



Report from SSAN to SCDD by David Forderer **Highlights from the SSAN and SAAC Activities**

SSAN met on September 6th and 7th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Sacramento. Here is a summary on their recent activity:

- The central theme for the meeting was housing and healthcare patient rights.
- SSAN workgroups on Self-Determination, Employment, Legislative, and Newsletter/Communication met to review their goals and measurable objectives
- SSAN Members received a presentation on statewide housing options from Patti Uplinger of the Lanterman Housing Alliance.
- SSAN members reported on their local activities and efforts to increase advocacy in their communities.
- SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers updated members on the proposed federal budget and SCDD's efforts to protect Medicaid. Mr. Carruthers also introduced SCDD Deputy Director of Policy, Cindy Smith to SSAN. Mr. Carruthers informed SSAN members of the two grants that the Council awarded.
 - Lanterman Housing Alliance
 - Easter Seals
- SSAN elected a new Secretary in Rebecca Donabed

- SCDD Deputy Director of Policy Cindy Smith introduced herself and talked about the importance of the letters advocates sent in, sharing their stories and the difference they made in the direction of the conversation. Ms. Smith asked members for ideas on the SCDD Legislative Platform. The following ideas were shared:
 - Affordable Housing
 - Civil rights protection with employers or employment practices
 - Dependent adult terminology in statute
 - Support for the providers providing services
 - Education about employment and people with developmental disabilities
 - Provider training and more pay.
- On the second day of the meeting, Bradley Showman, an attorney with Legal Services of Northern California provided SSAN members with information on Healthcare Patients' Rights. Information was also given out on General Assistance, CalWorks, Social Security/SSI and Cash benefits.
- Members approved the 10th edition of the SSAN Newsletter
- SSAN members were updated on the budget for SSAN.
- SSAN members were informed of the current vacancies to SSAN, Members discussed the different qualities that they wanted to emphasize in the recruitment process.
- SSAN members moved to approve changes to the membership description changing the language from numbering Regional SCDD Office numbers to the names of the SCDD Offices.

The next SSAN meeting will be on December 6th and 7th in Sacramento.