



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, June 12, 2025
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 *May 8, 2025 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. Consider 2025 Kudos Nominees
 - 5.2. 2025 Kudos Planning
6. Commission Reports
 - 6.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report – Gutierrez Baeza
 - 6.2. Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Report
 - 6.3. Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee Report
 - 6.4. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report
7. Commission Priority Reports
 - 7.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
 - 7.2. Accessible Recreation Report
 - 7.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
 - 7.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
8. Correspondence
9. Staff Report
10. Announcements/Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, August 14, 2025, 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.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, May 8, 2025
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 (*Co-Chair - 1st District*), Jonathan Zinnanti (*2nd District*), Tymothie Hale (*2nd District*), Richard Gubash (*3rd District*) Becky Taylor (*Co-Chair - 3rd District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*4th District*), Jessica Liddy (*4th District*), David Molina (*5th District*)
EXCUSED: Mitali Weiglein (*5th District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*), Tiffany Avila (*EEO Officer*)
GUESTS: No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
Meeting convened at 12:37 PM.
Commission welcomed Commissioner Hale (*2nd District*).
2. Agenda Review
3. Approve March 13 Minutes
Motion to approve minutes as written
Motion/Second: Molina/Gutierrez Baeza
Motion passed unanimously.
4. Public Comment: None
5. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 5.1. Officer Elections
Motion to elect Molina and Gutierrez-Baeza as Co-Chairs
Motion/Second: Gubash/Liddy
Motion passed unanimously.

Daugherty arrived.
 - 5.2. Consider 2026 Meeting Schedule
Motion to approve and adopt the 2026 Meeting Schedule
Motion/Second: Molina/Gutierrez Baeza
Motion passed unanimously.

5.3. Consider Support for SB 239: Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.

Commission reviewed the proposed legislation and a draft letter advocating with the Board of Supervisors to urge state legislators to support the bill.

Motion to approve the draft letter as written

Motion/Second: Gubash/Molina

Motion passed unanimously.

5.4. Unmet Transportation Needs Advocacy Update

Commission reviewed the priorities established by the RTC; however, due to the cancellation of last month's meeting and the lack of prior authorization to proceed without full Commission approval, they were unable to meet the May 1st feedback deadline. The Commission discussed ongoing concerns, including insufficient training, limited outreach, and the absence of a centralized mobility center. Staff will invite a representative from METRO to attend a future meeting and address these issues.

6. Commission Reports

6.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report: No Report

6.2. Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Update: No Report

6.3. Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee Report

Staff will distribute nomination form and a list of former awardees Commissioners.

Commissioners will have two weeks to return forms for the ad hoc subcommittee to evaluate.

Gubash left.

6.4. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report : No Report

7. Commission Priority Reports:

7.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

7.2. Accessible Recreation Priority Report: No Report

7.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

7.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report: No Report

8. Correspondence: None

9. Staff Report:

Staff will follow up on County vendor registrations for Molina, Liddy and Gutierrez Baeza.

10. Announcements/Emerging Matters:

Taylor shared her recent personal experience of ableism in the health care field. The topic will be placed on the June agenda to discuss potential opportunities for advocacy. New Commissioners Hale, Zinanti, and Liddy shared more detail on their backgrounds, community connections, and advocacy priorities.

11. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

Name	Description
Sentinel reporters Aric Sleeper and PK Hattis and photographer Shmuel Thaler	<p>Sentinel reporters Aric Sleeper and PK Hattis and photographer Shmuel Thaler for many years have done a fantastic job of covering activities and events of the disabled community, and presenting them to the public with beautiful understanding and compassion using sensitive prose and imagery.</p> <p>There have been many stories, profiles, photos and photo essays sharing a side of the community that is not seen or in the consciousness of most citizens. The Santa Cruz community is lucky to have the opportunity to see and read about activities that reveal the lives—with the joy and struggle—of the disabled population.</p> <p>This has enriched the understanding of diversity in our community. The thoughtful press coverage these reporters and photographer provide leverages the efforts of non-profit organizations that try to reach out and provide services to this often overlooked segment of our population.</p> <p>The editorial management of the Sentinel should be recognized, as well, for supporting this awesome example of community journalism.</p>
Rachael Marion-Tsukamaki and Mike Rockafellow	<p>Rachael and Mike have done an incredible (volunteer) job for several years to manage the Challenger Little League program for Santa Cruz County. Not many people are aware of this component of the national Little League program which provides the opportunity for players with all disabilities and challenges to participate in a little league baseball activity.</p> <p>Rachael is the team/league coordinator, managing all the logistical functions of the league—from coordinating registration and ordering uniforms to training the announcers and running the snack shack. “Logistics” does not begin to capture the warmth and sensitivity Rachael brings to the program—her interaction with the families and every individual on the team are beautiful to watch.</p> <p>Mike is the head coach for the Challenger League, helping every kid do their best and feel they are having the experience of being a real baseball player. For many kids and families, their little league game is a highlight of their week, the kids having a classic baseball experience that is adapted to their special needs, having social time with peers and family, hearing cheers for their efforts, and the thrill of scoring home runs. The saying “they are all winners” is never more true than the Challenger League participants. It is clear that Rachael and Mike both have a love for the game of baseball and for the kids that are participating.</p>
Henry Bertram , Andrew Sterbenz , Erick Sturm	<p>Henry, Andy and Erick have been leading the Shared Adventures archery program (on behalf of the Santa Cruz Archery Club) for over ten years. Their diligence, patience and expertise has enabled many individuals—of all ages and disabilities—to discover the joy of archery and experience the personal growth from participating in this sport.</p> <p>Henry, Andy and Erick have been a constant for the disabled community to have an opportunity to be trained to gain the self-awareness and self-confidence from participating in archery. These instructors have an incredible combination of sensitivity and seriousness that makes the archery activity a very meaningful experience. Countless times we have seen individuals come to their first archery class saying “I don’t think I can do this” and an hour later, with a few target hits, feeling they are capable of taking on any challenge. This is a gift to the individuals and a gift to the world which these three instructors have taken on as a monthly mission in the most loving and selfless way.</p>

Name	Description
Beth Stiles	<p>It is with great enthusiasm and deep respect that I nominate Beth T. Stiles for the 2025 Kudo Awards, in recognition of her lifelong commitment to disability advocacy and her unwavering dedication to improving the lives of people with disabilities through leadership, perseverance, and lived experience.</p> <p>Beth was born with a mild form of Cerebral Palsy and a learning disability that has presented communication and educational challenges throughout her life. Despite these obstacles, she has cultivated strength, independence, and an unwavering passion for advocacy—first learning from her parents, and ultimately stepping into the role of advocate not only for herself, but for others in her community.</p> <p>Over the past decade, Beth has served on the California State Regional Advocacy Committee, lending her voice and perspective to critical statewide disability policy discussions. She is also a proud member of the Santa Cruz Supported Living Services Client Advocacy Group, and was featured in a video campaign promoting disability rights—using her story to inspire and inform others.</p> <p>Beth's advocacy work is not just professional; it is deeply personal. She has advocated for both of her aging parents, navigating complex elder care systems with compassion and determination. She has lived in assisted living for over eight years, and in that time, she has led efforts to improve safety, cleanliness, and food quality for all residents—writing letters, meeting with staff, and driving positive change.</p> <p>During Disability Awareness Month, Beth helped educate her local community through public presentations at the Santa Cruz library—bringing visibility to the challenges and triumphs of living with a disability. And now, she is launching her own business: Stiles Disability Advocates, a service dedicated to empowering others with disabilities through education, advocacy, and support. She is currently developing her business plan and working to gain support through the Paid Internship Program.</p> <p>Beth embodies the spirit of the Kudo Awards: she is resilient, resourceful, and deeply committed to making the world a more equitable place for people with disabilities. Through decades of lived experience, advocacy, and leadership, she has created ripples of change in her community—and is just getting started. For her courage, tenacity, and vision, I wholeheartedly nominate Beth Stiles for the 2025 Kudo Awards.</p>
Rebecca (Becky) Sheen	<p>It is my honor to nominate Rebecca “Becky” Sheen for the 2025 Kudo Awards in recognition of her decades-long commitment to enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities. Becky exemplifies the spirit of this award through her personal devotion, professional excellence, and unwavering belief in the potential of every person she supports.</p> <p>Becky joined Community Life Services in 2019 and has also contributed meaningfully to the work of Imagine Supported Living Services. A lifelong Santa Cruz resident, Becky brings both professional expertise and deeply personal experience to her role—her adult son is on the autism spectrum. This dual perspective gives Becky unique insight and deep empathy in her work, making her a trusted and beloved ally to clients and families alike.</p> <p>Becky began her journey in disability advocacy through Special Olympics in 1988, and she continues to coach soccer and track in the Santa Cruz area to this day. Her long-standing volunteerism reflects a consistent and genuine dedication to inclusion, empowerment, and joy for individuals with disabilities. Her energy and enthusiasm are contagious—whether on the field or in the community.</p> <p>Professionally, Becky is a trained Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Licensed Vocational Nurse (LVN), having studied at the Career College of Northern Nevada and the University of Nevada, Reno. Her medical training strengthens her ability to support clients holistically, combining health and independence in thoughtful, person-centered ways.</p> <p>At Community Life Services, Becky is known for her friendly nature, fierce dedication, and the way she tailors her approach to help each client realize their dreams. For her tireless advocacy, her compassionate service, and her transformative impact across multiple roles and organizations, I wholeheartedly nominate Becky Sheen for the 2025 Kudo Awards.</p>

Name	Description
Griselda Aguirre	<p>I am pleased to recommend Griselda Aguirre for the 2025 Kudo Awards in recognition of her commitment to empowering individuals with disabilities and supporting them through life’s pivotal moments. Griselda embodies the values of this award through her calm leadership, professional dedication, and deep compassion for the people she serves.</p> <p>Griselda joined Community Life Services in 2013 and has been a steady, supportive presence ever since. Her calm, thoughtful nature has been instrumental in helping clients navigate major transitions—whether moving into their first independent living situation or dealing with tremendous loss. Her ability to provide stability and reassurance during times of uncertainty makes her an invaluable asset to clients and families alike.</p> <p>In addition to her extensive field experience, Griselda pursued her Master’s Degree in Social Work while working full-time, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to professional growth and excellence in service delivery. She brings a wealth of knowledge about social service programs in Santa Cruz County, using this expertise to advocate for client needs and connect individuals with meaningful resources and opportunities.</p> <p>Griselda’s dedication extends beyond her formal duties. She is a natural mentor and role model, known for her steady presence, integrity, and person-centered approach. She is trusted by her peers and deeply respected by the individuals and families she supports.</p> <p>For her years of compassionate service, her quiet strength during times of change, and her tireless efforts to improve the lives of others, I am proud to recommend Griselda Aguirre for the 2025 Kudo Awards.</p>



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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.

2025 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
February 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
March 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
April 10, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
May 8, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
June 12, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
August 14, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
September 11, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
October 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Coastlines Room
November 13, 2025	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.