

NDEAM

National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021

What: National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2021
Panel Discussion

Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Time: Noon to 2 p.m.

You are invited to hear leadership from multiple state departments, including the Department of Rehabilitation, discuss the importance of inclusion and diversity within state employment. The topic is inspired by the national theme for National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) 2021, “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.”

Director Joe Xavier and Chief Deputy Director Andi Mudryk are participating along with leadership from Department of Social Services, Department of Child Support Services, and CalABLE. The discussion will not only touch upon the importance of employment practices that focus on inclusion and diversity, but attendees will also hear personal stories from panelists who had to overcome employment obstacles as they navigated their career paths as people with disabilities.

The Department of Social Services is the technical host for the event and managing event registration. To register click on the Eventbrite link: [NDEAM PANEL EVENT REGISTRATION](#). To avoid registration issues, please be sure to use the Google Chrome web browser to register for the event.

Attendees are invited to submit questions in advance. If you are interested in submitting a question, please send via email by close of business on **Wednesday, October 13**, to the Legislation & Communications questions inbox at: Questions@dor.ca.gov.

AGENDA

Welcome: Kim Johnson, Director, Department of Social Services

Opening Remarks: Joe Xavier, Director, Department of Rehabilitation

Moderator: Kim Rutledge, Program Liaison for Adult Protective Services, Department of Social Services

Panelists:

- Andi Mudryk – Chief Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation
- Dante Allen – Executive Director, CalABLE
- Scott Allen – Assistant Director, Legislative Affairs, Department of Child Support Services

Live Q&A

Panelist Bios:

Andi Mudryk is the 2020 Governor appointed and unanimously confirmed by the California Senate in April 2021, the Chief Deputy Director of the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR). Andi joined DOR in 2018 as the Chief Counsel. The DOR provides services and advocacy resulting in employment, independent living, and equality for individuals with disabilities.

Before joining DOR, Andi served as the Deputy Director of Disability Rights California, which is the largest disability rights law firm in the country and the largest legal services provider in California. She graduated with honors in 1989 from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. and has extensive experience serving in leadership roles in non-profit organizations and in litigating a variety of discrimination and disability-related claims. She is admitted to practice law in California, Arizona, and Michigan. On a personal note, Andi is a proud transgender woman with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI), also known as Brittle Bone Disorder.

Dante Allen is the Executive Director of CalABLE Act Board and is responsible for program operations of the State of California's savings and investment program for people with disabilities. Prior to joining CalABLE, he served as the Communications Officer for the California Department of Public Health's Office of Health Equity where he developed strategies to promote the concepts related to the social determinants of health. He also served as the Communications Director for the President and Chief Operations Officer of Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest health plan and hospital system. Dante also serves on the Board of Directors for Resources for Independent Living, Sacramento, and the Crocker Art Museum. He holds his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Davis and a master's degree from the University of Southern California's Annenberg School of Journalism and Communication. Dante was born with a form of spina bifida, a congenital condition that caused partial paralysis requiring him to use a wheelchair. He enjoys outdoor activities including swimming, wheelchair basketball and skiing. He is also the proud parent of a teenage daughter

Scott Allen works in the Assistant Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs with the state Department of Child Support Services (DCSS). He has been with the (DCSS) since 2015 as a Legislative Analyst. Scott helps write and develop the department's legislative analyses and legislative proposals and leads DCSS's annual bill analysis/legislative process training. Scott holds an undergraduate and graduate degree in Government from California State University Sacramento. He is a loyal northern California sports franchise fan. In his spare time, he enjoys family, friends, staying up late listening to Queen, watching horror movies, and pretending to be a rock drummer. Scott wanted to participate in the discussion and highlight mental health disabilities including his own experience dealing with PTSD, anxiety, and depression.