

July 27, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 8 C.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

July 26, 2021

Meeting's Focus

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee met on July 26, 2021 over Zoom. The Committee reviewed Council business relating to self-advocacy and discussed adjustments of life given the ongoing Public Health Crisis of COVID—19.

SAAC members shared their thoughts on the 31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the work that still needs to be done to ensure that equal access is a reality for people with disabilities. Members mentioned the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and the importance of sharing stories and lived experiences to impact change.

In preparation for the July Council meeting, SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed Council Business with the Committee. Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed the Cycle 44 Grant Recommendations, provided members with an update on the status of SCDD budget, and updated members on ongoing contracts SCDD has with DDS relating to Developmental Centers (DCs).

Holly Bins, SCDD Manager–CRA/VAS Project, provided SAAC with an update on SCDD's work to support residents in state-operated facilities and transition them into community living settings. As of July 1, 2021, there are 253 people residing in 3 different Developmental Centers in California. You can learn more about the work of the CRA/VAS team by visiting the [Clients Rights Advocate \(CRA\)](#) and [Volunteer Advocacy Services \(VAS\)](#) pages on the Council's website.

Members talked about confusion in their communities on education and vaccination requirements, the need for affordable housing in California and the ongoing drought across the state. Transportation and internet access continue to be an issue in several counties. The Committee took the following actions:

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the May 24, 2021 meeting minutes.
- Recommend Council Approve Cycle 44 Grant Recommendations from the State Plan Committee

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee is meeting on September 14, 2021.