

2018 – 2019 |



SSAN Annual Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



The 2018 – 2019 SSAN Annual Report was produced by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities



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Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ABOUT SCDD	3
ABOUT SSAN.....	4
AGENCY MEMBERS	5
SSAN MEMBERS	6
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR	7
2018 – 2019 SSAN MEETINGS	9
WORDS FROM SSAN MEMBERS	10
2018 – 2019 HIGHLIGHTS	12

About SCDD

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state (Lanterman Act) and Federal (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) and is one of 56 State Councils on Developmental Disabilities within the US and its territories. SCDD belongs to a national association called the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) that provides guidance and support to all 56 State Councils. Growing and supporting self-advocacy is a core principal for every State Council as identified by the Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000.

SCDD has identified self-advocacy as their top goal in their current State Plan and is committed to supporting self-advocacy in California. To meet their commitment to establishing and strengthening a program lead by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, develop and promote leadership skills, and expand participation in a cross-disability coalition, SCDD created the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) in 2012. Through supporting SSAN, SCDD aims to help self-advocates in California increase knowledge and provide support to help them advocate for their civil and service rights and achieve integration and inclusion in all areas of community life. SCDD supports SSAN members' efforts to be leaders in their communities.

About SSAN

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

Vision Statement

SSAN is a cross-disability network of self-advocates that was established in 2012 and works to do the following:

- Develop the knowledge and skills to make a difference in our region and state.
- Speak up for all people with disabilities.
- Learn about and advocate for issues important to all people with disabilities.
- Lead regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks.
- Train advocates in their communities in order to grow the Self-Advocacy movement in California.
- Share information about programs and supports for people with disabilities.

Agency Members



California State Council on Developmental Disabilities



California Department of Developmental Services



California Foundation for Independent Living Centers



Association of Regional Center **Agencies**



Disability Rights California

California UCEDDs



UCLA Tarjan Center



USC Children's Hospital



UC Davis MIND Institute

SSAN Members (Roster) 2018–2019



- North Coast Region – Nathaniel Florez
- North State Region – Teresa Moshier
- Sacramento Region – Lisa Cooley
- North Bay Region – Chen Curtiss
- Bay Area Region – Regina Woodliff
- North Valley Hills Region – Robert Balderama
- Central Coast Region – David Forderer
- Sequoia Region – Rebecca Donabed
- Los Angeles Region – Julie Gaona
- Orange County Region – Sean Sullivan
- San Bernardino Region – Daniel Fouste
- San Diego Region – Paul Mansell



- Association of Regional Center Agencies – Desiree Boykin



- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers – Renee Wooten



- Department of Developmental Services – Nicole Patterson



- Disability Rights California – Scott Baron



- State Council on Developmental Disabilities – Wesley Witherspoon



- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities



- UC Davis MIND Institute – Robert Levy



- UCLA Tarjan Center – Kecia Weller



- USC Children's' Hospital – Wesley Witherspoon

Message from the Chair

I am extremely proud of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) members and my executive team for the past eight months as we worked together to carry out the mission of the SSAN, as well as the executive team vision for SSAN, to continue strengthening advocacy work across California by educating, being active members in our communities and agencies, and being a voice for people with disabilities. The SSAN will also keep working on encouraging more partners from the disability community to join the SSAN table. This will help make it possible for the SSAN to work more on system change issues that face all persons with disabilities in California. We have done this so far by filling all our vacancies. Currently, we have a goal to reach out to the youth to learn about the issues that are important to them and find creative ways to join the generations together to work on common issues.

I would like to share a little about the executive team. We were elected in December of 2018 and our first official meeting as SSAN's leadership was in March of 2019.

Desiree Boykin (Vice-Chairperson)

Desiree has a B. A. degree in Health and Human Services. In 2011, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center hired her as their Consumer Advocate. She is passionate about the people they serve having the resources they need to reach their goals. Desiree also serves on the Association of Regional Center Agencies' Client Advisory Committee (ARCA CAC). The ARCA CAC elected her to serve as their representative for the SSAN.

Lisa Cooley (Secretary)

Lisa started doing disability advocacy work over twenty years ago because our local transportation provider thought that she could walk to a bus stop because she could walk around her house. She became so good at advocating that she decided to become a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She also is a longtime member of her regional center's Client Advisory Committee. Her passion is to empower people with disabilities and move California forward.

Nicole Patterson (Chairperson)

I have been involved with the SSAN since the beginning in 2012 representing the California State Department of Developmental Services (DDS) as a partner. I have worked for DDS for fourteen years as the Coordinator of Advocacy Services. I provide a voice, on behalf of people we serve, to the Director and the Department, on issues and problems that people with disabilities may be facing in California. I also help to come up with solutions. I have worked in the field of empowering people with disabilities for the past 25+ years. I am passionate about working with people with all types of disabilities, providing assistance and advising them on their rights, helping to change the future view of people with disabilities. It's important to me to show California and other states that people with disabilities can be fully included in all aspects of life by helping to educate the people who provide services, and to enlighten the communities we live in.

I would like to thank the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities for their continued support of the SSAN project, the SSAN vision, and for empowering SSAN members as advocates on a state and local level.

Nicole Patterson
SSAN Chairperson

2018 – 2019 SSAN Meetings

SSAN held 4 meetings between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019 in Sacramento, California. Each SSAN meeting included member reports on issues and concerns in their regions, legislative updates, training for members, and resources to distribute to member's communities. Highlights from Meetings include:

- Established an ad hoc workgroup to review and revise the SSAN By-Laws
- Elected a new Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary to serve a two-year term
- Participated in a training on the California legislative process
- Presentation on AUCD and the importance of Competitive Integrated Employment
- Presentation on healthy relationships
- Identified priorities for the year
- Discussed the importance of Disability Sensitivity
- Disability Pride and Being a Better Advocate
- Impact of the Camp Fire on People with Disabilities
- Overview of the Disability Organizing Network
- Reviewed the MOU between SCDD and SSAN
- Person Centered Planning
- Reviewed and approved 4 editions of the SSAN Newsletter

Words from SSAN Members



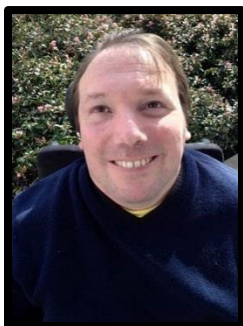
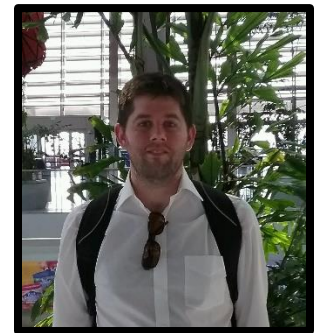
“I have attended conferences and trainings that lead me to meet advocates from across the US and the territories. This has given me the opportunity to advocate for SSAN at the national level.” – Wesley Witherspoon, Los Angeles

“Transportation is a big issue in my area and across the state. I attend the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (RTD) as a way of interacting with the transportation agency and to try to improve access to transportation in my county.” – Robert Baldrama, Stockton



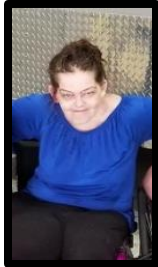
“As the Chair of San Diego People First, I enjoy the ability to share information from SSAN with my local community and bring ideas from my region to SSAN.” – Paul Mansell, San Diego

“I enjoy being able to connect and share my story with other self-advocates in Riverside and across the state.” – Daniel Fouste, San Bernardino



“I enjoy being able to mentor others and share my knowledge and experiences in advocacy.” – David Forderer, San Jose

“I am the first female President of Paradise People First. I enjoy sharing stories about my community and how they came together to respond to the Camp Fire.”
– Teresa Moshier, Willows



“As a new member to SSAN, I am looking forward to continuing to strengthen the connection between SSAN, CFILC and the Disability Organizing Network.” – Renee Wooten, Sacramento

“I’ve been a part of SSAN for 5 years now. I enjoy learning from all of my fellow self-advocates from California.” – Desiree Boykin



“I enjoyed being able to learn from advocates from across California and attend the Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference in May. There were a lot of good sessions.” – Lisa Cooley, Sacramento

“To me, being a part of SSAN means that each of the members are striving for the stars to continue positive changes in our future.” – Julie Gaona, Los Angeles

2018 – 2019 Highlights

SSAN Members participate in Coalitions, Boards and Planning committees throughout California along with providing self-advocates, family advocates and others, trainings related to increasing self-advocacy and access to community supports. During the 2018 – 2019 reporting period, members reported reaching 4525 people throughout California and across the country. Highlights from members include:

- Participated at Regional Advisory Committees
- Participated at SCDD Meetings in Sacramento
- Participated on the SCDD Self Advocacy Advisory Committee
- Attended, presented at and organized the following conferences:
 - Statewide Self Advocacy Conference in Sacramento
 - Supported Life Institute in Sacramento
 - PFCA Gatherings
 - CHOICES 2019 conference in Stockton
 - San Diego People First conference.
- Members are on their regional center boards, IHSS Public Authority, transportation boards, and People First groups.
- Wrote and sent their stories to their Legislators
- Collaborated with regional offices to give statewide trainings with GetSafe
- Participated in advocacy training “Leadership Academy”
- Presentations informing their community about SSAN
- Collaborating with agencies to conduct interviews
- Presentation on the California Self-Determination Program
- Transition Fairs and presentations made across the state



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