

Developmental Disability: Developmental disability is a substantial, long term disability that can affect mental ability, physical ability, or both. In order to receive services in the state of California, a developmental disability must occur before age 18, affect three or more areas of major life activities, and continue indefinitely. Developmental disabilities include intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, and certain other conditions.

Autism: Autism, or autism spectrum disorder (ASD), refers to a range of conditions characterized by challenges with social skills, repetitive behaviors, speech and nonverbal communication, as well as by unique strengths and differences.

Intellectual Disability: Intellectual disability is a group of disorders characterized by a limited mental capacity and difficulty with adaptive behaviors such as managing money, schedules and routines, or social interactions. Intellectual disability may result from physical causes or nonphysical causes.

Cerebral Palsy: Commonly referred to as CP, a disorder caused by brain injury or the abnormal development of the brain before birth, during birth or after birth. CP affects body movements, balance and posture, muscle control and coordination, and motor skills.

Epilepsy: Epilepsy is a central nervous system disorder characterized by two or more seizures or periods of unusual behavior, sensations and sometimes loss of consciousness. Seizures are caused by sudden surges of electrical activity in the brain.

Other Developmental Disabilities: These include conditions similar to intellectual disabilities.

Alameda County
Developmental Disabilities Council
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Advocacy • Opportunity • Inclusion



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The Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council

MISSION: To expand opportunities for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

VISION: The Council envisions a world in which every individual with an intellectual and developmental disability has access to a full, meaningful life in an inclusive community.

VALUES: In partnership with self-advocates, family members, service providers and other stakeholders, the Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council improves lives by:

- advocating for better funding and quality services
- promoting education to raise awareness
- supporting services and policies that reduce disparities
- advancing diversity and equity principles
- linking self-advocates and families to resources

The Board of Directors of the Developmental Disabilities Council includes self-advocates, family members and professionals who live or work in Alameda County and who are interested in the field of developmental disabilities.

General membership on the Council is open to all interested in participating. The following committees are chaired by the members of the Board of Directors and all are welcome. The committees are interagency collaborations that work toward fulfilling the mission and the vision of the council.

The Health and Wellness Committee works to address the healthcare disparities that exist between individuals with developmental disabilities and those without. Health and Wellness Committee goals include improved access to quality healthcare services, mental health services and dental care; increased education and heightened awareness of medical staff, and active support and collaboration with other County healthcare efforts.



The East Bay Legislative Coalition (EBLC) consists of five organizations: Alameda County Developmental Disabilities Council; Developmental Disabilities Council of Contra Costa County; Regional Center of the East Bay; State Council on Developmental Disabilities/ Bay Area Office, and the Provider/Vendor Advisory Committee. The EBLC coordinates local legislative efforts that impact the development of public policy for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. In Alameda and Contra Costa Counties this represents over 19,000 individuals and hundreds of service providers.



The Transition Team works to promote the development of post-high school opportunities for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Transition Team coordinates the Alameda County Transition Faire, an annual educational conference that provides information about the transition process and adult services.

When Are the Meetings?

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30 am -12:00 pm, and include educational presentations and Council business. All meetings are open to the general public. Monthly newsletters are available upon request.

For more information contact the Developmental Disabilities Council Coordinator at (510) 267-3261.