



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide
Self-Advocacy Network
Volume 5- March 2016

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.

"We have a voice! The strength of our voice needs to be heard by all individuals in California. Our job is to make their voice loud as well. As we strengthen those voices they will be empowered to speak up and express what is needed to improve their lives."

*~ Cheryl Hewitt,
SSAN Chair*

From Cheryl Hewitt, SSAN Chair

Welcome to "Voice of SSAN," a newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)!

Meet our NEW Member!!!



Robert Levy is the President of the Long Beach Self-Advocacy chapter for the past 15 years and an active member of Integrity House, an Orange County clubhouse where the

emphasis is on individual abilities. His many years of self-advocacy experience and focus on community collaboration have led him to multiple public speaking opportunities and as a "go-to" person for resources. He has also taught a music history class at Lotus House in Long Beach. Robert is a resident of Costa Mesa, California, and his hobbies include computer, theatre, music, watching television, and cooking.



Check out our Annual Report to see all the hard work the SSAN members did all around California from

October 2014- September 30, 2015!

Go to scdd.ca.gov and click Self-advocacy and then SSAN



SSAN Members

- Charles Adams, North Coast
- Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills
- Desiree Boykin, ARCA
- Lisa Cooley, Sacramento
- Chen Curtiss, North Bay
- Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia
- David Forderer, SCDD
- Julie Gaona, Los Angeles
- Ramon Hernandez, Central Coast
- Cheryl Hewitt, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
- Vacant, North State
- Ted Jackson, CFILC
- Vacant, San Bernardino
- Robert Levy, Orange
- Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute
- Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial
- Joe Meadours, PFCA
- Nicole Patterson, DDS
- Marinda Reed- DRC
- Kecia Weller, UCLA Tarjan Center
- Regina Woodliff, Bay Area



State Capitol Rally – The Lanterman Coalition still fighting to get the 10% percent increase!!

by Robert Levy- Mind Institute

It was a nice day in Sacramento, the weather was sunny and it was rainy that night before the event. There were lots of people from the community. Some ASAN members were there and one member was all the way from Washington DC. Ari Ne’eman, the Founder of ASAN, President and CEO spoke about this issue. The PEC Founder CEO President Carol Watilo from Citrus Height, attended and some of her staff members and her clients too. I was amazed how many others also spoke too. I and Joe Meadours, current SSAN members, also attended. **(Continued on page 5- see Lanterman Coalition)**



SCDD- North Bay office Self Advocacy Regional Meeting

by Robert Levy- Mind Institute

It was a nice day on Thursday the weather in Fairfield was sunny and it was rainy that night before this event. The theme for the meeting was Employment. I was asked to talk about my employment experiences. I talked about my 3 jobs which were Target that I started back on January 19, 2000, The UCD MIND Institute that I started back on April 27, 2011 and also PEC that I started back on October 13, 2014. I told the group what I do at my jobs, how I got the jobs, how I stayed at my jobs, and what I learned from my jobs. I told them about how the support I got helped me to be successful. I told them what I liked about the difference jobs I have had. There were about 69 people who attended this event. There were others who talked about their employment experiences! **(Continued on page 3- Levy)**

The State Council on Developmental Disabilities supports SSAN. The Partner Agencies are:

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- People First of California (PFCA)
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
UC Davis MIND Institute
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center
- UCEDD USC

SSAN Officers

Cheryl Hewitt, Chair
Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair
Desiree Boykin, Secretary

Newsletter Editors

Robert Levy-Chair
Desiree Boykin-Co-chair

(Levy- Continued from page 2)

They were:

- A PEC Client named Andrew Folies who talked about his job at Fliptasic. He talked about how he gets the support he needs to keep on being successful at his job. He uses his task list and also his tech tools too. He also talked about his volunteer site being at Mustard Seed School in Sacramento and much more.
- Chen Curtiss talked about his job at Walmart and being a new member of SSAN.
- Lending works talked about Micro Enterprise and how to do their business loans.
www.lendingworksinc.com

If people are interested in getting a job...and you get services from a regional center- talk to your service coordinator. Anyone with a disability can contact their local Department of Rehabilitation.



(Pictured Andrew Folies from PEC and SSAN member, Robert Levy from UC Davis Mind Institute)



The SSAN Newsletter and how it's doing now and why the SSAN decided to have a newsletter by Robert Levy

This is the SSAN's 5th issue of its newsletter. I have been the chair of this work group. Our work group members are Desiree Boykin, vice chair, Chen Curtiss, Cheryl Hewitt, Robert Levy of Orange County, Joe Meadours and Kecia Weller. We wanted to have a newsletter to get news out to the community about special events and what's happening across the state to make our self-advocacy network stronger! We wanted to have topics that might be interesting to people and also give resources on different topics.

We have monthly conference calls and work like a team to get all the articles, pictures and information in each newsletter. Having the Chair and Vice Chair taking charge getting the SSAN newsletter posted on the SCDD website for the community the first year was great. So now the team is ready to begin their second year. Hopefully it will be successful for many more years to come.

Is there something you or your self-advocacy group would like to see in our newsletter? If so let us know! You can email me at rj.levy70@gmail.com

(Lanterman Coalition continued from page 2)

Cindy Ruder from the SCDD North Bay office was there. I think it's shameful that this Lanterman Coalition deal is not a done deal. Hopefully sometime this year this 10% increase will happen. For our community hopefully the Lanterman Coalition will win the fight. I think it needs to happen ASAP so services can keep running and not run out of these funds. These agencies help clients to have a productive life so they can have the support they need. Service agencies helped me to become successful in life and meet new people, make friends, earn my own money and spend my money on what I want. If this Lanterman Coalition can't get this done some agencies may close their doors. People might have to stay home year round 24/7/365 days a year by watching TV will make them feel like

(Lanterman Coalition continued on page 5)

they are not having a productive life. This will be wrong. I think this community would be a lot happier if the Lanterman Coalition's 10% increase deal gets done for the Developmental Services. Let your legislators know that this increase is a good thing for Californians with developmental disabilities!



SAVE THE DATES!!!!



**The 29th Annual
CHOICES
From "I Can't"
to "I CAN!"**

Friday, April 8, 2016

Registration 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Micro Business Fair 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Conference 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location:
San Joaquin Co. Office of Education
Wentworth Education Center
2707 Transworld Dr., Stockton, CA

Conference Presented by:
CHOICES Institute
Central Valley Training Center, Inc.
CLASP - Coalition of Local Area Service Providers
Creative Support Alternatives / SDSU
DRC - Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy
Family Resource Network
Lodi Unified SELPA
Person Centered Services, Inc.
San Joaquin County Office of Education-SELPA
SCDD - North Valley Hills
Self Advocacy Council 6
The Arc San Joaquin
United Cerebral Palsy of Stanislaus
Valley CAPS
Valley Mountain Regional Center

(209) 473-6950

Save These Dates!!!

21st Annual Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference
~ Friday & Saturday May 6 - 7, 2016 ~
~ Crowne Plaza Hotel, Sacramento ~

“Get Connected”

Action, State Budget, Legislators
Health & Wellness
Independence & Living Options
Microenterprises & Jobs
People First and Self-Advocacy Groups
Regional and Statewide Networking
Relationships and Sexuality
Serving on Boards & Facilitation
Transition and Youth Self-Advocacy Skills
Transportation Advocacy

**Don't Miss out on the big statewide chance for:
Self-Advocacy and Peer Advocacy Learning
Networking with 100s of other Self-Advocates**

**Set These Dates in your
May 2016 Calendar**

Registration materials coming in March

Want to be a Conference Session Speaker?
Apply by December 18th, 2015

Self-Advocates from Regions up and down the State work to find good self-advocacy workshops. **Self-advocates** are the session **speakers**.

Professionals or others can still play an important role by helping people practice, get ready to present, & be in the audience during sessions (though must be registered to attend the conference).

Filling Out the Speaker Application Form? (see separate form)
To apply about a session:
1) complete **both sides** of the attached Speaker Application Form to tell us about the session you want to present
2) **return** it to us by fax or mail (or scan and email)
Please note that all conference Speakers and Helpers DO pay regular conference registration fees.

Training on TOPICS LIKE THESE!

(916) 567-1974



20th Annual Gathering
June 10-12, 2016 in
Sacramento

www.peoplefirstca.org

(916) 552-6625



My experience at my first SSAN Meeting and Regional Self-Advocacy Meeting! By Chen Curtiss

On December 2nd and 3rd, I went to the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) meetings; they were pretty cool. I enjoyed the meetings and I will go again. I will go again because people want me to go again and I had fun. The food was tasty, pancake breakfast, yum! I met Robert, a new friend from SSAN. I talked about SSAN, how it helped me, the
(Continued on next page)

meaning of the program and how it can help other people with disabilities. In the meeting we discussed about how to vote and how to facilitate voting for people with disabilities. It also explained how important it is for us to defend our rights by voting, getting informed and protesting when we feel disadvantaged. We need to defend the funding for the programs that assist our disabled population and insist that the Governor keeps his promise of increasing our budget. I am the North Bay SSAN's representative and I am proud to speak up for our population. I talked about how SSAN helped me and shared my experiences with the people at the meeting, it was cool. I would go again. I want people to listen to me speak.

On December 17th, I went to the Regional Self-Advocacy (RSA) meeting. In my opinion, the RSA meeting was cool. I went in front of people to speak. I'm the North Bay representative and I am happy to do that. I told everybody at the meeting how the Regional Center helped me being a better person, they helped me get a job at Walmart, participate at The Arc Solano's programs and assisted me with independent living skills. I feel more grown up and a part of society with their help, able to participate in the community and in the political system. It is wonderful that SSAN and RSA help people with disabilities speak up and defend our rights. I'm thankful to be a part of these programs and recommend it to anybody with disabilities, SSAN and RSA make sure that our voices are heard and that our rights are protected. I'm looking forward to the next meeting.