STATEWIDE SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK MEETING INFORMATION

DATE: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 and Thursday, March 11, 2021
TIME: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
     Thursday, March 11, 2021 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

This is a teleconference and zoom meeting only. There is no physical location being made available to the public. Per EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, teleconferencing restrictions are waived during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, committee members are not required to list their remote locations and members of the public may participate telephonically or by Zoom from any location. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov.

MEETING ID: 935 4906 7056
MEETING PASSWORD: 8703085

Check out Zoom Download Instructions and Tips on how to use Zoom to learn the basics about the Zoom platform.

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Accessibility

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f) and Executive Order N-29-20 (This Executive Order can be found by clicking the link on page one of the agenda, or by typing https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf into your web browser), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Riana Hardin at (916) 263-8196 or Riana.Hardin@scdd.ca.gov. Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.
AGENDA FOR DAY 1

March 10, 2021
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

1. **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions**
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson, Paul Mansell, Vice-Chairperson, and Robert Levy, Secretary

2. **Public Comment**
   Public comment is welcome. Comment on agenda items is taken as they are discussed.

3. **Review of Agenda**
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson
   Information

4. **Review and Approval of Minutes December 2020**
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson
   ACTION

5. **Updates from the SSAN Chair**
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson
   Information

6. **Developmental Disability Awareness Month Conversation**
   Presented by: SSAN Officers
   Discussion

7. **SCDD Update**
   Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director
   Information

8. **Emergency Preparedness Training**
   Presented by: Scott Barron, DRC OCRA, Peer Advocate
   Julie Eby-McKenzy, Manager SCDD North Coast Regional Office
   Information
Break

9. SSAN Workgroups
   Presented by: ALL
   Discussion

10. Youth Survey
    Presented by: Youth Engagement Workgroup
    ACTION

11. Member Reports
    Presented by: ALL
    Information

12. Recess Until Next Day
    Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson
    Information
1. **Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**  
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Chairperson, Desiree Boykin, Vice-Chairperson, and Robert Levy, Secretary

2. **Review of Agenda**  
   Presented by: Desiree Boykin, Vice-Chairperson  
   **Information**

3. **Public Comment**  
   Public comment is welcome. Comment on agenda items is taken as they are discussed.

4. **Self—Determination Update: Paul Mansell**  
   Presented by: Paul Mansell, San Diego Regional Representative  
   **Information**

5. **Conflict Resolution Training**  
   Presented by: SCDD Staff  
   **Information**

   **Break**

6. **Approval of March 2021 SSAN Newsletter**  
   Presented by: Robert Levy, Newsletter Workgroup Chair  
   **ACTION**

7. **SCDD 2021 Legislative Update**  
   Presented by: Bridget Kolakosky, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs  
   **Information**

8. **Planning for June 2021 Meeting**  
   **ALL**  
   **Discussion**

9. **Adjournment**
MARCH 10, 2021

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 4
ACTION ITEM

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2020 MINUTES

Attachments

December 2020 Minutes

Recommended Action

Approve the December 2020 SSAN Meeting Minutes.
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Statewide Self—Advocacy Network Meeting Minutes
December 8 & 10, 2020
Zoom

**SCDD Regional Members Present**
Teresa Moshier — North State
Lisa Cooley — Sacramento
Robert Balderama — North Valley Hills
Regina Woodliff — Bay Area
David Forderer — Central Coast
Rebecca Donabed — Sequoia
Julie Gaona — Los Angeles
Daniel Fouste — San Bernardino
Paul Mansell — San Diego–Imperial

**Agency Members Present**
Desiree Boykin — ARCA
Robert Levy — UCD MIND Institute
Wesley Witherspoon — USC CHLA
( SCDD Representative)
Kecia Weller — UCLA Tarjan Center
Scott Barron — DRC
Nicole Patterson — DDS

**Members Not Present**
Nathan Florez — North Coast
Sean Sullivan — Orange County
Russell Rawlings—CFILC

**SCDD Staff in Attendance**
Rihana Ahmad — SCDD HQ
Aaron Carruthers — SCDD HQ
Riana Hardin — SCDD HQ
Dena Hernández —
SCDD North Valley Hills
Lisa Hooks — SCDD North Bay
Beth Hurn — SCDD HQ
George Lewis —
SCDD North Valley Hills
Sarah May — SCDD North State
Tania Morawiec — SCDD HQ
Mary Agnes Nolan —
SCDD North State
Sarah Wasiak — SCDD HQ
Tobias Weare — SCDD North Bay

**Non-SCDD Facilitators**
Jana Chapman-Plon
Wayne Glusker

**Presenters**
Julia Lowe— DDS
Maricris Acon — DDS

**Others Present**
Maria Cafirma
Ryan Duncan Wood
Alicia Garispe
Alissa Norman
SSAN Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions
   SSAN Chairperson Nicole Patterson, Representative from DDS, called the
   meeting to order at 10:05 AM.
   SSAN Chairperson Nicole Patterson requested Riana Hardin, SCDD Self—
   Advocacy Coordinator to assist in the attendance roll call. Members
   introduced themselves, and the region or agency that they represented.

2. Public Comment
   There was no public comment.

3. Review and Approval of Agenda
   SSAN Chairperson Nicole Patterson, reviewed the agenda for the day.
   Members reviewed and approved the agenda.
   ACTION: Motion #1 to approve the Agenda was made by Kecia Weller/
   Seconded by Rebecca Donabed. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed.
   See vote log on page 7.

4. Review and Approval of Minutes September 24, 2020
   The members reviewed the minutes from September 24, 2020 Meeting.
   Materials for this agenda item can be found on pages 7–12 of the
   December 2020 SSAN Meeting Packet.
   ACTION: Motion #2 to approve the September 2020 minutes was made by
   Wesley Witherspoon/ Seconded by Kecia Weller. A roll call vote was taken.
   Motion passed. See vote log on page 7.

5. Updates from SSAN Chair
   SSAN Chairperson Nicole Patterson discussed the SSAN Officers interest
   in organizing virtual screenings of the films “Let’s Work” and “Crip Camp”
   for SSAN members. The screenings would be open to SSAN members and
   their communities. Members provided feedback on the idea and suggested
   additional movies to watch as a group. Chair Patterson encouraged
   members to email her their thoughts on additional movie titles. Members
   will receive fliers and invites once the planning is finalized.
6. SCDD Update

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided SSAN members with an update on SCDD activity since the September SSAN meeting. This update included information about the December 1, 2020 Council meeting, the agency’s ongoing efforts to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) to Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), as well as SCDD’s collaboration on the film “Let’s Work” and efforts to promote competitive integrated employment (CIE) instead of practices of subminimum wage and sheltered workshops for people with I/DD.

Executive Director Carruthers addressed concerns about COVID—19, as a member of the Governor’s Vaccine Advisory Committee, advocating that Californians with I/DD are prioritized in any vaccine distribution plans. Council Staff is working on putting together a survey to send out to the community, asking for thoughts/fears/questions about the vaccine. SSAN members are encouraged to participate in the survey, share their stories and share the survey within their communities. Council staff continues to monitor public safety power shutoffs (PSPS) and advocate that people with disabilities are given enough advanced warning.

Members asked for more information about medical baseline, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Riana Hardin will send information related to the topics covered in today’s update.

7. Approval of the 2019—2020 SSAN Annual Report

Riana Hardin, SCDD Self—Advocacy Coordinator reviewed the DRAFT 2019—2020 SSAN Annual Report with members. The 2019—2020 SSAN Annual Report highlights the work of SSAN members during SSAN meetings and in their communities throughout October 2019—September 2020. Members asked for the following edits to be made: 1. Use group picture taken during the March 2020 meeting, since it is the most recent picture of the group. 2. Members provided additional quotes to be included in the final version of the report. SSAN members discussed the possibility of taking a group photo over Zoom on Day 2 of the meeting, since some members were missing from the March 2020 photo.
ACTION: Motion #3 to approve the DRAFT 2019—2020 SSAN Annual Report with the suggested changes was made by Kecia Weller/ Seconded by Wesley Witherspoon. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed. See vote log on page 7.

8. Approval of the December SSAN Newsletter

SSAN Newsletter Workgroup Chair Robert Levy presented members with a draft of the December 2020 edition of the SSAN Newsletter. The following correction were made: remove the ADA 30th Anniversary Article from the front-page section “In This Edition”. Members discussed ideas for the March 2021 Edition of the newsletter. Submission Deadline for the March Newsletter is January 25, 2021. Materials for this agenda item can be found on pages 35 – 50 of the December 2020 SSAN Meeting Packet.

ACTION: Motion #4 to approve the 23rd Volume of the Voices of SSAN Newsletter with the suggested changes, was made by Desiree Boykin/ seconded by Rebecca Donabed. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed. See the vote log on page 7.

9. Alternative Delivery of Nonresidential Services

Julie Lowe, Special Consultant and Maricris Acon, Deputy Director—Federal Programs Division from the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided members with an update on what DDS is doing to adapt their service delivery model in order to meet the needs of people with Intellectual/ Developmental Disabilities during the COVID—19 Pandemic. Materials for this agenda item can be found on pages 51—58 of the December SSAN Meeting Packet.

10. SSAN Officer Nominations

SSAN Chair Nicole Patterson reviewed the SSAN Election process for the SSAN Chair, SSAN Vice-Chair and SSAN Secretary, laid out in the SSAN By-Laws. Nominations for the SSAN Officers will happen on the first day of the meeting and the SSAN elections will happen on Thursday, December 10, 2020.
Nominations for SSAN Chair:

- Paul Mansell: nominated by Robert Balderama and Seconded by Nicole Patterson. Paul Mansell accepted the nomination.
- Desiree Boykin: nominated by Kecia Weller and seconded by Regina Woodliff. Desiree Boykin accepted the nomination.
- Julie Gaona: nominated by Rebecca Donabed and seconded by Wesley Witherspoon. Julie Gaona declined the nomination.
- Regina Woodliff: nominated by Robert Levy. Regina Woodliff declined the nomination.
- Lisa Cooley: Nominated by Regina Woodliff and seconded by Robert Balderama. Lisa Cooley accepted the nomination.

Nominations for SSAN Vice Chair:

- Paul Mansell: Nominated by Desiree Boykin and seconded by Nicole Patterson. Paul Mansell accepted the nomination.
- Rebecca Donabed: Nominated by Wesley Witherspoon and seconded by Robert Balderama. Rebecca accepted the nomination.
- Nicole Patterson: Nominated by Robert Levy. Nicole Patterson declined the nomination.
- Teresa Moshier: Nominated by Wesley Witherspoon and seconded by Rebecca Donabed. Teresa Moshier declined the nomination.
- Lisa Cooley: Nominated by Regina Woodliff and seconded by Kecia Weller. Lisa Cooley accepted the nomination.

Nominations for SSAN Secretary:

- Robert Levy: Nominated by Desiree Boykin and seconded by Nicole Patterson. Robert Levy accepted the nomination.
• Julie Gaona: Nominated by Rebecca Donabed and seconded by Wesley Witherspoon. Julie Gaona accepted the nomination.
• Robert Balderama: Nominated by Regina Woodliff and seconded by Wesley Witherspoon. Robert Balderama declined the nomination.
• Desiree Boykin: Nominated by Regina Woodliff. Desiree declined the nomination.
• Paul Mansell: Nominated by Regina Woodliff and seconded by Teresa Moshier. Paul Mansell accepted the nomination.
• Daniel Foust: Nominated by Wesley Witherspoon and seconded by Rebecca Donabed. Daniel Foust accepted the nomination.
• Rebecca Donabed: Nominated by Robert Levy, and seconded by David Forderer. Rebecca accepted the nomination.
• Nicole Patterson: Nominated by Julie Gaona and seconded by Rebecca Donabed. Nicole Patterson accepted the nomination.

Candidates for SSAN Officer positions will have three minutes to tell SSAN members why they are best suited for the position. Following the candidates’ speeches: SSAN members will vote.

11. Input for Next SSAN Meeting
SSAN members suggested the following items to be possible topics of discussion at the March 2021 SSAN meeting:

• Youth Advocacy
• Progressive Employment Concepts
• Workgroups During COVID—19
• Self—Determination/Paul’s story and DDS
• Conflict Resolution
• Ticket to Work
• Vaccine Update from Cal OES
• Kecia and Regina Collaboration
  • COVID—19 and Mental Health
• Dealing with personal loss
• Employment loss due to COVID—19
• DDS and SCDD Symposium
• Understanding Social Cues
• Life after the Campfire
• Black Lives Matter
• Housing

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 PM
SSAN DAY 2 Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

SSAN Chairperson, Nicole Patterson, Representative from DDS, called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM. SSAN Secretary, Lisa Cooley, Sacramento Regional Representative, did an attendance roll call for members present.

2. Review of Agenda

Members reviewed the agenda for day two of the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

4. SSAN Elections

SSAN members nominated for a leadership position gave 3-minute speeches telling members why they wanted to be elected for a leadership position. Members who were nominated for more than one position had the option of choosing to give one speech and applying it to all the positions they were nominated for. Additionally, members who were nominated for a position, and accepted the nomination had the opportunity to decline moving forward. A complete list of how each member voted can be found on page 8 of the minutes.

**ACTION:** Votes for SSAN Chair

**Election Results:**

Robert Balderama: 3  
Paul Mansell: 3  
Lisa Cooley: 1  
Robert Levy: 0  
Desiree Boykin: 8
ACTION: Votes for SSAN Vice-Chair

Election Results:

Paul Mansell: 4
Robert Balderama: 4
Rebecca Donabed: 2
Teresa Moshier: 2
Lisa Cooley: 3

ACTION: Votes for SSAN Vice-Chair Run-off

Election Results:

Paul Mansell: 10
Robert Balderama: 6

ACTION: Votes for SSAN Secretary

Election Results:

Robert Levy: 7
Julie Gaona: Declined to run.
Paul Mansell: Elected as Chair. No longer running.
Daniel Fouste: 1
Rebecca Donabed: 6
Nicole Patterson: Declined to run

5. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:28 AM. The next SSAN meeting will be in March 2021 using Zoom.
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MARCH 10, 2021

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5
INFORMATION ITEM

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

**UPDATES FROM THE SSAN CHAIR**

The SSAN Chair will provide a verbal update to SSAN members.
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Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Conversation

Each year in March, many groups, organizations and agencies come together to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in all areas of community life, as well as awareness of the barriers that people with disabilities still face in connecting to communities where they live. The SSAN Chair will facilitate a conversation on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Important Awareness Days in March:

- March 21st: National Down Syndrome Awareness Day
- March 25th: National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day
- March 26th: National Epilepsy Awareness Day

Attachments

- Info sheet on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
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In 1987 President Ronald Regan proclaimed March as ‘Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month’. In March, the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities partners with Association for University Centers on Disabilities and National Disability Rights Network to create a social media campaign that highlights the many ways in which people with and without disabilities come together to form strong, diverse communities.

In past years, campaign was designed so that each week focused on sharing stories and resources specific to different aspects of life for people with disabilities disability. This year, people are encouraged to share stories, resources and raise awareness of different barriers that people with I/DD face in all aspects of life. People are encouraged to use #DDAwareness2021 as a way to tag their content on social media.

In California, developmental disabilities refers to disabilities that develop on or before a person is 18 years old and includes the following conditions:

- Intellectual Disability
- Epilepsy
- Down Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy
- Autism
- Muscular Dystrophy
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- or a disability that significantly impacts a person’s ability to carry out life functions

The figures show as of 2017, about 1 in 6 children are identified to have some type of developmental disability. But people shouldn’t have to be worried or alarmed if someone has a developmental disability. They can usually live normal lives as long as they have the proper supports.

The Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month shines a spotlight on the disabled community and demonstrates how people with developmental disabilities live normal lives. In return, the public can learn how they can help people with developmental disabilities achieve their dreams.
Since the December 2020 SSAN meeting, the State of California, the United States of America, and many countries around the world have continue to face challenges in addressing the public health and public safety challenges of COVID—19. SCDD continues to work with statewide and local partners to advocate for the inclusion of people with I/DD in the vaccination roll-out. SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will update SSAN members on Council activity related to meeting the needs of Californians with I/DD during these challenging and unique times.

Attachments

- January Council Meeting Summary
- COVID—19 Vaccination Press Release
January 26, 2021
State Council Meeting Summary

SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

• On January 26th, 2021, the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) held its first Council meeting of the year by convening remotely on the Zoom platform. The meeting included a special visit from guest speaker Dr. Erica Pan, Deputy Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH)’s Center for Infectious Diseases and Chair of the CDPH Community Vaccine Advisory Committee. Dr. Pan emphasized that disability advocacy is an important part of equity, and offered a valuable opportunity for the Council by sharing an insightful presentation and answering questions from Councilmembers regarding their concerns about the COVID-19 vaccine and its availability for people with I/DD.

• The Council welcomed its newest Governor-appointed member, Jonathan Nelson, who was sworn in by Executive Director Aaron Carruthers. Jonathan is an at-large Family Advocate representing the Bay Area. Additionally, the Council introduced a new agenda item, “Member Spotlights.” This month the Spotlight series recognized Councilmembers Kara Ponton and Aubyn Stahmer. Kara is a Self-Advocate in the North Coast region of California, and Aubyn is a UCEDD representative from UC Davis. For more details, check out SCDD’s “About The Councilmembers” web page.

• Councilmembers also heard reports from Executive Director Aaron Carruthers and newly elected Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon. Chair Witherspoon is excited to serve in this new leadership position alongside new Vice Chair Lee Bycel, and noted that SCDD should continue to advocate for priority access to the COVID-19 vaccine for people with disabilities.

• Councilmember Brian Winfield of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) gave an overview of the 2021-2022 Governor’s Proposed Budget. More information about the budget will be available soon.

• The SCDD State Plan Committee and Staff presented the Cycle 44 Grant Request for Proposals. Two opportunities were offered: one for proposals on Health and Safety with a focus on addressing mental health needs, and one for proposals on Inclusive Education with a focus on supporting inclusive practices. Members engaged in an active discussion about how the program development grant funding could be used and provided input regarding additional language edits for increased accessibility and clarification.

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIONS
The Council:

• Approved the December 2020 Council meeting minutes with corrections to the voting log

• Approved the Cycle 44 Grant Request for Proposals (RFP’s) with additional suggested edits to the RFP language

FUTURE MEETING DATE

• The next Council meeting will be held on March 23rd, 2021.
People with Disabilities are a Vaccine Priority

Your voice has been heard! Thank you to all the fierce self-advocates, family advocates, and community members who urged making people with developmental and other disabilities a vaccine priority. Thanks to your effort, the California Department of Public Health announced this today.

Beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals age 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the following severe health conditions:

- **Cancer**, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Immunocompromised state** (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index 2 is greater or equal to 40 kg/m2)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

**OR**

If as a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability, one or more of the following applies:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

At a press conference on February 8, Governor Newsom acknowledged that Californians with developmental disabilities have not received enough vaccines.
He said, “We’ve got to take care of the most vulnerable. And people in the developmentally disabled community, with all the unique challenges and opportunities that present them in their lives, these vaccines need to be prioritized. And I’m committing to doing that.”

Since November, SCDD has urged that people with disabilities be a priority for the COVID vaccine along with professional and family caregivers. Our Councilmembers have been active advocates as appointees advising Governor on what people with disabilities need.

"I am here to advocate for all people with disabilities to get a COVID vaccine so we won’t get COVID in the first place or die from it. We the disability community do not want to be a number in a hospital or in a bed with COVID-19."

**Councilmember Nicole Adler**
**Self-Advocate and At-Large Representative**

"We’ve got to take care of the most vulnerable. And people in the developmentally disabled community, with all the unique challenges and opportunities that present them in their lives, these vaccines need to be prioritized. And I’m committing to doing that."

**Governor Gavin Newsom**

This is a great victory for Californians with intellectual, developmental, and other disabilities and those who care for them. Call Governor Newsom at (916) 445-2841 and thank him for making people with disabilities are priority.
MARCH 10, 2021

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8
Information

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

*Emergency Preparedness Training*

Disability Rights California Peer Advocate and SSAN member Scott Barron and State Council on Developmental Disabilities Manager, North Coast Regional Office Julie Eby-McKenzie will provide SSAN members with a training on emergency preparedness.
SSAN Workgroups

SSAN workgroups will meet to discuss current and ongoing projects. Workgroups are encouraged to review and discuss their workgroup Goals and Priorities, suggesting updates as needed. The following SSAN workgroups will meet using Zoom Breakout Sessions:

- Employment
  - Chair: Rebecca Donabed
- Legislative and Civic Engagement
  - Chair: Paul Mansell
- Self-Determination
  - Chair: Nicole Patterson
- Newsletter
  - Chair: Robert Levy
- Youth Engagement
  - Chair: Nicole Patterson

Attachments

- SSAN Workgroup Descriptions
SSAN Workgroup Purpose, Goals, and Measurable Objectives

SSAN OFFICERS WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The SSAN Officers are responsible for planning and setting the agenda for each Full SSAN Meeting, Review and Approve recommendations relating to SSAN Membership, and Review recommendations relating to changes to the SSAN Bylaws.

**Goal:** To increase participation and awareness of SSAN meetings and resolve issues relating to membership.

**Measurable Objective:** SSAN Officers will work together to plan up to four Full SSAN Meetings a year. Full SSAN meetings will include presentations/trainings suggested by SSAN members, and “standing” agenda items.

SSAN MEMBERSHIP WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The SSAN Membership Workgroup will review and make recommendations to SSAN Officers relating to SSAN Membership and the SSAN Membership Process.

**Goal:** To increase representation of self-advocates across California.

**Measurable Objective:** SSAN workgroup members review the SSAN Membership process for open positions on SSAN.
- Review SSAN Marketing Materials
- Review SSAN Application Process Materials
- Review Applications for SSAN
- Make Recommendations to the SSAN Officers about SSAN Membership
SSAN EMPLOYMENT WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The Employment workgroup will educate the community about the rights of people with disabilities and their ability to become contributing members of society by having competitive integrated employment.

**Goal:** To increase opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in competitive integrated employment. Increase access to resources available to support people with disabilities in the workforce.

**Measurable Objective:** Members of the SSAN Employment Workgroup will work with the SCDD Employment First Committee to provide feedback on the Employment First presentation. Members of the workgroup will continue to conduct outreach to individuals and groups to inform them about achieving gainful employment of the Cross Disability Community, outreach includes passing out fliers, doing presentations, hosting informational webinars.

SSAN SELF-DETERMINATION WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The SSAN Self-Determination Workgroup works to increase the number of people in all catchment areas that know about self-determination.

**Goal:** To increase self-advocates and their families, and the community’s awareness of self-determination.

**Measurable Objective:** SSAN members will reach out in their communities to at least 3 individual groups per quarter to inform them about the new self-determination law.

- By providing individual information about self-determination
- By providing information by Power Point to different groups
- To identify groups that may benefit from a self-determination presentation
- Develop a tool to monitor how well the information is getting out to the community.
SSAN BYLAWS WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The SSAN Bylaws Workgroup will review and make recommendations to the SSAN Officers about updates to the SSAN Bylaws.

**Goal:** Ensure that the SSAN Bylaws are in plain language and easily understood by all members of SSAN.

**Measurable Objective:** Review the SSAN Bylaws at least once a year and make recommendations to the SSAN Officers on suggested updates in language and/or meaning.

SSAN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

**Purpose:** The SSAN Youth Engagement Workgroup will work to increase awareness of youth with disabilities in California of the Self-Advocacy Movement and work to engage youth with disabilities in California in SSAN activities.

**Goal:** Create opportunities for cross generational interactions and include youth in the Self-Advocacy Movement.

**Measurable Objective:** Create a survey to distribute to youth groups on best practices for engaging, interacting with, and including youth in self-advocacy related activities.
SSAN LEGISLATION and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WORKGROUP

Purpose: The Legislative workgroup will inform and educate our partners and communities on statewide legislation that SCDD has taken a position on.

Goal: Increase the community’s awareness on the State Council on Developmental Disabilities’ legislative platform and priorities.

Measurable Objective: Develop materials that will increase the community’s awareness and knowledge about bills and the California State Legislative Calendar.

SSAN NEWSLETTER/COMMUNICATION WORKGROUP

Purpose: The Newsletter/Communication workgroup will highlight SSAN activities and upcoming conferences/events to communicate what SSAN is doing and how they are connected in the community.

Goal: Increase the community’s awareness of how SSAN is promoting the self-advocacy movement within the state of California.

Measurable Objective: The Newsletter/Communication workgroup will produce 4 newsletters highlighting SSAN’s advocacy work throughout California. The Newsletter/Communications workgroup will make an effort to ensure that future editions are in accessible formats.
The SSAN Youth Workgroup developed a survey in the hopes of collecting feedback from youth with disabilities on how to better engage youth with disabilities in SSAN and/or advocacy activities in general.

This survey will be available in both digital and hardcopy format for SSAN members to share with their communities. This survey will help the SSAN Youth Workgroup to develop a strategy for how to engage youth in SSAN activities. Please review at the DRAFT SSAN Youth Survey and be prepared to give your feedback at the March meeting.

**Attachments**

- DRAFT SSAN Youth Survey

**Recommended Action**

Approve the DRAFT SSAN Youth Survey
SSAN Workgroup Youth Survey

About SSAN: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is a cross-disability training network. SSAN that promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by recommending policy changes and best practices for supporting people with disabilities.

1. What is your name? (Fill-in the blank)
2. What County do you live in? (Drop down)
3. Are you a self-advocate, family advocate, or professional/community member? (multiple choice)
   a. Self-Advocate (person with a disability)
   b. Family Advocate (family member supporting a person with a disability)
   c. Professional (works for an organization or volunteers)
   d. Community Member
4. What gender do you identify with? (multiple choice)
   a. Male
   b. Female
   c. Other
5. What is your age group?
   a. 16—22
   b. 23—30
   c. 30 and over
6. What is your current living arrangement?
   a. I live with my parents/relative
   b. Care home/group home
   c. Independently in apartment/home
   d. Independently with roommates in apartment/home
7. How do you spend your day?
   a. I am in school
   b. I attend a day program
   c. I volunteer
   d. I work part/full-time (drop down)
   e. Other

8. What do you think is keeping youth with disabilities from being involved in self-advocacy activities? (fill in the blank)

9. What are topics that youth with disabilities would like to learn about? (fill in the blank)

10. What do you or your friends know about disability history or the disability rights movement? (fill in the blank)

11. Are you currently involved in self-advocacy activities?
    a. Yes
    b. No

12. What organizations/agencies are you currently a board member of? Is this organization related to disabilities? (fill-in the blank)

13. Are you involved with or connected to your local State Council on Developmental Disabilities Regional Office, Independent Living Center or Regional Center? If so, which one? (Fill-in the blank)

14. What can the SSAN do to help further youth involvement in the advocacy movement? (Fill-in the blank)

15. Are there any trainings or resources that you think would be helpful to you or your friends that SSAN should work on? (Fill-in the blank)

16. Would you like to be connected to a SSAN member?

17. Please provide the best way to contact you: (Fill-in the blank)
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

**Member Action Reports**

Members will have the opportunity to update SSAN on their activities related to SSAN and self-advocacy

**Attachments**

- 2021 SSAN Member Action Report
- 2021 How to fill-out SSAN Member Action Report
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MEMBER REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Events or Training</th>
<th>Topic or Conference</th>
<th>Meeting, Conference or Training Event and How it Relates to SSAN Goals</th>
<th>WHERE it Was Held</th>
<th>Self Advocate (SA)</th>
<th>Family Advocate (FA)</th>
<th>Others (not SA or FA)</th>
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**Presented (or spoke) at a Meeting or Conference or Training Event in your role as a SSAN member:**

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Topic or Conference</th>
<th>Meeting, Conference or Training Event and How it Relates to SSAN Goals</th>
<th>WHERE it Was Held</th>
<th>Self Advocate (SA)</th>
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**Attended a meeting, training or conference in your role as a SSAN member:**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Events or Training</th>
<th>Topic or Conference</th>
<th>Meeting, Conference or Training Event and How it Relates to SSAN Goals</th>
<th>WHERE it Was Held</th>
<th>Self Advocate (SA)</th>
<th>Family Advocate (FA)</th>
<th>Others (not SA or FA)</th>
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*KEY: SA = Self Advocate, FA = Family Advocate, O = Other (not SA or FA)*
### RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title or Topic of Resource</th>
<th>Internet Link / address</th>
<th>Will bring a copy of resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Are there any barriers that have kept you from participating in advocacy-related activities?

|_barrier_1|_barrier_2|_barrier_3|

### Is there anything that your local self-advocacy group would like SSAN to work on?

|__|__|__|

### Anything else you would like to REPORT or any questions or training ideas you would like to share with SSAN?

|__|__|__|

### SCDD State Plan Goals
- Self Advocacy
- Employment
- Housing
- Education
- Health & Safety
- Community Supports

---

RESOURCES you would like to share with SSAN

---
The new report format is attached. This new format will help SCDD staff to put the annual SSAN Report together.

**Explanation**

**How to complete the form**

- Write your name on the line, put the month and year of the report on the lines.
- The key at the top of the page explains what SA, FA, and O means when reporting how many people were there.
- If you attended a meeting, conference or training event, fill out each box as best you can.
- The new report format is attached. This new form will help SCDD staff to put the annual SSAN Report together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CHANCES Conference held</th>
<th>WHERE it was held</th>
<th>Title or Topic of Meeting</th>
<th>How many SA</th>
<th>How many FA</th>
<th>How many Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>Conference or Event</td>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>CHOICES Conference</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Example:**

1) Write your name on the line, put the month and year of the report on the lines.
2) The key at the top of the page explains what SA, FA, and O means when reporting how many people were there.
3) If you attended a meeting, conference or training event, fill out each box as best you can.
4) If you PRESENTED (or spoke) at a Meeting, Conference or Training event- fill out each box as best you can.

**EXAMPLE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Title or Topic of Meeting, Conference or Event</th>
<th>WHERE it was held</th>
<th>How many SA</th>
<th>How many FA</th>
<th>How many Others</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>SCDD North Valley Hills RAC mtg – SSAN info</td>
<td>Modesto</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5) TALKED to Self Advocates about SSAN, Self Advocacy or other topic- fill out each box as best you can.

**EXAMPLE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>Title or Topic – what did you talk about</th>
<th>In person</th>
<th>Call, email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/1</td>
<td>Employment – How to get a job – They wanted to know how to start</td>
<td>person</td>
<td>email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6) RESOURCES you would like to share with SSAN- fill out each box as best you can.

**EXAMPLE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title or Topic of Resource</th>
<th>Internet Link / address</th>
<th>Will bring a copy of Resource</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHOICES Conference Registration Form</td>
<td><a href="http://www.choicesinstitute.org">www.choicesinstitute.org</a></td>
<td>Yes brought 25 copies</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7) Anything else you would like to REPORT or any questions or Training Ideas you would like to share with SSAN?

**EXAMPLE:**

<table>
<thead>
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</table>

4) If you PRESENTED (or spoke) at a Meeting, Conference or Training event- fill out each box as best you can.
Paul Mansell, San Diego Regional Center Client Information Specialist and San Diego Regional SSAN Representative, will provide members with an update on his process as a participant of the initial Self-Determination rollout.

**Attachments**

None
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

Conflict Resolution Training

The SCDD staff will provide members with an introductory training on Conflict Resolution.

Attachments

None
MARCH 11, 2021
SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 6
ACTION ITEM
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

MARCH NEWSLETTER APPROVAL AND IDEAS FOR NEXT EDITION

Robert Levy, Chair of the SSAN Newsletter Workgroup will present SSAN members with a DRAFT version of the March Newsletter and ask members for any changes or additions. Robert will then lead a discussion about ideas for the May Newsletter.

Attachments

- DRAFT March 2021 Voices of SSAN Newsletter

Recommended Action

Approve the DRAFT March 2021 Voices of SSAN Newsletter
Letter from SSAN Officers

By Desiree Boykin, Association of Regional Center Agencies
Paul Mansell, San Diego Regional Center
Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is having a wonderful 2021. As we approach this amazing New Year, we are all fighting as hard as we want to make sure that adults with disabilities are a part of the conversation for vaccines. SSAN will continue to learn about and educate our communities on the issues that impact the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities such as: finding meaningful work or volunteering their time in the community and the importance of self-determination where advocates are in control of the services to improve the quality of life they live every day.

We continue to inspire the next generation by using social media and understanding how they want to find their voice. I look forward to working with all of the SSAN officers and SSAN members as we change the world. One day at a time.

– Desiree Boykin, SSAN Chair 2020—2022

“I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Vice-Chair from December 2020—December 2022. I have a vision for SSAN that sees beyond the pall of the pandemic to promote self-advocacy, capacity building, and systems change. I see SSAN advancing the cause of self-advocacy educating state officials to our needs, experiences, and dreams. Also, I see us educating fellow self-advocates on issues of vital importance to them and their well-being—especially employment, transportation, and Self-Determination. Lastly, I see SSAN collaborating with other disability groups to make a common voice advancing our well-being, social justice, and equity.”

– Paul Mansell, SSAN Vice—Chair 2020—2022

(Continue on Page 2: “Letter”)
Thank you for the opportunity to serve as the SSAN Secretary for 2020—2022. I am excited about my new role within SSAN. I look forward to working with the SSAN Chair and Vice-Chair to support SSAN members for the next two years. I hope to be able to provide SSAN members with important information about services and supports for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I hope to draw from leadership skills that I have developed through chairing the SSAN Newsletter/Communication Workgroup, as well as my experience as Treasurer for the ASAN group for the Sacramento chapter. I will do the best job as I can for this group as your Secretary for the next 2 years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve, it’s a huge role to build more leadership skills.”

— Robert Levy, SSAN Secretary 2020—2022

Our Vision for the Next 2 Years

As the new leadership team of SSAN, we look forward to continuing the important self-advocacy work of SSAN in order to make sure that people with disabilities are included in society and able to live a meaningful life. We are here to help and support both new and long-time members. We hope to contribute to building a solid SSAN identity through building cross disability partnerships and working collaboratively with the workgroups to support SSAN projects.

We plan on working together to address and respond to concerns related to ongoing COVID—19 and other social issues. It is our hope that we will build off of the work of previous SSAN Officers to build community and strengthen relationships during these trying times. Thank you for your support as your new SSAN Officers.
COVID—19 Update

By Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills Regional Representative

With COVID-19 numbers still growing around the world we must continue to emphasize the importance of following the guidelines like maintaining our distance from others especially those of us that are more vulnerable. We follow the guidelines to protect ourselves, our loved ones, those that support us and their families too. The guidelines will help us all to do our part in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Take these precautions to do your part:

Wear your mask 😷

Continue to Wash your hands with soap and warm water often for at least 20 seconds or to make it fun sing happy birthday. Use Hand Sanitizer as a back-up too.

Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.

DON’T TOUCH your face, avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.

KEEP YOUR DISTANCE Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

STAY HOME If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.

GET HELP If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.

Doing these things will also help us get our children back into the schools and protect those teaching them. Let’s do our part.

For up-to-date information about the COVID—19 visit COVID-19.CA.GOV (Continue on Page 4: “COVID—19 Update”)

COVID—19 CA.GOV
COVID—Vaccine Update: People with Disabilities are a Vaccine Priority

Your voice has been heard! Thank you to all the fierce self-advocates, family advocates, and community members who urged making people with developmental and other disabilities a vaccine priority. Thanks to your effort, beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals age 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the following severe health conditions:

- **Cancer**, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Immunocompromised state** (weakened immune system) from **solid organ transplant**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index 2 is greater or equal to 40 kg/m2)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin Al c level greater than 7.5%

OR

If as a result of a **developmental or other severe high-risk disability**, one or more of the following applies:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

Since November, SCDD has urged that people with disabilities be a priority for the COVID vaccine along with professional and family caregivers.

See [SCDD Full Statement](#) on this big announcement.
I became the SCDD Chair on January 1, 2021. As SCDD Chair, I got a lot of responsibility to handle. As a leader, I make some important decisions. If you want to be a good leader, you need to understand how to work with other people. I attend a lot of meetings. You must know to run a meeting, negotiate, delegate, compromise, organize, etc. I must motivate people to get the results that we want. I am working to make California a national leader for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am reading books on how to be an effective leader. I also need to have hands on experience to become a good leader. I am committed to working many different hours. I decide what is important. I am on-call throughout the week. As a leader, you learn to bring out the best in everyone. You must put out an agenda and make sure it is organized. California has over 600,000 people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. People with disabilities have the right to vote, work, have relationships, live where they want to live, and have social lives. Self-Determination will be available to everyone who receives services from a Regional Center in June. It is a privilege to serve as the SCDD Chair. Thank you.
My Experience in Self-Determination
By Paul Mansell, San Diego Regional Representative

I have had a positive experience in Self-Determination receiving individualized supports and services that better meet my hopes, dreams, and goals. Through Self-Determination, my plan better meets my needs, my quality of life has improved, and I have grown personally and professionally as a result.

My involvement with Self-Determination began over 20 years when I helped oversee the design and development of the original Self-Determination Pilot Project at San Diego Regional Center (SDRC). I subsequently attended a conference on Self-Determination and have read materials by leaders in the field on Person Centered Planning.

I was overjoyed when I was selected to be in the original rollout of Self-Determination. I went through Orientation and felt overwhelmed with all the information. I immediately set out to work on developing my new plan. I learned who my new service coordinator was. Based on my prior experience, I knew who I wanted to be my FMS, Person Centered Plan writer would be, and because I had such a tiny budget, I decided to go with my Service Coordinator as my Independent Facilitator. I also knew what kind type of PCP I wanted: a MAP. All this knowledge helped me simplify the pre-enrollment process. Even so I felt like the pre-enrollment process was ballroom dancing with three partners. It was at times very confusing. It took me a year to get enrolled in Self-Determination. It took a lot time and hard work.

My individualized budget was tiny, so I had to be very economical with my spending plan. I played it conservative and basically transferred my traditional services over to my Self-Determination Plan. This worked out fine but then the pandemic hit: everything went out the window, especially my Independent Life Skills (ILS) support services. The number of hours were cut back significantly; consequently, my spending on ILS dropped dramatically. I wanted to use my whole budget, so with the assistance of my SC and my FMS, I creatively revised my spending plan. This took a lot of work and I am glad I did it. Year two may promise to bring the same. It is hard to plan with the pandemic in our midst.

It might be helpful to view your Self-Determination Plan as a project with the final outcome being your north star. All the steps, timelines, procedures, and milestones are focused with one purpose, reaching that north star. I am very happy with Self-Determination, and I encourage everyone who is dissatisfied with traditional service to give it a consideration.
New Member Spotlight

By Ellen Sweigert, North Bay Regional Representative

My Name is Ellen Sweigert. I was recently accepted to join SSAN. I have always been passionate about disability advocacy. I come from a family of lawyers. My dad is a lawyer and my grandfather, two of my great grandfathers, and several uncles were also lawyers. I knew that I would not become a lawyer myself, but my dream has always been to become active in disability advocacy. Chasing this dream has given me a background of being active advocating for disabled people.

I was born in 1988 with Down Syndrome. I attended Pacific Grove School District as a fully included student in regular classrooms from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. I was elected Student Body Vice President as a seventh grader at Pacific Grove Middle School in 2001 and gave a stirring commencement speech at my high school graduation in 2007. I served for several years as an ambassador for Easter Seals of Central California and was selected to attend the Governor’s Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities at California State University, Sacramento in the summer of July 2006.

(Continue on Page 8: “New Member”)
In October 2006, I was selected to serve on a disabled youth panel for Monterey County Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities. In 2009, the mayor of Pacific Grove appointed me to the City’s Americans with Disabilities Advisory Committee. I have lived independently in Napa, California since 2013, with the support of Moving Forward Towards Independence, a nonprofit independent living program. I worked for Parents Can, a nonprofit agency providing support services to parents of people with disabilities and I volunteer for the Napa County Historical Society. In addition to serving on the Statewide Self Advocacy Network, I also currently serve as the Napa co-chair of the North Bay Regional Advisory Committee.

I feel disability advocacy in my heart, and I look forward to continuing my work in this area as a member of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network and I am excited about getting to know the other members personally and learning what drives them.
Raise the Roof: An Affordable Housing Leadership Training

By Paul Mansell, San Diego Regional Representative

Last fall I had the good fortune of participating in Raise the Roof—a virtual training series for self-advocates on affordable housing. Advocates from all over the country attended the trainings. It was sponsored by the Kelsey Group, an organization that advocates for affordable housing for people with disabilities. This training was a free-of-cost program for leaders with disabilities to increase knowledge and their network of the housing industry, advocacy and development, which will include 6 modules over a 12-week period and offer peer learning cohorts and office hours with mentors.

I became interested in affordable housing when I was on SSI. I was living at home with my mother, but I wanted to live independently. On SSI I couldn’t afford rent, so I applied for Section #8 housing. I was put on the waiting list, and I waited. Years went by, but eventually I got my voucher, and I moved into my own place with ILS supports. It was demanding but I made a go of it.

Getting back to the training, it consisted of US-based adult advocates with disabilities who wanted to increase knowledge and effectiveness in changing housing policy, early career professionals that would like to build credentials in housing, and others that were curious about how housing gets built.

Here is some information on housing in San Diego: rent and utilities in an apartment or the monthly mortgage payment and housing expenses for a homeowner should be less than 30 percent of a household’s monthly income to be considered affordable. Currently, the median income for a family of four in San Diego is $63,400. This means $19,020.

A key takeaway from the class was that shelter is not only a basic need but a fundamental right. America simply doesn’t have enough affordable housing for the poor, low income, seniors, and the people with disabilities.

Where people with disabilities live affects our health, our career opportunities, our children’s education, and our safety. Practices such as zoning locks us out of good housing and neighborhoods and crams us into run down, impoverished, crime infested communities, isolated from public transportation, grocery stores, and other supports, services and living conveniences. (Continue on Page 10: “Raise the Roof”)

(Continue on Page 10: “Raise the Roof”)
(Continued from Page 9: “Raise the Roof”)

The scarcity of affordable housing compels us to compete against each other; instead of standing together united in solidarity. Inconsistent response to the pandemic and inconsistent access to services like testing, transportation, PPE and vaccinations have shown the inequities of income, wealth, and housing distribution in this nation.

To those who say we should be responsible and self-reliant in life, give us a foundation to base our life and opportunities to strive for more. To those who tell us to be content with what we have, we say open the doors of opportunity to us, so we may become empowered and strive to fulfill our potential and reach the American dream for ourselves and our families.

We are not asking for handouts, but opportunities to reach our potential. How can we achieve when narrow doorways, stairs, and curbs block are access? How can we integrate into the broader community when regular and reliable mass transit doesn’t come to our homes? How can we prepare wholesome and nutrition meals when there are no grocery stores in our neighborhoods? How can our children succeed in school unless our schools are fully funded and have committed and caring teachers? Affordable housing is more than just a rent or mortgage that fits within our monthly budget, it is about hope, dignity, and respect.

Email raisetheroof@thekelsey.org to learn more about affordable housing.
National Disability Employment Awareness Month Turns 75!

By Scott Barron, Disability Rights California’s Representative

The disability rights movement has worked hard to improve the lives of people with disabilities. With the passage Americans With Disabilities Act in 1990 and other state and federal antidiscrimination laws, individuals with disabilities have fewer physical barriers and greater access to services and supports in the community. But finding a job, let alone a job that pays at least minimum wage, makes it hard for many people with disabilities to live a productive and independent life community.

Unfortunately, this is not a new issue for the disability community. In 1945, Congress originally named the first week in October “National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week” in response to the large number of service members with disabilities returning home from World War II. Since then, the event evolved into a month-long observance and was renamed “National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)” in 1998. The 75th anniversary celebrated with the theme “Increasing Access and Opportunity.”

Even with landmark legislation recognizing the civil rights of people with disabilities, data consistently shows that individuals with disabilities are underemployed compared to individuals without disabilities. According to the Centers for Disease Control, approximately 25% of Californians have a disability. However, only about 50% of individuals with disabilities across the nation. This information shows that there is more work to be done. Advocates must still take the time to better explain how hiring people with disabilities can help the employee and the employer. (Continue on Page 12: “NDEAM”)
(Continued from page 11: “NDEAM”)

The new self-determination program and the recent changes to the services offered through the Department of Rehabilitation are more examples of how concrete steps are being taken to encourage people with disabilities to explore potential career opportunities and honor the legacy of the NDEAM.

As an individual with a developmental disability who has been competitively employed for the last 12 years, I have a unique perspective on the importance of the NDEAM. As I grew up, I always knew that I would be competitively employed. As a Peer Advocate with Disability Rights California (DRC), I have helped many consumers develop their self-advocacy skills and understand their individual rights. Because of my work, clients become more confident in believing they can get a job they enjoy in the community.

I recognize that my success is due in large part to the trailblazing individuals with disabilities that came before me. Through my work a DRC and participation in SSAN, I plan to carry on the tradition behind why the NDEAM was started so many years ago.

Resources

- University of Oregon Division of Equity and Inclusion NDEAM information
- NDEAM: Increasing Access and Opportunity 2020 Event
- DRC: Increasing Access and Opportunities Resources and Information
- NDEAM Employment Experience Robert Levy
- NDEAM Career Advice from SCDD Councilmembers
Adapting Employment During COVID—19

By Teresa Moshier, North State Regional Representative

I work for the Call Connection, a call center that is operated by AMJAMB Supported Living Services. Because of the COVID—19 Public Health Crisis, Call Connections employees are currently working from home doing our calls at home and we also do zoom every day. We have to be careful that we limit how many people are in the office at a time. Here are some things we do on zoom:

- Monday, we play bingo and we win prizes
- Tuesday, we do exercises and chat
- Wednesday, we do sign language
- Thursday, we exercise and chat
- Friday, we do arts and crafts

AMJAMB has had to make changes to how they do business due to crisis outside of their control. The first time was due to the Paradise Campfire, where workers were off work for 98 days. We wanted to go back to work; but could not go into the office because of smoke damage from the fire. Because of the damage the Camp Fire had on the City of Paradise, the AMJAMB office is now in Chico, CA, instead of Paradise, CA. The second time AMJAMB has had to make changes was in response to COVID—19. It has been a challenge to adapt the way we deliver our services, but the employees at AMJAMB are here to help. If you ever need a med reminder, or just a friendly chat, you can call AMJAMB at 530-872-3627.
UC Davis SEEDS Program

By Lisa Cooley, Sacramento Regional Representative
Robert Levy, UC Davis Mind Institute Representative

UC Davis is starting a new scholars program designed for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). The program is called Supported Education to Elevate Diversity or S.E.E.D. for short scheduled to start in the fall this year (Fall 2021).

The purpose of the SEED Program is to give students with I/DD between the ages of 18—26 an opportunity to participate in a four—year college program. The program is designed to provide students with the opportunity for:

- Personal Growth
- Interconnectedness
- Reaching and stretching toward independence
- Hard work
- Developing skills within context
- Learning to live in a community
- Working toward employment
- Leaning into areas of interest and study

The SEED program is funded through a five-year grant that doesn’t have to be renewed every year. Support services for students are individualized the same way IPPs are and students are encouraged to use natural supports and use their self-advocacy skills when necessary.

If this program sounds interesting to you, consider Applying for the UC Davis SEED Program. We look forward to seeing how the UC Davis SEED program benefits students with I/DD in their career paths.
Kudos Corner
By Desiree Boykin

I’ve admired Paul for his leadership skills and ability to work with other Self-Advocates across the State of California. In 2019 Paul asked me to co-present with him at the San Diego People First Conference in San Diego. Paul was the chair at that time and made sure that 500 attendees knew where to go for each session for the weekend. Paul has worked as a Client Advocate for San Diego Regional Center for over 20 years. He works out daily and lives independently. He has been a part of the SSAN since 2016.

Paul has written articles for the Newsletter work group on Who inspires you, Self-Determination, voting, finding your voice, and techniques to cope with mental health issues during COVID—19. Paul is active member of the People First of San Diego group. He also calls in twice a week at the Advocates Advisory Committee Fun Chat. Paul wants to inspire the next generation of Self-Advocates to understand their rights accomplish their hopes and dreams.

Paul is extremely excited to be a part of the Self-Determination program. Paul represents the San Diego Imperial office. He is now Vice Chair of the SSAN. Kudos to you Paul Mansell!

Community Resources

Check out the State Council on Developmental Disabilities’ Series of Informational Videos on COVID—19 featuring people with disabilities on Youtube.

Northern California Business Advisory Council (BAC) was established to promote partnerships between local businesses and employment training programs.

Contact your SCDD Regional Office for:
- information on upcoming trainings
- local self-advocacy meetings
- find out how to get Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for you and your family.

Plain Language COVID—19 Resources Available on:
SCDD Website
DDS Symposium
DDS is proud to present a web series brought to you by partners throughout the state to showcase real-world examples of innovative services in action to meet individual consumer needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Session 1: October 21, 2020
Session 2: October 28, 2020
Session 3: November 4, 2020
Session 4: November 12, 2020

Community Announcements
On February 17, 2021 Governor Newsom announced an agreement had been reached to provide low income Californians with a one-time $600 payment. This relief effort would give low-income Californians, including those receiving the California Earned Income Tax Credit for 2020, those participating in CalWORKS, SSI/SSP, and receiving CAPI grants much needed economic relief. In addition, the agreement would provide a stimulus check to taxpayers with individual tax identification numbers who did not receive federal stimulus payments.

Undocumented immigrants would also be eligible to receive the one-time payments if they filed tax forms. ITIN taxpayers who also qualify for the California earned income tax credit would receive a total of $1,200, state leaders said.

In all, the state would provide $5.7 million payments to low-income Californians.

California residents could be eligible for the earned income tax credit if they have annual incomes of $30,000 or less, which last year included 3.9 million taxpayers.

SAVE THE DATE
Registration coming soon:
The Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference
Date: Friday, May 7, 2021
Time: 10 AM to 4 PM
Where: Zoom
Contact: info@supportedlife.org
SCDD 2021 Legislative Update

Bridget Kolakosky, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs will provide SSAN with an update on SCDD legislative priorities for the 2021 Legislative Cycle. Deputy Director Kolakosky will also provide SSAN members with a preliminary list of bills that the Legislative and Public Policy Committee (LPPC) will be discussing at their meeting scheduled for March 9th and potentially recommending the State Council take a position on. LPPC welcomes any recommendations that SSAN may have on legislation under consideration by the Committee. All legislation under consideration aligns with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities 2021 Policy Priorities:

- Protecting and Enhancing Civil Rights
- Guaranteeing Access to Education and Employment
- Promoting Access to Quality Supports in the Community
- Ensuring Safety in the Community
- Improving Housing and Community Living

Information relating to bills under consideration by LPPC will be posted on the [SCDD Legislative and Public Policy Committee Page](#)
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SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8
Information Item
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

**PLANNING FOR JUNE 2021**

The SSAN Chair will lead the group in a discussion about ideas for the June 2021 meeting and members will have the opportunity to complete meeting evaluations for the March 2021 meeting.

*Attachments*

None
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