



- d) The Director of the California Finance Agency
  - e) The Director or the State Medicaid Director of Health Care Services
  - f) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
  - g) The Secretary of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
  - h) The Executive Director of the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee in the State Treasurer's Office
  - i) The State Public Health Officer
  - j) The Director of the California Department of Aging
  - k) The Director of Rehabilitation
  - l) The Director of State Hospitals
  - m) The Executive Director of the California Workforce Development Board
  - n) The Director of the Office of Emergency Services
  - o) A representative from the State Department of Education
  - p) A representative of the state public higher education system from one of the following:
    - i) The California Community Colleges
    - ii) The University of California
    - iii) The California State University.
  - q) The Senate Committee of Rules and the Speaker of the Assembly shall each appoint one member to the council from two different stakeholder organizations.
- 4) Establishes the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) within the CalHHS to oversee the coordination and delivery of services and supports for Californians with developmental disabilities. Also establishes the State Council on Developmental Disabilities pursuant to the federal Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 to engage in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities so that individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities have access to all available services and supports to promote self-determination for these individuals and their families.
- 5) Requires Cal-ICH to have a public meeting at least once every quarter and authorizes Cal-ICH to invite stakeholders, members of the philanthropic community, experts, and individuals who have experienced homelessness.
- 6) Requires Cal-ICH to seek guidance from and meet, at least twice a year, with an advisory committee that include the following:

- a) A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness
- b) Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program
- c) Stakeholders with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states
- d) Representatives of committees of African Americans, youth, and survivors of gender-based violence
- e) A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California
- f) A current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California.

**This bill:**

- 1) Adds a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. The representative may be the executive director of the state council.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) *Author's statement.* "California has almost 30% (181,399 people) of all individuals experiencing homelessness across the nation. Californians are becoming increasingly concerned with the state's growing homeless population. In fact, Californians named homelessness as the second most important issue, right behind COVID-19, for the Governor and Legislature to work on in 2022. In order to effectively address the many challenges associated with assisting persons experiencing homelessness, a wide variety of perspectives must be sought, including a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Currently, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) is not required to include a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. SB 1443 adds a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to the Cal ICH in order to provide Cal ICH with readily available access to this much-needed perspective."
- 2) *Cal-ICH.* Cal-ICH, formerly known as the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC), was created to oversee the implementation of "Housing First" policies, guidelines, and regulations to reduce the prevalence and duration of homelessness in California. Housing First is an evidence-based model that focuses on the idea that homeless individuals should be provided shelter and stability before underlying issues can be successfully addressed. Housing First utilizes a tenant screening process that promotes accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety, use of substances or participation in services. As the state's homelessness crisis has worsened, the role of Cal-ICH

has significantly increased, as it has been charged with administering two significant programs dedicated to addressing homelessness, the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAPP).

According to their website, DDS “works to ensure Californians with developmental disabilities have the opportunity to make choices and lead independent, productive lives as members of their communities in the least restrictive setting possible.” DDS is responsible for overseeing the coordination and delivery of services and supports to more than 360,000 Californians with developmental disabilities.

- 3) *Homelessness Numbers.* According to the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, chronically homeless people are people with disabilities who also experience extended or repeated episodes of homelessness. The 2020 point in time (PIT) count found that 48,812, or 40%, of individuals with chronic patterns of homelessness were in California; 84% of chronically homeless people in California were unsheltered. Nationally, 110,528 (over a quarter of all homeless individuals) were chronically homeless.<sup>1</sup> Notably, chronically homeless people are a subpopulation that Cal-ICH is required to quantify, and localities must address this subpopulation in local landscape analyses in order to receive HHAPP funding.

A review article published by UC San Diego in 2015 titled *A Quantitative Review of Cognitive Functioning in Homeless Adults* suggest the frequency of cognitive impairment is 25% among homeless individuals. This includes neurodevelopmental problems and acquired brain dysfunction. It is also unclear from the data collected if impairments caused homelessness or if homelessness caused impairment, and it is likely that aspects of homelessness impair brain function.<sup>2</sup> Thus, solving the homelessness crisis is intertwined with mental health supports.

- 4) *Department of Developmental Services.* DDS is one of the 12 departments under CalHHS. Under the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, DDS is responsible for overseeing the coordination and delivery of services and supports to more than 360,000 Californians with developmental disabilities including cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, autism, epilepsy and related conditions. The state’s service system is designed to meet the needs and

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry et al. “The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress.” (US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2021). <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Depp, C. A., Vella, L., Orff, H. J., & Twamley, E. W. (2015). “A quantitative review of cognitive functioning in homeless adults.” *The Journal of nervous and mental disease*, 203(2), 126–131. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NMD.0000000000000248>

choices of individuals at each stage of their lives, and, to the extent possible, serve them in their home communities, providing choices that are reflective of lifestyle, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The State Council on Developmental Disabilities advises DDS and more broadly advocates, conducts outreach, provides training and technical assistance, develops coalitions, and informs policymaking about disability issues.

- 5) *Represented already?* As a co-chair of Cal-ICH, the Cal-HHS Secretary already serves as a representative of DDS on Cal-ICH. Overall, four of the 11 state government members of State Council on Developmental Disability already serve on Cal-ICH, specifically the directors of the departments of Health and Human Services, Aging, and Rehabilitation as well as the Secretary of the Health and Human Services Agency. Additionally, since it is infeasible to represent every population experiencing homelessness on Cal-ICH, existing law authorizes Cal-ICH to invite stakeholders, members of the philanthropic community, experts, and individuals who have experienced homelessness to participate in public meetings. Additionally, adding another member to the council would bring the number to 21, arguably making things more difficult for the council accomplish its stated goals.
- 6) *Seeing double.* This bill is substantially similar a number of previously introduced bills, including: SB 1134 (Melendez, 2022), which was later amended by the author into a different subject in the Assembly, SB 1421 (Jones, 2023), which was chaptered, and SB 246 (Ochoa-Bogh, 2023), which was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- 7) *Double Referral.* This bill was passed out of the Senate Human Services Committee on April 1, 2024 with a vote of 5-0.

#### **RELATED LEGISLATION:**

**SB 842 (Jones, 2023)** — would have added the Director of Developmental Services to Cal-ICH. *This bill was later amended to address a different subject with a new author.*

**SB 246 (Ochoa Bogh, 2023)** — would have added a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to Cal-ICH. *This bill was held on suspense in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.*

**SB 1134 (Melendez, 2022)** — would have added a representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to Cal-ICH. *This bill was later amended to address a different subject.*

**SB 1421 (Jones, Chapter 671, Statutes of 2022)** — added a current or formerly homeless person with a developmental disability to the advisory committee of Cal-ICH.

**AB 1220 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 398, Statutes of 2021)** — renamed the Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. It added five members to Cal-ICH: the State Public Health Officer, The Director of the California Department of Again, The Director of Rehabilitation, The Director of State Hospitals, and the executive director of the California Workforce Development Board. It also created the advisory committee that Cal-ICH must seek guidance from.

**SB 1458 (Rubio, 2020)** — would have added a representative of the State Department of Public Health to Cal-ICH. *This bill died in the Senate Rules Committee.*

**AB 58 (Luz Rivas, Chapter 334, Statutes of 2019)** — added a representative from the State Department of Education to Cal-ICH.

**SB 687 (Rubio, Chapter 345, Statutes of 2019)** — added a representative of the state public higher education system to Cal-ICH.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No    Fiscal Com.: Yes    Local: No

**POSITIONS:** (Communicated to the committee before noon on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.)

**SUPPORT:**

Association of Regional Center Agencies  
California Community Living Network  
California Disability Services Association  
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities

**OPPOSITION:**

None received.