora, the representative from Silicon Valley. He also was a fellow in the nationally recognized Coro Fellows Program in Public Affairs, which trains "ethical leaders for uncommon times."

Thank you

Dr. April Lopez
State of California Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
Council Chairperson

Legislative & Public Policy Committee
Membership Committee