

**San Mateo County SELPA
Board Resolution Recognizing March
As Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**

WHEREAS, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM), observed annually in March, promotes awareness and inclusion, encouraging individuals, businesses, and organizations to recognize the abilities and contributions of people with developmental disabilities, and

WHEREAS, estimates in the United States indicate that about 15 - 17% of children aged 3 - 17 have a developmental disability DDAM is celebrated to accept the strengths of people with disabilities and their rights to full access and participation in our school environments and communities, and

WHEREAS, during the 1950s and 1960s, the federal government, with the strong support and advocacy of family associations, began to develop and validate inclusive practices for children with disabilities and their families Previously, these children were denied access to services and education, and often placed in restrictive and inhumane conditions in state-run, overcrowded Institutions, and

WHEREAS, On November 29, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed into law the Education for All Handicapped Children Act or Public Law 94-142 Public Law 94-142 guaranteed Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), in every state and locality across the country, and

WHEREAS, In 1987, President Reagan proclaimed March as National Developmental Disability Awareness Month to make certain that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to work and have the opportunity to contribute and enjoy meaningful lives that are driven by their choice, and

WHEREAS, In 1990, President Bush signed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and reauthorized Public Law 94-142 to become the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) promoting the goals of independence and integration, and

WHEREAS, This year, we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the IDEA, a civil rights law that guarantees free public education to children with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the San Mateo County SELPA acknowledges the intersectionality of disability with all other forms of discrimination and will strive to provide instruction in disability history and the disability rights movement to enhance the understanding of disability by incorporating social, cultural, historical, and legal perspectives, including the connections between disability and other identities, and

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities are valued members of our community and contribute to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our society, and


WHEREAS, the recognition of DDAM fosters understanding, promotes accessibility, and encourages advocacy to improve policies, programs, and opportunities that support the independence and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities, and

WHEREAS, this year's theme of DDAM is *We're Here: Then, Now, Always*; recognizing the truth that people with developmental disabilities have always been a part of our communities, and always will be; and

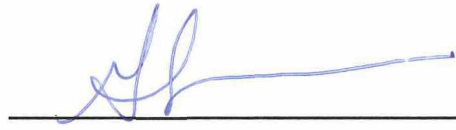
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the San Mateo County SELPA hereby recognizes March as **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** and strives to honor and include all people with disabilities and consciously promote and foster inclusive, safe, welcoming environments for all.

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2026, by the San Mateo County SELPA.

SIGNED:



Associate Superintendent, SELPA



Board Chair, SELPA Governing Board