

May 25, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 6 D.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

May 24, 2021

Meeting's Focus

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee met on May 24, 2021 over Zoom. The Committee reviewed Council business relating to self-advocacy and discussed the ongoing Public Health Crisis of COVID—19.

In preparation for the January Council meeting, SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed Council Business with the Committee. SAAC members talked about the challenges to the implementation of the Self-Determination program in California and discussed their interest in participating in the program. Several members expressed interest, but want to wait and see how the roll out goes before deciding to enroll in the program.

SAAC members provided feedback on the "SCDD Tell Your Story Survey". The survey is intended to provide the public (self-advocates, family advocates, professionals and community members) with the means to share how a Council activity or service made a difference in their lives. SAAC members recommended defining what a family advocate was, as family dynamics and interactions can be different depending on the relationship. Members also expressed an interest in having more inclusive options when asking about gender identity such as non-binary, transgender and/or LGBTQ+.

SAAC members had an open discussion about vaccine hesitancy. Members talked about trust issues that exist in the developmental disabilities community due to historical mistreatment of people with developmental disabilities by the medical profession. The amount of information and/or myths that exists about the vaccines, can be overwhelming to some. The lack of information available in plain language, makes it difficult to navigate all of the information out there. Difficulty finding appointments due to internet access and transportation issues was also talked about.

Members provided updates about what they have been doing since the March SAAC meeting. The Committee took the following actions:

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the March 22, 2021 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee is meeting on July 26, 2021.