



**Senate Bill 882**  
**Advisory Council on Improving**  
**Interactions Between Law Enforcement**  
**and the Disability Community**

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**CA Policy Center for**  
**Intellectual and**  
**Developmental Disabilities**  
**(CPCIDD)**

CPCIDD is a non-profit, non-partisan policy center established to inform, support, and improve upon statewide policies that impact the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Center's focus is to identify priorities and challenges within the IDD community and provide policy recommendations based on objective, evidence-based research, data, and policy analysis to help inform the community, as well as the policymaking process.

# Why SB 882?

## SB 882 (Eggman)

- Co-Sponsored by The Arc/UCP CA, Association of Regional Center Agencies, United Domestic Workers
- Families and Individuals with IDD express fear of interactions going bad [based on history of bad interactions] [Ethan Saylor, Kenneth French, Isaias Cervantes, most recently Ryan Gainer, and the list goes on]
- Strong desire to bring stakeholders together without finger pointing
- Lack of data related to law enforcement interactions and persons with IDD
- Little Hoover Commission - CA Law Enforcement Survey <https://lhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Reports/263/Report263.pdf>
- Report on Police Reform <https://lhc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Reports/265/Report265.pdf>

## Things to Think About with Existing Law Enforcement Training Specific to People with IDD and/or Mental Health Conditions

- Domain 37 P.O.S.T. Basic Academy Training updated in April 2016 to conform to requirements set forth in SB 11
- Regulation 1081 Minimum Standards for Legislatively Mandated Courses, Crisis Intervention Behavioral Health Training For Field Training Officers (Expanded Course Outline - 8 hours) created in 2016 to conform to requirements set forth in SB 29
- How are the trainings developed?
- How is the efficacy of the trainings measured?
- What are some of the ongoing opportunities for officers to learn about best practices when interacting with people from the IDD community?

## IDD/Mental Health Condition/Dual-Diagnosis

- Important to teach officers to recognize the difference between an IDD and mental health condition because it is often unclear
  - IDD and mental health conditions often get lumped together
  - May require different responses
  - P.O.S.T. First Responder's Guide for Mental Illness or Developmental Disability  
[https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post\\_docs/publications/mental-health/Mental\\_Health.pdf](https://post.ca.gov/Portals/0/post_docs/publications/mental-health/Mental_Health.pdf)
- National Association of Dually Diagnoses reports approximately 35% of people with an IDD also have a mental health condition
  - No one size fits all approach - assess the situation [training and experience]

## Issues for The Advisory Council to Consider

- Inconsistent training
- Fear - individuals, families, service providers [how to build trust, model policies - community policing, etc.]
- Overreliance on LE - how to minimize reliance on LE
- Need to strengthen coordination between DDS Safety Net Services and LE
- Limited research on strategies to improve interactions between LE and the disability community

## Role of Families and Support Staff in Supporting Law Enforcement

- The role of families and/or support staff cannot be understated when it comes to improving interactions between LE and people with IDD
  - Family/support staff know the individual and can provide crucial information about the person (i.e. what calms or triggers the individual)
  - Family/support staff have managed the individual's complex behaviors (i.e. a bystander calls in to report the individual having a behavioral crisis in the community - common for LE to try to gain control of the situation even when the family member or staff are managing it)

## Promising Practices

- Trauma Informed Policing
  - Upwards of 70% of people with IDD have experienced a traumatic event, with many having experienced multiple traumas (*Scotti et al. 2012*)
  - Many of the past traumas come from previous interactions with authorities (school, law enforcement, psychiatric hospitals, etc.)

## Promising Practices (cont.)

- Policies that support slowing down the interaction [SFPD]
  - People with IDD need time to process what is being asked of them
  - Additional time gives both LE & the individual a chance to understand what is going on
  - Training that distinguishes between the holding in *Hainze v. Richards* - Title II of the ADA (reasonable accommodations) does not apply to an on the street response (disturbance) prior to the officer securing the scene and ensuring that there is no threat to human life - and situations like a behavioral crisis that, although escalated, does not pose imminent risk of harm or death.
    - \* A significant number of deaths or serious injury occur within the first 60 seconds

## Promising Practices (cont.)

- Requirements for disability awareness training that goes beyond the basic academy training [this is jurisdictional and not standardized]
- P.O.S.T. updated the Dispatcher Training Course to include more in-depth questions about disability
- Mental Health Units embedded in the Police Department
- Autism Certified Police Department (Modesto)
- Police-Mental Health Collaborations

## **Policies That Could Improve LE Interactions with the Disability Community**

- Implementation of the Manny Alert Act [Feasibility Study  
<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/PSC/Documents/Manny-Alert-Act-Feasibility-Study.pdf>
- Including people with IDD as co-instructors in academy and continuing ed trainings
- Coordination between law enforcement and DDS Safety Net Services to reduce reliance on law enforcement
  - Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Safety Net Services  
<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/DDS-Safety-Net-Plan-Update-Final-1-10-2023-posted.pdf>
    - Mobile Crisis Services
    - Crisis Assessment Stabilization Teams

## **Subject Matter Experts to Consider Having Present to the Advisory Council**

- John Robinson, State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Jay Kolvoord, Strategies To Empower People
- Forensic Specialists for Regional Centers
  - Jordan Ellers, Alta Regional Center
  - Alejandro Vargas , Westside Regional Center
- Chief William Scott - San Francisco Police Department
- Leigh Anne McKingsley, National Center for Criminal Justice and Disability (NCCJD)

# QUESTIONS???

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