

Meet the New SSAN Officers!

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VOICES of SSAN

Newsletter of the
Statewide Self Advocacy
Network



Cheryl Hewitt

Robert Balderama

Julie Gaona

At our December 2016 SSAN meeting in Sacramento, we held an election for officers. We have a new chair, vice chair and secretary who will begin their terms at the March 2017 meeting.

CHAIR

Robert Balderama

I'm been a part of self-advocacy for a number of years. I believe I began my career in self advocacy around 1991.

I'm a native from

Southern California. I moved to Stockton over 40 years ago. I have a 33 years old son Philip who

is the love of my life. I was nominated by another SSAN member for the chair position and I accepted that nomination with great pride. I was so happy when I was elected chairperson and I am really looking

forward to working with the committee and making headway with the Self advocacy movement in California.

VICE CHAIR

Julie Gaona

I really enjoy being a part of the SSAN. I will do the best job I can do as the vice chair. I want keep learning, listening and teaching.

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SECRETARY

Cheryl Hewitt

As a member driven organization, I plan to be a big support to both Robert and Julie. I'm looking forward to the future of SSAN to identify other agencies we may collaborate with to create a strong Advocacy Movement in California.



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For more information on SSAN see www.scdd.ca.gov website under self-advocacy.

SSAN Newsletter Editor
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Rebecca Donabed Daniel Fouste
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Robert Levy (Orange County)
Teresa Moshier
Nicole Patterson
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SSAN Members

- Charles Adams
North Coast
- Teresa Moshier
North State
- Lisa Cooley
Sacramento
- Chen Curtiss
North Bay
- Regina Woodliff
Bay Area
- Robert Balderama
North Valley Hills
- Cheryl Hewitt
Central Coast
- Ramon Hernandez
Central Coast
- Rebecca Donabed
Sequoia
- Julie Gaona
Los Angeles
- Robert Levy
Orange County
- Daniel Fouste
San Bernardino
- Paul Mansell
San Diego Imperial
- Desiree Boykin
ARCA
- CFILC
- Nicole Patterson
DDS
- Marinda Reed
DRC
- Robert Levy
Mind Institute
- David Forderer
SCDD
- Kecia Weller UCLA
Tarjan Center

What's happening in my local area...



Sacramento office - Lisa Cooley

We are continuing the blueprint and waiting for the Integrated Competitive Employment blueprint. We also had some presentations about the ABLE ACT at our Regional Center and If I have been chosen I will present with both presentations on the Self Determination and the ABLE ACT on both days on May 5, 2017 and May 6, 2017 at Crowne Plaza Hotel here in Sacramento at the 22nd annual Statewide Self Advocacy Supported Life conference. I shared to the Employment agency to being aware of Autism on the Self Determination - on February 22, 2017. That's all for now.



North Valley Hills office - Robert Balderama

We have our local advocacy group called the Self Advocacy Council 6 (SAC6). I represent SSAN on that council. I'm on the Board of Directors for Valley Mountain Regional Center (VMRC). Right now the hot topic of discussion is self-determination. VMRC has a new Executive Director - Tony Anderson and he is the former Executive Director of The Arc of California. He seems to be very interested in self advocacy. He recently introduced himself to the local self-advocates - over 500 self-advocates at the annual SAC6 Area meeting in February. I am proud to say that self - advocacy is very strong in the North Valley Hills region.



San Bernardino office - Daniel Fouste

In Rancho Cucamonga, there is a group for autistic teens and young adults known as Open Doors Now. Or rather, there was a group for autistic teens and young adults known as Open Doors Now; recently the group's leader, Cassie Zupke, decided to close their doors (to make an ironic pun) after eleven years. Their Facebook page is still available as a community page; you can check it out <https://www.facebook.com/opendoorsnow>.

The UCD MIND Institute news updates by Robert Levy



The UCD MIND Institute is currently doing the 2016-2017 monthly Distinguished Lecture series season presentation talks. This season marks the 14th season. There is no requirement to attend the conference workshops, if you interested on attending - you can show up and check it out.

The summer Institute is an annual Neurodevelopmental conference presentation to be held July 28, 2017. PEC Staff member Executive of Director / CEO Carol Watilo and Jaqueline Armstrong, PEC participant will be one of the presenters and present about supported Employment. If you are interested you need to register.

The MINDS the Behind MIND lecture series that is held about 3 to 4 times during each season. It's open to the public and it's free. There is no requirement to attend - if you interested on attending this event you can show up and check it out.

The annual 2-day Summit workshops for both Northern and Southern California is called CAPTAIN it means (California Autism Professional Training and Information Network.) UCD MIND Institute Staff member Patty Schetter is in charge of this. The Southern California Conference workshop is usually held in Ventura County and the Northern California Conference is usually held in Stockton.

Usually the conferences and the workshop lecture talks are available on the UCD MIND Institute website for the community to look at. The annual CAPTAIN conference workshops are not filmed. The MIND Institute's Patrick Hugunin films all events to be posted on the UCD MIND Institute website for our community to check it out.

You can check it out on the UCD MIND Institute website under videos by topic. www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/minid/institute/



SSAN workgroups have put together power point presentations on Employment First, Self Determination and the ABLE Act? Check out these resources at www.scdd.ca.gov under self-advocacy tab

SSAN past Newsletters, annual reports and meeting info can be found on the website!

Let us know if you want to see anything specific in future newsletters!



How to contact the SSAN Newsletter Editor Robert Levy? Leave a messager for him by contacting the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinantor Riana Hardin at (916) 322-8403





Save the Date
**Mark your
Calendars
Now!**

Healthcare Advocacy
Summit March 21, 2017
www.disabilityorganizing.net

22nd Annual Statewide Self
Advocacy Conference –
Sacramento May 5-6, 2017
www.supportedlife.org

San Diego People First
Conference June 2-3, 2017

Capitol Action Day June 13,
2017
www.disabilityactioncoalition.org

People First of CA
Gathering June 23-25, 2017
www.peoplefirstca.org

Did you know?

- March is Disability Awareness Month
- March 25 is Cerebral Palsy Day- wear green
- March 26 is Epilepsy Day- wear purple

More Happenings from across the state!

Central Coast Office- Cheryl Hewitt

The major thing that people with developmental disabilities in the Santa Clara area is a change in the para transit provider. In the middle of November, last year the FBI walked into outreach Inc. Our para transit provider and shut it down completely and took files to prove that the agency was over charging clients. At that time Valley Trans had already taken over... and renamed it Para Access

Orange County office- Robert Levy

My name is Robert Levy. I live in Costa Mesa, California. I live in a community called "Harbor Village". It is a nice and quiet place. In the daytime I go to a day program called "Integrity House". It is a place where a person whether she or he has a disability can come to learn how to cook, do a newsletter or fix something in Integrity House. When I moved to Long Beach, California, I joined an organization called SVS which means Social Vocational Services. One day I was in the office and I asked someone "is there a

Transit. They then opened it for bids to take transit over. Now we have Access transit run by medical transit. People are getting left all over the place missing doctors appointments. Waiting very long before being dropped off over 3 hrs of wait time in the transit. The Silicon Valley of Independent living are attempting to work with VTA and Access to address these problems. However it seems it will be a long transition.

group who meets once a month and the main purpose is self-advocacy?" She said "there was one and it was called People First so I went back to my room and started to think about it. After 2 hours thinking about it I said yes. So 20 years ago I started People First of Long Beach. We meet at different restaurants and we talked about how to get America to help people with disabilities. We realized that people with disabilities can do things on their own as well as other people. We did conferences in Los Angeles. People from all over the United States representing other
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More Happenings from across the state!

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People First chapters came. There were lectures and demonstrations in different categories. While I was at Integrity House one day, a lady by the name of Scarlett VonThenen, who represents SCDD which stands for State Council of Development Disabilities, Orange County office, told us that we need someone to represent Orange County. She also said "If you are interested write a small essay of why you would like to join it and whoever is picked will be notified. That night I was watching TV and two ladies

from the Integrity House came and told me that I won. I was excited. Scarlett told me more about the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) and why I was going. I have gone to a couple of meetings in Sacramento. I am thankful I belong to this wonderful Network be we try to lift people with disabilities up!



Sequoia Office- Rebecca Donabed

Tulare County is known for it's agricultural. Every year in Tulare California, is a farm show to display all the current and new farming equipment. This year it was on February 14-16. There were seminars such as: Women in Ag, Cooking Demonstration, and Drones in Agricultural. You could even taste the local cheese and wine all over California. My favorite was the Cooking Demo because I love to cook!

Continued from Page 1 Gaona

I started being an advocate in the year 2000 volunteering for an independent living agency. After 2 years of volunteering, I got hired. I assisted people with regional center hearings, IHSS and getting people out of the nursing homes. I worked for them for 10 years before relocating to Los Angeles. Currently, my husband and I volunteer and work with many different advocacy groups in LA County. I have been on the SCDD/LA Office Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for 4 years and on the SSAN for 3 years.



SSAN's Mission

The Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.

What is a UCEDD?

- UCEDD stands for "University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities."
- UCEDDs work in partnership with a federal agency, the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) that supports a national network of programs.
- In California, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities coordinates the plans for services needed in the state;
- The Protection and Advocacy agencies carry out legal and advocacy services for individuals with disabilities;
- And the national network of UCEDDs focus on educational and research needs relating to developmental disabilities.
- The key components of UCEDD activities and programs is to promote the independence, productivity, and inclusion of all members of our communities.

UCLA UCEDD by Kecia Weller

Tarjan Center is completing strategic planning for 2017-2022

During most of 2016, the Tarjan Center held strategic planning sessions where stakeholders of the Tarjan Center gave vital input on the 2017-2022 strategic plan!

The Tarjan Center has just submitted their grant to AIDD for their 5 –year renewal on March 6th.

HEALTH

Publication of the PEERS for Young Adults Treatment Manual:

The UCLA PEERS® Clinic and Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson are delighted to announce the release of the newest social skills training manual, PEERS® for Young Adults, available in January 2017. Dr. Laugeson, Director of Training at the Tarjan Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at UCLA, is the developer of PEERS®, an evidence-based, caregiver-assisted

social skills intervention for adolescents and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other social challenges.

The *PEERS® for Young Adults Treatment Manual* is empirically-supported, providing ecologically valid skills related to developing and maintaining friendships and romantic relationships for young adults with autism spectrum disorder and other social challenges. Each session chapter includes didactic lessons, handouts, homework assignments, descriptions of what to expect, how to handle treatment challenges, and customized tips for caregivers and therapists. The *PEERS® for Young Adults Treatment Manual* is now available for pre-order on amazon.com!

<https://www.amazon.com/PEERS-Young-Adults-Training-Challenges/dp/1138238716>



Mental health professionals, educators, and school based professionals who are interested in learning more about implementing the PEERS® program are welcome to attend a PEERS® Certified Training Seminar, which includes 24-hours of in-depth didactic instruction on implementation for research and/or clinical practice. Certified training seminars for *PEERS® for Young Adults* will be held starting in Winter 2017, while upcoming seminars for *PEERS® for Adolescents* will be held on the following dates at UCLA:

- June 29-July 1, 2017
- August 9 – 11, 2017

For more information on the PEERS® social skills interventions and Certified Training Seminars, please visit our website at www.semel.ucla.edu/peers, or contact us at (310) 267-3377

The Tarjan Center hosted a lecture on February 15th entitled, “Genetically Informed Biomarkers of Autism Spectrum Disorder: Insights Gained from Dup15q Syndrome.” For our information about our next Lecture on March 15th go to <https://www.semel.ucla.edu/tarjan/lectureseries/upcoming>

EMPLOYMENT

The California Employment Consortium for Youth and Young Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (CECY) hosted a Webinar on January 12th entitled, “California’s Blueprint for Competitive Integrated Employment for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.” To see the webinar recording, transcript and PowerPoint go to

<https://www.semel.ucla.edu/tarjan/cecy/webinars>

ARTS

2016-2017 Arts and Accessibility Grants Program:

The NADC would like to announce that funds are available for the 2016-2017 Arts and Accessibility Grants Program. Since 2000, the California Arts Council (CAC) and the NADC have partnered to provide small but critical grants to artists with disabilities, and to arts organizations seeking to make their programs accessible for all. The purpose of this grants program is to enhance opportunities for participation in the arts by people with disabilities throughout California. Grants for artists are intended to support the advancement of their creative work and careers.

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Artist grants are for specific projects that contribute directly to their professional goals and development. California-based arts organizations may request support for the hiring or involvement of artists with disabilities in arts events, and/or to increase the attendance and enhance the experience for audiences with disabilities. For more information

<https://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc/grants>

Online Dialogue on Careers in the Arts In June, the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), The National Endowment for the Arts, and the NADC held an Online Dialogue on Careers in the Arts. The final Careers in the Arts Online Dialogue [Final Report](#) summarizing the dialogue's overall participation and highlighting the most popular of the Careers in the Arts Online Dialogue is now available. In addition, the full contents of the dialogue are archived [here](#).

The results of the dialogue were recently presented in a "table talk" at the Leadership Exchange on Arts and Disability conference in Pittsburgh, PA. In addition, the National Council on the Arts was briefed on the outcomes of the dialogue. Moving forward, the dialogue team plans to continue to use the information collected to develop action steps for the arts

field, the disability employment field, and the National Endowment of the Arts. In addition, Dr. Olivia Raynor presented at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference on what the picture for employment of people with disabilities in the arts and the findings from the Online Dialogue. The poster can be viewed [here](#)

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The Tarjan Centers Open the Doors to College hosted a webinar on "Competitive Employment Incentives that May Impact the Engagement of Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)" that took place on Monday March 6, 2017. The purpose of the webinar was to provide California community colleges and community partners with information on two newly authorized programs (i.e. the Competitive Integrated Employment Incentives Program and the Paid Internship Program) for individuals that are regional center consumers. Participants will learn about two new regional center programs. The first is funding (up to \$3,750 per regional center client) for regional center vendors who assist individuals with IDD to transition from school to competitive integrated employment¹. The second is up to \$10,400 per intern per state fiscal year in funding to cover wages during a paid internship for a regional center client as a pathway to competitive integrated employment.



Tips on How to Do a Housing Search by Teresa Moshier

My story – My husband and I were given a 90 day notice to move. I started doing a search with my Independent Living Services (ILS) Instructor through the Arc of Butte County. It was very hard for me to find a place because there are not a lot of places that take Section 8. It took me a while, almost the entire the 90 days before we found a place where we are at now.

What I learned is to always find someone to help you. If you are a client of a Regional Center always notify your service coordinator because you may need more hours of serve to help you. I looked online for different places by searching for rentals in Paradise, CA where I live. It took a while. I needed my ILS worker to help me pick up the applications. If she wasn't available I would take the bus or regional transit to look at places. Every time you move you have to get a new voucher, so you have to contact your worker at the Housing Authority. You need to make an appointment to do this.

We next went around and turned in our applications. It is good to get references that you have known for a long time. Always ask for permission to use a person for a reference. You need to put down the person's address and phone number.

They also asked why you are moving and where you lived before. Sometimes they ask you for an emergency contact of someone who doesn't live with you. I always use my cousin that lives in Magalia since she is the closest person to me. They also ask about your income like your SSI, your social security or wages if you work.

You can get help if you need help. The 3 main points are:

- Contact your regional center worker for help
- Contact your local housing authority
- Be prepared with the information needed for the application



We are in need of your help in finding individuals who would like to serve as members of the Department of Developmental Service (DDS) Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC). Members should be committed to providing a voice for people with developmental disabilities on behalf of their geographic area and be willing to work to assure that people with developmental disabilities in



WE WANT YOU!!

The Department of Developmental Services is looking for people with developmental disabilities to apply to become members of the **Consumer Advisory Committee**. The Consumer Advisory Committee provides advice to the Department on policies, programs, legislation, and regulations that affect the lives of consumers in California. There are fifteen (15) Committee members from all over California who meet up to four (4) times per year either in person in Sacramento or by video/conference call. Members will also need to meet as much as possible with local People First and other self-advocacy organizations in their communities. The costs of transportation, attendants and facilitators, if needed, for Committee members are paid for by the Department.

If you would like to apply for possible appointment to this Committee, here's what you have to know and do:

1. You must have a developmental disability and use the services of a regional center or live at a developmental center.
2. You must be a member of a local People First or self-advocacy organization.
3. Your local People First or organization **MUST** nominate you for membership.
4. Fill out the attached application completely and send it along with a nomination letter to:
The Department of Developmental Services
Office of Human Rights and Advocacy Services
1600 9th Street, Room 240, MS 2-15, Sacramento CA, 95814
You can also e-mail them to Nicole.patterson@dds.ca.gov by March 31, 2017.

Questions? Call Nicole Patterson at (916)654-1494

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APPLY TO BE ON THE DDS CAC

The regional centers catchment area DDS is recruiting for are Central Valley, North Bay, Far Northern, Tri-Counties and San Andreas, but we are taking all applications for future openings.

Deadline is Friday March 31, 2017.



In April of 2017-



The Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)

Will be 5 YEARS OLD!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE SSAN!

Here's to the next 5 Years!

