



The Orange County Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities is relaunching our Self-Advocate Speaker Series, inspired by SCDD Orange County Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Member Drew Smith, a local self-advocate who launched the series. This segment will feature Orange County self-advocates who are entrepreneurs, board members impacting the OC community, and change agents. These are their stories in their own words.

Meet Kyle Minnis



My name is Kyle Minnis and I am a poker player and a self-advocate. I advocate for better transit and I have experience dealing with Social Security issues and overpayment defense. I was a prop/house player with the casinos when they were low on players. I also played in poker tournaments. I have been affiliated with the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities since 2006.

I chair the Orange County Regional Advisory Committee for the SCDD Orange County Regional Office. I was also a past board member of the Southern California Transit Advocates. I became an advocate to make the lives of other people with disabilities, who are similarly situated, better. Dealing with Social Security issues is very important. I worked for the regional center and was the first consumer advocate from 1999 to 2000. I brought consumer issues to the regional center's attention.

My advice for others is to stay involved. If your main thing is working, then continue to work. If you can advocate for yourself, then you should. Dealing with the issues that we face on a daily basis can help you out and make your life better.