



Statewide Self Advocacy Network
 Meeting Minutes
 September 9-10, 2014

<p><u>Area Board Members in attendance</u> Charles Horne-Nutt- Area Board 2 Jennifer Allen- Area Board 3 Michael Arbios- Area Board 4 Regina Woodliff-Area Board 5 Robert Balderama-Area Board 6 Cheryl Hewitt- Area Board 7 Rebecca Donabed- Area Board 8 Chris Rogel- Area Board 12</p> <p><u>Agency Members in attendance</u> Desiree Boykin- ARCA Nicole Patterson- DDS Ted Jackson- CFILC representative Robert Levy-Mind Institute Joe Meadours- People First of California Thomas Forderer- SCDD</p>	<p><u>Members not in attendance</u> Julie Ganoa- Area Board 10 Kecia Weller- Tarjan Kyle Minnis- Area Board 11</p> <p><u>Guests in attendance</u> Sarah May- Area Board 2 Dena Hernandez- Area Board 6 Anastasia Bacigalupo- Area Board 9 Steve Ruder- Mind Institute Cindy Ruder- Area Board 4 Vicki Smith- Area Board 12 George Lewis- Area Board 6 Mary Ellen Stives- Area Board 13 Robin Rhoades- People First of CA Ray Darwin</p>
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DAY 1 –September 9, 2014

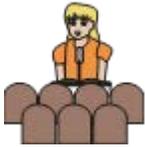


Review and Approval of Agenda: Jennifer Allen – Acting Chair Jennifer asked for a motion to approve the agenda, which was made, seconded and motion passed.



Review and Approval of Minutes: Jennifer Allen – Acting Chair
 The minutes were approved with the following changes:
 Nicole’s last name on page 3 will be changed to Patterson, and Desiree’s first name on page 13 will be changed. The question was then raised if the members had said they wanted to keep talking about SSAN becoming a nonprofit as it indicated on page 3. Cheryl reminded the group that they never took a vote on this item, and it was just a discussion that occurred at the last meeting. David Forderer asked the group to make a decision so he can report to the SCDD on their decision. This issue has been discussed at the past several meetings, and a decision needs to be made so the SSAN can move forward. Ted

Jackson made a motion that at the end of the day when the By-Law issue is addressed, they include this nonprofit issue. Jennifer asked for a vote on the first motion that was made to approve the minutes, which was seconded and approved. Jennifer then addressed the motion made by Ted which amends the agenda to add the discussion item to the By-Law item. The motion passed with no opposition, with David Forderer abstaining.



Public Comment: None



Results from the SSAN Survey: Robert Balderama and Dena Hernandez shared the results of the SSAN survey done by members in SSAN member's communities. You can review the attached handout, but the information indicated that for the Train the Trainer Module Ideas the number 1 choice was Good Health Care, #2 Work, #3, Self-Determination, #4 Starting Self-Advocacy Groups, and #5 Good life for Seniors. Robert said this is an action step so that the community feels as though they are being heard, and their issues and concerns are going to be addressed. It gets the SSAN name out there and shows we are responsive to our communities.



Employment First- Because Kecia was unable to attend, Charles provided the presentation- power point. (See handout) Charles described in greater detail what is meant by Integrated, Competitive, and Employment. Nicole asked for ideas on how SSAN can get the word out about Employment First. A sub-committee was formed to look into this. Members of the sub-committee are Rebecca Donabed, Cheryl Hewitt, Robert Levy and SSAN officers. The Employment committee outlined steps and timelines.

Nicole recommended that the Employment First sub-committee request that 1 or 2 SSAN members be appointed to the Employment First Committee so they can bring the information to the committee, and the committee information back to SSAN. Nicole also thought any presentations developed should be reviewed by the Employment First group to make sure they are accurate. David F said he will bring that suggestion to the Council.

Recommendations:

1.) Presentations on Employment First - but only with the input of the EF

Committee

- 2.) Get materials on EF to handout to the community (review what was included in packet)
- 3.) Gather information on what best practices are in supported employment, and what services are available
- 4.) Mark Polit was asked if SSAN needed to coordinate with EF before they develop materials, and Mark said that wasn't necessary. Nicole asked if any members were willing to do a presentation to the EF Committee at their meeting in December. She was thinking it would be good for the ideas developed here today to be shared with the committee. Cheryl said she is willing to present to the committee if she has someone help her develop a presentation on what was discussed today. Robert Levy said he is willing to help, as is Rebecca.



Lunch- Meeting was adjourned for lunch at 11:46.

Meeting reconvened at 1:35- Nicole recapped the subcommittee information. The members of the Employment First sub-committee will be Rebecca, Robert Levy, Cheryl and the members of the SSAN executive Committee. The SSAN will ask to get on the EF committee meeting agenda for December.



Member Reports- Jennifer called for the Member Reports. We'd like

the Member Action Reports to relate to the issues SSAN decides to work on, and help us focus our activities and our time together so we can clearly see that we are helping people to have better lives. Reports were given by representatives from Area Board 2,3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,12, ARCA, CILC, DDS, MIND Institute, PFCA, SAAC of the State Council. Copies of the reports were collected for the SSAN file.



By-Laws- After break, Jennifer began the meeting by reviewing the

"Changes to the Bylaws" Jennifer explained that she made the suggestion that two ad hoc members be appointed in the event that another situation happens like the last one. SSAN had an unusual situation occur with both the chair and secretary out at the same time. David F thought a motion should be made (he made it then) to include this in the by-laws. Charles seconded the motion that "The chair can fill any officer vacancies on a temporary basis until the next meeting when it will be voted on". David made a motion to adopt the motion as revised, and Charles seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

The next item in the by-laws would delete the mention of network contractor on pages 3 and 4, Work with “network contractors and SCDD staff to prepare meeting agendas” and “Work with SSAN contractors between meetings”. “Works with network contractors to prepare and distribute minutes of meetings”. The official motion was made that the language be changed from “network contractor” and “SCDD staff” to “support staff”. Nicole made the motion, and Cheryl seconded. Jennifer restated the motion, and a vote was taken, and passed unopposed. David F abstained from voting.

Next item: Must a current officer resign from their office before they run for a new office? Charles shared his experience on another board that “An officer stays in their position until they are elected to a new office.” Steve Ruder reminded people that it would appear no terms are involved in this based on the by-laws. “An officer stays in their position until they are termed out, is elected to a new office, or resigns.” David F made a motion to approve this, and Ted seconded the motion. The motion was carried and passed with one abstain - Nicole Patterson.

The group talked about filling vacancies between meetings, which is different than the need to elect new officers. The vacancy right now is for the position of Chair. The Vice-Chair and Secretary are still in place. Ted made a motion to change the language from November elections to the “fall” meeting. Cheryl seconded the motion. Motion: Elections will be held during the fall meeting (as opposed to the October meeting currently stated in by-laws. Ted removed his motion. Nicole stated again, that when filling a term, the individual completes the term, and can then run for another term. David F asked to second the motion “If you are filling an officer’s term, you complete that term”. A vote was taken, and passed unopposed.



Nominations for SSAN Chair: Jennifer opened nominations for chair of SSAN. She told people they cannot nominate themselves. Charles nominated Jennifer, and she accepted. Ted nominated Chris Rogel but he declined the nomination. Regina nominated Charles, but he cannot run because he hasn’t been here long enough. Nicole asked if Jennifer should be running this part of the meeting, since she had been nominated. Nicole lead the rest of the nominations, and Robert Levy nominated Ted Jackson, but Ted declined because he wasn’t sure if he had enough time to dedicate to this position.

Rebecca nominated Cheryl, who accepted the nomination, and Nicole nominated Robert Levy. Robert declined. Nicole nominated Robert Balderama, who accepted the nomination. Rebecca then nominated David F, but he declined because of his position on the SCDD. Robert Levy nominated Regina, who accepted, with the provision that she would be trained to do this job. Nicole closed the floor, and said the election would take place tomorrow. People were asked to prepare a speech indicating why they would like to Chair the SSAN, and be sure not to go over 5 minutes. The people running are: Jennifer, Cheryl, Robert B. and Regina.

In case Jennifer is elected, then a Vice-Chair will have to be elected. Nominations were made for this position in the event she becomes Chair. Ted nominated Charles, who accepted, Regina nominated Charles as well. Michael nominated Joe Meadours, but he declined. Robert B nominated Desiree, who accepted. Nicole nominated Cheryl who accepted. Robert Levy nominated Ted for vice-chair, who accepted! Nicole closed nominations for vice-chair! Jennifer reminded people to prepare their speeches - they will have 5 minutes to present in the morning. People running for Vice-Chair if Jennifer is elected to Chair are: Charles, Desiree, Cheryl and Ted.



SSAN-Non Profit Discussion- Jennifer asked if members wanted to continue to explore the possibility of becoming a nonprofit organization. Nicole asked how long the SSAN has been going, because she thought it was premature to be considering this nonprofit status, but opened it up to the group.

- David F said he wanted to decline on voting on this, since he represents the SCDD.
- Ted restated that the costs of running a nonprofit would be very difficult without the support of the SCDD. There are no guarantees with funding, and it is an ongoing process to apply for funding. Ted suggested a lot more consideration needs to be given to this, and discussion should be ongoing.
- Nicole also said that SSAN is not really well known yet, and it will be very difficult to develop funding at this point. Maybe after the group has some credibility is when the conversation should begin to form a nonprofit.

Jennifer said that while the door is still open to becoming a nonprofit, we should wait until we are more established to explore this option. Cheryl made a motion regarding this issue, but Nicole said that it needs to be put on the next meeting agenda before a vote can be taken. This issue was not on the current agenda, so

even though it was not voted on at the last meeting, it cannot be voted on at this meeting.



Jennifer then adjourned the meeting at 4:15. Day two will convene at 9:00 tomorrow!

SSAN MEETING **Day 2, September 10, 2014**

Jennifer began the meeting at 9:05. All the members from the day before were here, and the support staff also.

Jennifer made a change to the agenda, moving Mark Polit to the morning, after the break. Regina made a motion to approve the agenda as changed, and Charles seconded. The motion passed unopposed.

Public Comment: None



Report on ASAN Leadership training: There were advocates from all over the country and they learned about the history of disabilities, reviewed funding for the various groups, and looked at the nonprofit issue. Jennifer wants to copy a book she was given at ASAN, but has to get permission before she can do this. Jennifer thought the training on leadership was the best, and was the one she was most interested in. As a leader Jennifer learned she needs to delegate responsibilities, and that it is okay to ask for help. She also learned that it is okay if you don't know what to do - just ask a friend, a stranger, whoever, so you can learn the information. There were 16 people in attendance, and 11 went to San Francisco. Jennifer said she was proud to represent CA at this meeting, and she recorded the whole conference on her cell phone, so if someone is willing to transcribe it, she will have that done.



Election of SSAN Chair:

Jennifer Allen - Robert Balderama - Cheryl Hewitt - Regina Woodcliff - all gave speeches.

Nicole said they would take a roll call vote by going around the room (after everyone returns to the room)

There was a tie between Jennifer and Cheryl so a second vote had to be taken. The committee elected Cheryl Hewitt as the new Chair of the SSAN.

Nicole thanked Jennifer for all of her hard work on the temporary basis. Cheryl thanked everyone, and asked Jennifer to not go too far, as she will need her help.

SSAN Employment Sub-Committee Action Plan: Rebecca informed the membership what the subcommittee decided on at the mini-meeting yesterday following SSAN. (Cindy will send email with the information in it)

The group took a break at 10:00, and were asked to return by 10:30. The meeting reconvened at 10:35.



Legislative Update-The group welcomed Mark Polit from SCDD. Mark was asked to report on what is happening with the SCDD and Area Boards.

- Mark recapped the federal audit and the need to come into compliance with the AIDD requests.
- He briefly talked about 1595 (Chesbro) and the changes that legislation will contain. It is sitting on the desk of the Governor. SCDD is hopeful that the Governor will sign. If signed, the bill will go into effect on January 1, 2015. The transition is already starting, and the Area Boards will be called Regional Offices, and the boards of each Regional Office will be Regional Advisory Committees. The members of the Area Boards will be able to complete their terms, but then procedures will be established regarding how new members are appointed.
- The AIDD wants the Council to advocate and train people, advocate for system change. The SCDD will be looking for ways to be more effective and powerful. Changes around employment and self-determination, housing and abuse, etc. will be the focus. The Council will decide how the regional offices will help them achieve these goals. The Council has to be responsive to the geographic and ethnic diversity in the state of CA. When the Council advocates for system change and tries to see that people get the supports they need, the Council needs to insure everyone is reached. This is a challenge that the Council has to figure out how best to do this, and will be making decisions regarding the number of regional offices, how they will

work, etc. How can the council and the regional offices do a better job in supporting people lead the kinds of lives they want to lead? That is the goal that everyone is working towards.

- Cheryl asked if the Area Boards were going to be restructured, and Mark said at this time they don't know. Mark said we might have fewer offices, we might have more. The offices might look different, but he doesn't know yet. On January 1, 2015, there will be 13 regional offices with the same staff, and same advisory committees. There will be a process to decide what the best way to advocate for people is, and how we can help people lead self-determined lives. There will be change, but we don't know what it will look like. We need to support people better.
- Robert Levy asked about the UCEDD's, DDS, CFILC, but Mark said the bill only affects the AB's and Council. The Council will be working more closely with DRC and the UCEDD's. AIDD says that the Council is not working closely enough with our partner agencies. The DD Act funds the UCEDD's, DRC and the Council, so they have told the feds they will work more closely in the future.
- Ted asked if all the staff here to support people will remain in place after January 1, 2015. Mark said for now it appears these staff will remain in place.
- Mark addressed SB577: He handed out an alert, and reminded people that this time last year the Employment First bill and Self- Directed Services bill were distributed. Both bills were signed thanks to the huge amount of advocacy done, and Mark said the SD Bill was the bill that the Governor received the most amount of support for in the Human Service area - ever. SB 577 will be a pilot project if approved so the State can try it out for a little bit. It will be a four- year pilot, with 5 Regional Centers participating in this pilot. The Services will be called "Vocational Development Services", and how agencies will do this will need to be individualized for each person, and could help people identify what they are interested in regarding employment - what they are good at - what skills they will need to learn. It could also support people to go to community college to get an education or vocational training. People could be supported in volunteering or temporary work to see what they like, what kind of an environment is best for the person to be successful in. This bill will allow an agency to work 1:1 with people to provide the support necessary to help people get the kind of job they want. Social skills could be part of this support also. Mark said

this bill will offer training to people exploring jobs, not those already employed. It is on the Governor's desk to either sign or not. This bill will make a big difference for people with significant disabilities, and will also be reviewed to see if it saves the state money. It will be a big help for people to realize the dream of employment! Please share with your community, and ask them to take action! Let the Governor know how important this is to people with IDD. (Handout provided)



Report on Self-Determination: Cheryl introduced Maria Marquez from Disability Rights CA.

- Maria was the first person in the State of CA to receive Self Determination when her Regional Center launched the pilot program.
- She said she did not know what she was getting in to, but she is happy she tried it. (See Power Point)
- Maria shared that her Regional Center had put everyone's name in a hat, and tried to have a variety of disabilities and ages represented. Maria is very happy that she was selected, and thinks Self-Determination was very helpful for her.
- The SSAN would like to come up with an action plan to identify how they will present Self Determination to their individual areas.



Lunch- The meeting adjourned at 11:55 for lunch, and will return at 1:30.



Self Determination Continued-Cheryl re-opened the meeting with the discussion of self-determination.

- Nicole shared that DDS has to have stakeholder meetings to develop training and policies so that when CA applies to the federal government to get paid for self- determination, it will be approved.
- Nicole asked what things should be in the trainings, what would help people understand self- determination better, what their job would involve if they do self- determination.
- A request was made that SSAN request more self- advocates be included in these stakeholders meetings.
- Cheryl asked how the group should approach DDS with this request, and it was suggested that SSAN do a presentation to DDS similar to the one

proposed to be done for the Employment First group.

- Nancy Bargeman at DDS who is in charge of this group.
- Nicole would also like to figure out how they (SSAN) can get the word out in the community that this is going on, and how will the ideas and thoughts of the community get up to Sacramento. This type of activity would help get the SSAN acknowledged in the community as well.
- Cheryl suggested that a sub-committee be formed to address these issues. Rebecca and Joe M volunteered to work on this sub-committee. Nicole said these meetings are not public at this time, so you have to be able to get on the agenda to speak for SSAN. SSAN needs to get involved NOW, because once the feds approve this, it is a done deal.
- Ted volunteered the resources of the CFILC to help organize getting people to the meeting, if they can get on the agenda.
- Cheryl would still like to be on a Self Determination sub-committee.



Discussion on Health Care: Nicole passed out some information on this topic, and will be sending out more in the mail to bring back to the next meeting. “The Road to Wellness” is from the DDS website, and has some great information and ideas of what to ask your doctor when seeing her. “Living Well” and “A Guide to Healthy Living” will be sent in the mail, so please review and bring back to the next meeting.

After the break, Cheryl reviewed the assignments:

1. The Employment Committee has their assignments.
2. All members make a list of places where you will be able to give a presentation on Employment First.
3. Review self-determination information in your packet. Take notes on any questions or recommendations you have.
4. Review health information that was passed out and will be mailed to you. Bring to SSAN any health care resources you find.



Schedule meetings for 2015:

- Nicole said the middle of the week is cheaper, so that helps the budget - also, Tuesday/Wednesday gives people time to gather last minute things for the meeting. Cindy said there is a problem with the Doubletree and Hilton for mid-week meetings, so they will have to explore other options. Because of this, SSAN cannot select dates because we don't

have a hotel selected yet. Ted suggested the group set up a Doodle poll to see when people are available. The group agreed to hold meetings in March, June, September (not the first week) and December are the months.



Agenda Ideas for December 2014 SSAN Meeting:

The meeting will be at the Doubletree on the 15^h and 16^h of December.

- David F requested an agenda item be added about what his role is on the SCDD and on the SSAN.
- Nicole suggested the two sub-committees have a space to report back to the full group on their activities.
- Updates for 2015 meetings.
- Discussion & Action to vote on becoming a nonprofit.
- Ted suggested that there be break-out sessions added for the sub-committees - employment, self- determination and training modules.....(which never came up at this meeting)
- Ted volunteered to lead the Holiday party!
- The U shaped table was the preferred option, unless they are doing breakouts, then the round tables are preferred.



SSAN Executive Team: Reviewed expectations for next meeting and asked all to please fill out the evaluations. Evaluations were collected.



Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 3:00.

DRAFT Minutes submitted by Mary Ellen Stives/format Dena Hernandez