



VOICES of SSAN

December 2017 Volume 11

Meet new SSAN Member Scott Barron from Disability Rights California



I have been with Disability Rights California for 8 years empowering people with disabilities to advocate and protect their rights. I spent five years with the Developmental Disabilities Peer Self-Advocacy Unit coordinating trainings, developing materials and conducting individual advocacy on

numerous disability issues. In December 2013, I became a part of the Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy as a Peer Advocate. As a Peer Advocate, I empower people with developmental disabilities to advocate for and protect their rights. I conduct advocacy trainings and develop client friendly materials. I also assist OCRA with communicating with their clients by meeting with clients to understand their needs and preparing them to advocate at their IPP meetings. In the process, I build clients confidence and skills so they can

advocate for themselves more effectively in the future.

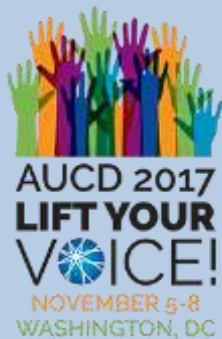


I have also served on numerous external and internal committees providing feedback on many disability issues. Currently, I am on various city and county voting rights committees.

In this edition of the Voices of SSAN
Meet new member
Upcoming Events
ACRE Training



**SSAN MEMBER
ATTENDS AUCD
Conference
By Kecia Weller**



Robert Levy from the Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (CEDD) UC Davis MIND Institute went to the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) Conference on November 5-8, 2017. It was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Washington DC. There

was a welcoming kickoff event on Sunday, November 5th to welcome everyone to the 2017 “Lift Your Voice” AUCD Conference! On Monday morning, November 6, there were many events like the General Hosted Continental Breakfast Meeting. There was also a plenary conference session workshop called “Growing Our Impact: The Critical Role of Higher Education in a Time of Change”. Steve Ruder and Cathy Mikitka, (both are faculty at the UCEDD Mind Institute) co-presented a Poster Board Symposium Round 1 on Supported Decision Making. Round 2 of the Poster Board Symposium was presented by UCLA UCEDD - Tarjan Center faculty. On November

7, Robert Levy went to the Plenary B Conference Workshop called “Key Executive Branch Disability Champions Share Their Priorities”. Many staff from the CEDD MIND Institute attended this conference workshop. On the evening of November 7th, Robert and his colleagues from the UCEDD Mind Institute went to the AUCD Honors Celebration Party that was moderated by well-known Disability Rights Activist and blogger, Emily Ladau. The special guest at the Celebration Party was Senator Maggie Hassan representing New Hampshire. On November 8, 2017, the AUCD wrapped up their annual AUCD conference and a lot of us went home.

See AUCD on page 3

AUCD from page 2

The 2018 AUCD conference will be held on November 11-14, 2018 at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington DC.

So mark your calendar now for next year's annual conference workshop. The 2019 and the 2020 AUCD conferences will also be held at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington DC. To see the agendas for future conferences check out the AUCD website at <http://www.aucd.org/template/index.cfm>.



**November 11 - 14, 2018
Renaissance DC Hotel
Washington, DC**

ACRE Training By Robert Levy, SSAN Rep from UC Davis MIND/UCEDD



Progressive Employment Concepts in Citrus Heights California hosted Griffin Hammis Associates to do ACRE training for their team and several other supported employment agencies in the Sacramento area.

ACRE stands for Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators. It is competency-based training and people who complete the program are given a certificate. ACRE is a combination of class work and then going

out and practicing the lessons in the field before coming back to class. It is an intensive 40 hour training program.

Carole Watilo, the director of Progressive Employment Concepts, said "We had the ACRE training assist us in learning more about the discovery process and customized employment. ACRE gave us tools to help those folks that we support have meaningful employment outcomes.

The training will help us be better prepared to get to know the people we support well and to analyze employment situations better and be able to create matches in customized jobs for the individuals that we support".

See ACRE on page 4

ACRE from page 3

Staff who attended the training said that they learned how to effectively use PASS plans to allow people they are working with to save some of their SSI money and save for other employment expenses. Staff also said they learned more about the discovery process where they get to know the interest, strengths and skills of the people they serve to better match them with potential jobs. ACRE also taught staff to understand the way that people in business think so when they talk to businesses, they approach them with the language that businesses use and talk to them about their business needs rather than thinking and talking about just getting a job for the

person they are supporting. Everyone I interviewed recommended the ACRE training. Progressive Employment Concepts plans to host another ACRE training in January, 2018. To learn more about ACRE, see their website at <http://www.acreducators.org/>



The attendees staff members for the Progressive Employment Concepts Citrus Heights were Carole Watilo, Carol Carlson, Georgina Kier, Amanda Pelaccio, Pam Haney, Maggie Wash and Kevin Rhoades.

I interviewed staff members. They all said “I have learned a lot of good information” and they will now go take it out to the community and use this great information to help out with their clients. This ACRE training program class already took place on July 11, 12,13, and on August 10, 11, 2017. It was held at 2033 Howe Avenue Sacramento, CA 95825.



The next 40 hour ACRE training program class will resume again on January 9, 10, 11, and on January 23 and 24, 2018. It will be held at 6060 Sunrise Vista Dr. Citrus Heights, CA 95610.

SAVE THESE DATES!!!



CHOICES 31st Annual
Conference
It's All About Me!
April 6, 2018
SJ County Office of
Education Stockton,
209-473-6950

**HAPPY 6th Birthday to
SSAN on
April 11, 2018**



Supported Life Institute

23rd Annual
Statewide
Self Advocacy
Conference
May 4- 5, 2018 at the
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Sacramento.



Disability Action Coalition

14th Annual Capitol
Action Day
June 7, 2018
Cesar Chavez Plaza &
State Capitol
Sacramento

Info at:

Disabilityactioncoalition



Supported Life Institute

32nd Annual
Supported Life
Conference
October 4- 5, 2018 at
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Sacramento

**Check out all SSAN
related information
and materials at**

**SCDD.CA.GOV
under the self
advocacy tab!**



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
- Vacant Central
Coast
- Rebecca
Donabed
Sequoia
- Julie Gaona
Los Angeles
- Sean Sullivan
Orange County
- Daniel Fouste
San
Bernardino
- Paul Mansell
San Diego
Imperial
- Desiree Boykin
ARCA
- Christina Mills
CFILC
- Nicole
Patterson DDS
- Scott Barron
DRC
- Robert Levy
Mind Institute

- David Forderer
SCDD
- Kecia Weller
UCLA Tarjan
Center



Employment First is coming to San Diego Regional Center

By Paul Mansell

In Oct 2013, California passed the Employment First law, joining 31 other states that already had employment first policies in place. AB 1041 is a bill signed by Governor Brown so people with disabilities can get employment that is needed to be productive.

The bill says among other things, “It is the policy of the state that

opportunities for integrated, competitive employment shall be given the highest priority for working age individuals with developmental disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities.”

In March 2016, the San Diego Regional Center made Employment First a policy for this agency. Employment First Policy promotes the following:

- Enables persons with developmental disabilities to have lives like people without disabilities of their own age;
- Supports the integration of persons with developmental disabilities in the mainstream life

of the community;

- Brings about more independent, productive and normal lives for clients of SDRC.

Employment First fits with the vision and mission of SDRC:

- Persons with developmental disabilities will live productive and satisfying lives as valued members of their communities.
- To serve and empower persons with developmental disabilities and families to achieve their goals with community partners.

See EM on page 7

EM from page 6

Service Coordinators have the following role:

- Assist family members and/or authorized representatives in raising their expectations about adult outcomes for their family members who have a disability (when culturally appropriate).
- Beginning at age 16, consistently promote the priority of competitive, integrated employment opportunities.
- Identifying the most appropriate 'pathway' to employment:

-Direct hire/wage employment

-Post-secondary education

-Self-employment/Micro-enterprise

Since the adoption of the Employment First Policy, the Employment First Task Force has given trainings on Employment First to service coordinators at each of the SDRC offices, and is currently presenting on Employment First as part of case management training for new service coordinators.

Employment First Policy will facilitate the exciting opportunity of real work for real wages out in the community working with non-disabled peers. It is hoped that

this policy will empower clients to have more productive, meaningful, and purposeful lives to live out to their full potential.



Paul Mansell is the San Diego representative to SSAN and a member of San Diego People First.

