

**July 25, 2022**

**AGENDA ITEM 6 D.  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY***

***Date of Meeting***

July 25, 2022

***Meeting's Focus***

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) met on July 25, 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 Self-Determination Program Manager Joseph Hernandez provided an update on the status of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Statewide Self-Determination Trainings. DDS released the Self-Determination Orientation module on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Other training modules are still being developed and will cover Person Centered Planning, spending plans, planning the individual budget, and working with others. Members viewed the newly constructed SCDD Self-Determination webpages, which will house information on available trainings and how to register for future trainings. Trainings are offered in English and Spanish. SCDD has provided 13 Orientation trainings this month, reaching 169 people.

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an overview of the July Council meeting agenda. The Council will receive reports from the Council Chair and Executive Director, along with Committee and Executive Staff. Executive Director Carruthers and Deputy Director of Regional Office Operations will provide the Council with an update on the Council's Year of Optimization. Committee members asked questions about the Executive Director Evaluation process and received guidance on how to complete the evaluation survey.

Rihana Ahmad, State Plan and Self Advocacy Manager presented the SCDD Website and requested SAAC member's feedback on how to improve each section of the site. Members recommended changes to the home page, noting that there should be less print and that the graphics and images should be spread throughout the page instead of concentrated near the bottom. Members reviewed and gave feedback on draft changes to the SCDD Meetings Calendar and requested that meeting times and Zoom links be shared on each committee's individual pages. SCDD staff will continue to seek feedback from SAAC members as we begin to make changes and updates to the website.

In honor of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), SAAC members discussed what the ADA means to them and how it has changed their lives. Members shared that the passage of the ADA has allowed them to enjoy greater freedom and access to the supports and services they need to live the lives of their choosing. Members reflected on ways that SCDD could continue to support people with disabilities and address service issues and barriers. For more information on this discussion see the SAAC Reflections on the 32<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act in the July 2022 Council Handouts.

Members shared updates on self-advocacy barriers and issues in their communities, self-advocacy projects they are working on, committee updates and the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Report. Highlights from their updates included: transitioning back to in-person meetings when appropriate, the importance of being included in graduation ceremonies, and the continued need for affordable housing.

### ***Items Acted Upon***

- Approved the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes.

### ***Future Meeting Dates***

The Committee is meeting on September 19, 2022.