



A note from Regional Growth Director, Tony Venzor:

Dear Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

Welcome to the March edition of SequoiaSD e-Newsletter! I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season and is eagerly awaiting the spring and summer months ahead. With spring around the corner, it's important to take care of ourselves and our surroundings. My anticipation of the growth and success of the self-determination programs in 2024 is already coming to life. We have successfully been onboarding new participants and their caregivers throughout January and February, which is such a rewarding experience for everyone at SequoiaSD.

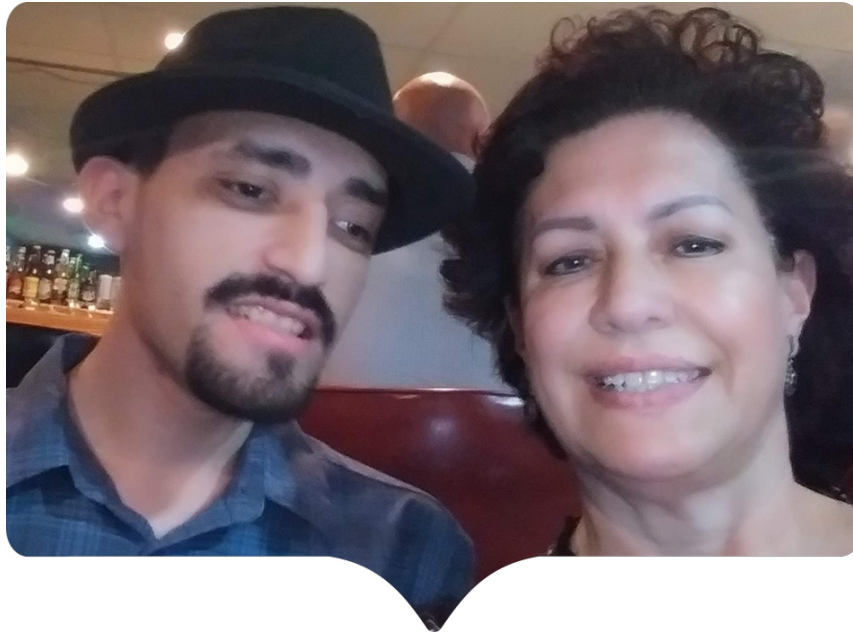
This spring's e-newsletter is packed full of participant stories, updates from the California Department of Developmental Services, and a SequoiaSD employee spotlight – get to know one of our enrollment coordinators: Jonathan Casillas.

Happy Reading!

In today's email:

- **Linda and Isaac's Journey with SequoiaSD**
- **DDS Announces DSP Training Stipend**
- **SequoiaSD Celebrates DDAM 2024**
- **SequoiaSD Celebrates Older Americans Month**
- **Upcoming Events and Conferences**
- **Employee Spotlight - Jonathan Casillas**

Linda & Isaac's Journey to Independence with SequoiaSD



In Orange County, California, Linda and her 27-year-old son, Isaac, are achieving independence through their journey with SequoiaSD. Isaac, who lives with a metabolic condition, had his life transformed when Linda discovered Self-Determination. Teaming up with SequoiaSD has allowed Linda to curate Isaac's daily schedule. This service provides them both a newfound sense of control and autonomy. As Linda and Isaac embarked on this journey, SequoiaSD became a resource towards a more independent life. Click below to read Linda and Isaac's full story.

[Linda & Isaac's Journey](#)

*If you would like to share your experience with us, please fill out this **FORM** on our website and a member from the SequoiaSD marketing team will reach out to you!*

California DDS Announces DSP Training Stipend Program

The Department of Developmental Services has announced a training stipend program. The program allows DSPs to earn up to two \$625 stipends for training completion. Direct Support Professionals and certain supervisors and clinical staff can take part in the program.

[Click to Learn More](#)

SequoiaSD Celebrates DDAM in March

It's March and SequoiaSD is celebrating Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM). DDAM has been around since 1987. President Regan dedicated the month to building awareness for individuals with disabilities.

[Celebrate Today](#)

SequoiaSD Celebrates Older Americans Month in May

May is right around the corner and SequoiaSD is looking forward to celebrating Older Americans Month (OAM). OAM is organized each year by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). During the month, the ACL shares ways to celebrate the month by connecting with older adults in your community.

Learn More Ways to Celebrate



Did You Know?

SequoiaSD is on social media. Follow us below on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn to stay up to date with all things SequoiaSD.



Quarterly Reader Poll

We want to hear from you. Would you like to learn more about California overtime laws?

Yes! I'd love to learn more.

No thanks.



Upcoming Events & Conferences

Event	Date and Location	Sign-Up Information
Abilities Expo Los Angeles	March 15-17, 2024 @ Los Angeles Convention Center, West Hall A	Click here to Register for Free
California Disability Advocacy Conference	To Be Announced	Get Tickets at TheArcCA.org/Conference



Employee Spotlight - Meet Jonathan Casillas



Favorite Quote

"Never look down on anybody unless you're lifting them up"
- Jesse Jackson

Five Things to Know About Jonathan

What is Jonathan's role at SequoiaSD?

Jonathan is an enrollment coordinator and has been with SequoiaSD for over four months! He helps with participant, employee, and vendor enrollment while also processing invoices, mileage, and timesheets and creating budgets.

What does Jonathan like most about working at SequoiaSD?

Jonathan enjoys the teamwork at SequoiaSD and most importantly, he loves supporting families!

What inspires Jonathan to help others?

Working with SequoiaSD has inspired Jonathan to support other people because he has a family member with a disability. He understands a participant's needs and he wants to try his best and provide every family the best support possible.

At Sequoia, Jonathan is motivated by supporting families and participants on their self-determination journey.

What are Jonathan's interests outside of work?

Jonathan spends his free time going to the gym, playing soccer, and playing video games and Magic: The Gathering. Jonathan also enjoys learning new skills. He believes learning something new is a great gift to your brain and the more you learn, the more you grow.



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