

2022 SSDAC Co-Chair Candidate Statement

Rick Wood

I am grateful to have served as Co-Chair for the past 2½ years, and I wish to continue for another term. I believe that I am uniquely qualified to serve as Co-Chair. A summary of the SSDAC accomplishments during my tenure is attached. The Self Determination Program continues to face challenges in its implementation. There is much more work to do.

As you may know, I am the parent of a 20-year participant in the Kern Regional Center Self Determination Pilot. I have been immersed in SD issues for 24+ years. I speak for those who have no voice. I have demonstrated a passion for making a difference in participants' lives. Leadership is manifested by the ability to persuade others, to develop consensus on the development of SSDAC agendas, to prioritize its actions, to conduct its work more efficiently, to hold DDS and Regional Centers accountable, and to obtain meaningful accomplishment of the functions of the SSDAC prescribed in the law. I can do that as Co-Chair.

I have served as FMS and IF for 20+ years. I was the chair of the KRC SD Pilot Liaison Committee for 20 years. I was a member of the original DDS Workgroup for 6+ years which developed the SD waiver application to the federal government. I have established relationships with DDS, Regional Centers, SD stakeholders, and most importantly, SD participants. I have recently been appointed to serve as Co-Chair of a new DDS SD Workgroup to advise DDS on all matters related to SD. I am a member of the current SSDAC Workgroup. I have unmatched real-time SD knowledge and experience. I also have experience from my time in public office to manage meetings, to accomplish group objectives, and to give all members a voice in discussions. I have worked well with our SSDAC Co-Chair, Harold Fujita.

I am an attorney in private practice for 40+ years. I have flexibility in my schedule to attend meetings, confer with SCDD Executive Director and staff, develop agendas, implement DDS directives, prepare for meetings, and communicate with other SSDAC members and our Co-Chair. Most importantly, I have the support of my spouse, Cheryl, in this endeavor, which I am sure will have lasting impact on the lives of thousands of deserving people.

Attachment to 2022 SSDAC Co-Chair Candidate Statement

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June 28, 2022

The following is a list of activities and accomplishments of SSDAC during my 2-year term as Co-Chair:

Established a Self-Determination Facebook Forum to encourage sharing of information.

Established a reporting form to assist local advisory committee chairs with reporting data, best practices and barriers. Used that form to assist SSDAC in identifying barriers to enrollment and implementation.

Met, brainstormed and prepared recommendations for Regional Centers, DDS, SCDD and local advisory committees to overcome barriers. Drafted a report containing that information and submitted it to the Legislature, ARCA, DDS, SCDD and local advisory committees.

Established a Workgroup to continue to work on activities in between SSDAC meetings.

Participated in stakeholder calls and provided input to DDS on several matters, including how to spend federal participation funds, streamlining the SDP orientation, utilizing the PCP process to develop the IPP for participants, developing a plain-language explanation for the role of the FMS, standardizing spending plan forms, and more.

Provided input to SCDD on several SDP-related projects, including proposed bill language, the SDP evaluation, and various trainings.

Hosted targeted panel discussions to gather information and prepare for the July 1, 2021 rollout.

Established a collaborative working relationship with DDS.

There remain many challenges to the implementation of the SDP. There is much more to do!