

May 23, 2022

**AGENDA ITEM 8 C.
INFORMATION ITEM**

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

May 23, 2022

Meeting's Focus

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee met on May 23, 2022 over Zoom. The Committee reviewed Council business relating to self-advocacy and discussed ongoing challenges of meeting the needs of people with I/DD during an ongoing public health crisis.

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an overview of the May Council meeting agenda. SCDD is committed to providing timely, easy to understand information and resources to Californians with I/DD. Committee members shared concerns about the rise in the cost of living and the impact of inflation on the price of gas and food. Members also shared details of their experiences working with regional centers to get enrolled in the Self-Determination Program.

Tamica Fouts-Rachel, SCDD Vaccine Project Manager, spoke about collaborating with the California Department of Public Health to increase access to information about COVID-19 vaccines to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Members reviewed the webpage <https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/pages/parent-page> and provided suggestions to increase accessibility and usability. Suggestions included using more graphics instead of pictures, renaming the page to reach a wider audience, increasing the font size, using more concise, plain language, including information about how to schedule in-home vaccination appointments, and making the page available in multiple languages (especially Spanish).

Members discussed organizing a self-advocacy related presentation for a future Council meeting. Members suggested that the presentation cover the following topics: Ed Roberts, the Capitol Crawl protest, self-advocacy groups, important legislation, the history of People First of California, and the history of institutions in California.

Members shared updates on self-advocacy issues in their communities. Several members talked about the challenges of scheduling community meetings amid ongoing public health concerns, meeting Bagley Keene requirements and organizing to meet in person. Other concerns raised included the need for more affordable housing options, concerns about homelessness, and the ongoing drought in California. There continues to be a need to include the disability community in planning for and responding to natural disasters and global incidents.

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the March 21, 2022 meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee is meeting on July 25, 2022.