



# SCDD Self-Advocates Advisory Committee: **Remembering the History of Self-Advocacy**

---

CA STATE COUNCIL ON  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

# Purpose of Presentation

---

This is what you will learn today:

- Learn about the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and the role of the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)
- What it means to be a Self-Advocate
- Remembering Our Past: History of Self-Advocacy Movement
- Organizing for Our Future

# What is the SCDD?

---

- The Council advocates, promotes and implements policies and practices that achieve:
  - Self-Determination
  - Independence
  - Productivity
  - Inclusion



in all aspects of community life for Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

# Focus Areas of SCDD

---

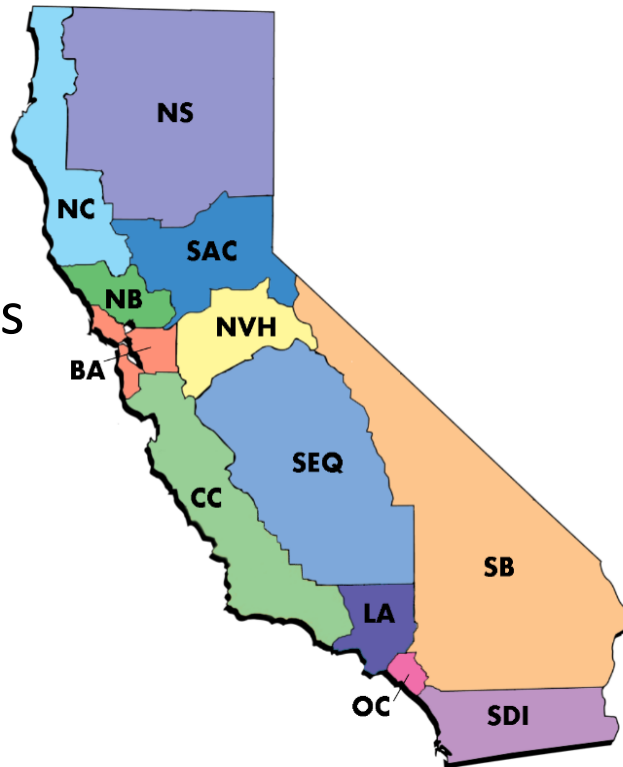
The 2022-2026 state plan focuses on 3 goals or topic areas:

1. Self-Advocacy
2. Systems Change
3. Capacity Building



# SCDD Regional Office Locations

1. North Coast
2. North State
3. Sacramento
4. North Bay
5. Bay Area
6. North Valley Hills
7. Central Coast
8. Sequoia
9. Los Angeles
10. Orange County
11. San Bernardino
12. San Diego



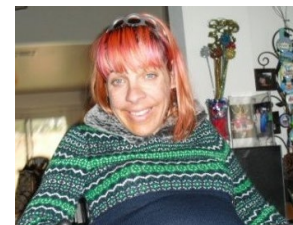
- SCDD Regional Offices help you:
- Referrals to local resources
  - Public Health and Safety Materials
  - Announcements
  - Trainings and events
  - Legislative Updates

# What is SAAC?

---

Self-Advocate members of the Council are a voice for people with disabilities

- Advise State Council on self-advocate needs
- Advise the Council regarding policies, practices and programs
- Review Council-produced materials to ensure they are in plain language
- Nominate a standing representative to SSAN.



# SAAC Priorities

---

Self-Advocacy is an important skill to have, that can help you in all aspects of your life. Currently, the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee has decided to focus their efforts in the following areas:

- Access to Public Health and Public Safety
- Access to Affordable Housing
- Access to early intervention services, public education, Transition & Post-Secondary Education

# What is Self-Advocacy?

---

Self-Advocacy is....

- Making your own decisions
- Solving problems in your life
- Knowing your rights
- Getting involved in your community
- Speaking up for yourself



# Remembering Our Past: California Developmental Centers

---

## THE BEGINNING OF DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS IN CALIFORNIA

- **1853:** State Hospitals (SH), later called Developmental Centers (DC) were opened to house Californians with I/DD
- the Stockton Developmental Center (formerly called “Insane Asylum of California at Stockton”) was the first
- **Eventually** 9 Developmental Centers (DCs) opened across California
- **Residents** were buried at developmental centers in unmarked graves when they died

## RESOURCES

- [Patient No More Museum Exhibit Resource](#)
- [Movie Website for 'Crip Camp'](#)

# Remembering Our Past: Developmental Centers Closers

---

## BEGINNING OF THE REGIONAL CENTER SYSTEM

- **1969** Regional Center system is created
- **1978** California Department of Developmental Services is created

## DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS CLOSURE TIMELINE 1993-2009

- **1993** Court Case leads to 5 -year closure plan
- **1996 – 2009** Stockton Developmental Center, Camarillo State Hospital and Developmental Center, and Sierra Vista Community Facility close

## 2009-PRESENT DC CLOSURES

- **2009 – 2020** Agnews Developmental Center, Lanterman State Hospital and Developmental Center, Sonoma Developmental Center, and Fairview Developmental Center close
- Part of **Porterville Developmental Center** is still working today
- Part of **Canyon Springs Developmental Center** is still working today
- **STAR Units** (Stabilization Training Assistance Reintegration) are located in Northern, Southern, Central, Desert areas of California and help people with I/DD receive short term critical care and support.
- Thank you to those (including SCDD staff) who advocated for and worked to transition residence to community living.

# Remembering Our Past: CA Memorial Project

## REMEMBERING LIVES LOST



- From the 1880's to the 1960's, over 45,000 people with mental health and developmental disabilities lived and died at California state institutions
- In 2002 Senate Bill 1448 (Chesbro) tried to protect and improve the condition of the markers at Developmental Centers that were used to mark where people were buried.
- California Memorial Project hosts a remembrance day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of September every year

## RESOURCES

- [Disability Rights California's 'California Memorial Project' Website](#)

# Remembering Our Past: Important Leaders

---

**ED ROBERTS**



- First person with a significant disability to attend UC Berkley
- Former Director of Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Started the Independent Living Centers in California
- Co-founder of World Institute on Disability (WID)

**JUDITH HEUMANN**



- Helped to develop IDEA
- Key player in 504 sit-ins and advocating for passage of legislation allowing for better access for people with disabilities
- Co-founder of WID
- US advisory roles in both the Clinton and Obama Administrations

# Remembering Our Past: Important Events

---

## SOCIAL CAMPS



Social camps are a way for people with disabilities to make connections with each other over common experiences.

## SIT-INS AND PROTESTS



In 1977 disability activists organized a sit-in that would last 26 days in the San Francisco Federal Building to protest the delay of enforcing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973



# Remembering Our Past: Important Events Continued

---

MARCH 12, 1990  
U.S. CAPITAL



Disability Activists marched through Washington DC to raise awareness of inaccessibility of public spaces.

CAPITOL CRAWL



Some of the activists chose to crawl up the steps leading to the US Capitol to show the lack of accessibility to the building and the need for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

# Remembering Our Past: Important Legislation

---

- 1969 – Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Service Act
- 1973 – 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- 1975 – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- 1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- 1999 – Olmstead vs. LC Supreme Court Decision
- 2002 – California Memorial Project Law
- 2008 – Americans with Disabilities Amendment Act (ADAA)
- 2013 – Self-Determination Program
- 2014 – Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Conservatorship laws
- 2021 – SB 639 Minimum Wages: Persons with Disabilities

# Organizing for Our Future: Self-Advocacy Groups in California

---

Connecting with other self-advocates in group settings helps people by:

- Providing a way for people with disabilities to connect with others and know that they are not alone
- Share ideas on how to organize for change or improve laws, practices and norms
- Show that people with disabilities are a political force
- Some self-advocacy groups identify as People First (PF) groups and are connected to People First of California (PFC)



# Organizing for Our Future: Changing Attitudes and Minds

---

Self-Advocates deserve access to services and supports to help them live in and participate in their community:

- We organize to change people's minds
- We share our stories helps to show the impact of decisions, laws and attitudes on our lives
- We participate in advocacy campaigns
- We want people to treat us fairly and not just our disability
- We help make Public Service Announcements
- The words used to talk about disability matter

# Closing Thoughts from SAAC

---

