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STATEWIDE SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK MEETING INFORMATION



DATE: Thursday, September 7, 2023



TIME: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Members of the public may participate in person, telephonically, or by Zoom. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov

MEETING DETAILS:

Physical Location:

Hilton Sacramento Arden West
2200 Harvard St, Sacramento, CA 95815

ZOOM LINK:

<https://bit.ly/SSAN2023September>

Call-in Information:

CALL IN NUMBER: (669) 900 9128

MEETING ID: 816 6089 4042

PASSCODE: 610643

Accessibility

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AGENDA
September 7, 2023
9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Presented by:

- Charles Nutt, Chairperson
- Nicole Patterson, Vice-Chairperson
- Rebecca Donabed, Secretary



2. Public Comment

Public comment is welcome. Comment on agenda items is taken as they are discussed.



3. Review and Approval of June 2023 Minutes

Presented by: Charles Nutt, Chairperson

ACTION



4. Updates to SSAN Bylaws

Presented by: SSAN Operations Workgroup

ACTION ITEM



5. SSAN Workgroup Structures and Projects

Presented by: SSAN Operations Workgroup

ACTION ITEM

6. SCDD Update

Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director
Information



7. SCDD Legislative Update/ (Employment First Office)

Presented by: Bridget Kolakosky, SCDD Deputy Director of
Policy and Public Affairs
Information



Break

8. Approval of September 2023 SSAN Newsletter

Presented by: Robert Levy, Newsletter Workgroup Chair
ACTION



9. Volunteer to Career

Presented by: Rebecca Donabed, RICV Community Organizer



10. Brainstorming for SSAN Annual Report

ALL
Information

11. Meeting Takeaways and Planning for December 2023 Meeting

ALL
Information

12. Adjournment

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 3
ACTION ITEM

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network
Approval of June 2023 Minutes



Attachments

- June 2023 Minutes

Recommended Action

Approve the June 2023 SSAN Meeting Minutes

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Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Meeting Minutes June 7 & 8, 2023 Zoom

SCDD Regional Members Present

Charles Nutt – North State
Lisa Cooley – Sacramento (Day 2)
Ellen Sweigert – North Bay
Robert Balderama – North Valley Hills
David Forderer – Central Coast
Rebecca Donabed – Sequoia
Sean Sullivan – Orange County
Julie Gaona – Los Angeles
Eric Aguilar – San Bernardino

Agency Members Present

Alex Reyes – SCDD
Desiree Boykin – ARCA
Talmadge House – CFILC
Nicole Patterson – DDS
Scott Barron – DRC
Robert Levy – UCD MIND Institute
Kecia Weller – UCLA Tarjan Center
Wesley Witherspoon – USC CHLA
Jessica Riestra – YO Disabled and Proud

Members Not Present

North Coast Rep
San Diego and Imperial County Rep
Regina Woodliff – Bay Area

SCDD Staff in Attendance

Rihana Ahmad – SCDD HQ
Renee Bauer – SCDD North State
Veronica Bravo – SCDD HQ
Aaron Carruthers – SCDD HQ
Beth Hurn – SCDD HQ
Dena Hernandez –
SCDD North Valley Hills
Charles Nguyen – SCDD HQ
Gabriela Solval – SCDD Bay Area

Others Present

Sara Desumala
Sarah May
Maria Nunez – DDS
Jennifer Parsons – DDS
Renee Wooten
Maria Marquez



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SSAN Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

SSAN Chairperson Charles Nutt, North State Representative, called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. Members were asked to introduce themselves by sharing one advocacy activity that they have participated in since the March meeting, and to share one thing that they do when they feel overwhelmed. Members shared strategies like listening to music, talking to friends, going for walks, journaling, and meditating. Members also shared how having a disability has helped them to grow.

2. Public Comment

Renee Wooten Introduced herself and encouraged SSAN to organize something for the month of July since July is Disability Pride Month.

3. Review and Approval of December 2022 Minutes

The members reviewed the minutes from the March 8 & 9, 2023 meeting. Materials for this agenda item can be found on pages 9-16 of the June 2023 SSAN Meeting Packet.

ACTION: Motion #1 to approve the March 2023 minutes was made by David Forderer/Seconded by Lisa Cooley. A roll call vote was taken. Motion passed. See vote log on page 8.

4. Review of SSAN Purpose and Workgroup Structure

SSAN Vice-Chairperson Nicole Patterson and SSAN Secretary Rebecca Donabed provided members with an overview presentation on the purpose of SSAN and the role of the workgroups in driving SSAN's mission. Members were asked what SSAN means to them and what SSAN could do better. Member feedback included recruiting new members and creating guidelines on quarterly meeting and workgroup meeting attendance. Members also agreed that there should be a process for tracking the presentations that SSAN members are providing in their communities.



DRAFT

5. SSAN Medical Leave Policy

The SSAN Operations Workgroup lead a conversation about creating a SSAN policy to provide a standard for what to do when a member needs to go on extended leave from SSAN. Members suggested submitting a verbal or written notice to the Officers. Members talked about working with the regional office to find an alternative representative to attend SSAN if a member thinks that they may miss more than two meetings. The Operations Workgroup will present a DRAFT policy at the September meeting for members to consider.

6. Coordinated Family Services

Representatives from Department of Developmental Services (DDS) provided an overview of the [DDS Coordinated Family Service \(CFS\)](#) program. CFS is tailored to individual and family needs and respects the language and culture of participants. CFS is not meant to replace other Regional Center Services. CFS is meant to identify and provide supports needed to successfully age in place or live in a family home. CFS provides assistance, and training for consumers and their family members on how to access the services and supports they need. CFS also provides referral and assessment, and assists with creating a plan of action, tracking progress and outcomes, and creating an outreach plan. Members were encouraged to email cfs@dds.ca.gov if they want to learn more about the service.



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7. SCDD Update

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Executive Director Aaron Carruthers updated members on SCDD activities since the March SSAN meeting. SCDD continues to support self-determination and self-direction by supporting the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC), promoting person centered thinking, and supported decision making. SCDD has released recommendations to end subminimum wage in California and continues to meet with DDS to discuss plans to phase out subminimum wage practices and promote competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people with I/DD. SCDD is recommending that a Statewide Employment First Office be created to help facilitate CIE implementation and serve as a connector between agencies advocating for employment of people with disabilities.

Members discussed the problems that people with disabilities face at work and feeling like employers do not recognize their humanity, their value, their resiliency, and their adaptability. Members shared their experiences with employers and their thoughts on the importance of employing people with disabilities, especially within the newly created Employment First Office.

8. Recess Until Next Day

SSAN Chairperson Charles Nutt declared the meeting in recess at 2:53 PM. The June 2023 SSAN meeting will return from recess at 10:00 AM Thursday, June 8, 2023.



DRAFT

SSAN DAY 2 Minutes

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

SSAN Chairperson, Charles Nutt, North State Regional Representative, called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M.

Members introduced themselves, what region or organization they represent and their thoughts on what is missing from the ADA.

2. Public Comment

Renee Wooten shared that what was missing from the ADA is equal marriage rights, support for parents with disabilities, and sexual health education.

Sarah May suggested that all public buildings, agencies, stores, etc. need to have accessible bathrooms.

Riana Hardin shared that there would be a virtual hands-only CPR training the following day. Registration for the training was shared in the chat.

3. SCDD Travel Policy Training

SCDD State Plan Analyst, Beth Hurn provided members with a training on the SCDD Travel Policy and Process. This training covered SCDD agency travel request procedures, current travel policies, and how to request travel reimbursements. Members should submit travel requests and reimbursement claims to travelclaims@scdd.ca.gov.

4. SCDD Legislative Update

SCDD Policy Analyst, Veronica Bravo provided members with an update on SCDD's legislative activities, including SCDD's policy priorities, current legislative efforts, the impact of the economy on the California Legislature and SCDD's efforts toward the implementation of SB 639.



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5. How to Plan and Prepare a Survival Kit

The San Bernardino Regional SSAN Representative Eric Aguilar provided members with a training on how to plan and prepare a survival kit in the case of an emergency. This training included a list of the types of items to include in your kit. Members wondered if there was a plan in place for how to respond to an emergency at an in-person SSAN meeting. Members expressed interest in a future SSAN emergency preparedness project.

6. Approval of March 2023 SSAN Newsletter

SSAN Secretary and Newsletter and Communications Workgroup Chair, Robert Levy reviewed the DRAFT June 2023 Voices of SSAN Newsletter. Secretary Levy called for a motion to approve the June 2023 Edition. Materials for this agenda item can be found on pages 53-64 of the June 2023 SSAN Meeting Packet.

ACTION: Motion #2 to approve the June 2023 Newsletter with the addition of the missing article was made by Ellen Sweigert/Seconded by Wesley Witherspoon. Motion passed. See vote log on page 8.

7. Youth Organizing

This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting due to unforeseen circumstances.

8. Planning for September 2023 Meeting

SSAN members brainstormed topics/presentations for the September 2023 meeting. Suggested presentation topics included:

- How to deal with people you don't like
- Volunteering with Citrus Heights Police Department
- Volunteer to career
- Not letting disability limit our employment/how disability is our strength
- Ellen Sweigert – my advocacy journey
- Coming back from COVID
- Why are you a Self-Advocate



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9. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M. The next SSAN meeting is scheduled for June 5-6, 2023 in-person in Sacramento.



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MARCH 2023 SSAN VOTE TALLY

Name	Region	Roll Call	Motion 1	Day 2 Roll Call	Motion 2
Alex Reyes	SCDD	Not Present	No Vote Recorded	Present	For
Vacant	North Coast	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Charles Nutt	North State	Present	For	Present	For
Lisa Cooley	Sacramento	Present	For	Present	For
Ellen Sweigert	North Bay	Present	For	Present	For
Regina Woodliff	Bay Area	Not Present	No Vote Recorded	Not Present	No Vote Recorded
Robert Balderama	North Valley Hills	Present	For	Present	For
David Forderer	Central Coast	Present	For	Present	No Vote Recorded
Rebecca Donabed	Sequoia	Present	For	Present	For
Julie Gaona	Los Angeles	Not Present	No Vote Recorded	Present	For
Sean Sullivan	Orange County	Present	For	Not Present	No Vote Recorded
Eric Aguilar	San Bernardino	Present	For	Present	For
Vacant	San Diego	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Desiree Boykin	ARCA	Present	For	Present	For
Goldie House	CFILC	Present	For	Present	For
Jessica Riestra	YO Disabled & Proud	Present	For	Not Present	No Vote Recorded
Nicole Patterson	DDS	Present	For	Present	For
Scott Barron	DRC	Present	For	Present	For
Wesley Witherspoon	USC – CHLA	Present	For	Present	For
Kecia Weller	UCLA Trajan Center	Not Present	No Vote Recorded	Present	No Vote Recorded
Robert Levy	UC Davis Mind Institute	Present	For	Present	For

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 4

ACTION ITEM

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

Updates to the SSAN Bylaws



To help the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) explain the way the group operates, the bylaws were adopted in 2013. The SSAN Bylaws were updated in 2014, 2017, and 2019. At the June 2023 SSAN meeting members discussed creating a new process for temporarily replacing a member who needs to go on leave. The Operations Workgroup has made the changes proposed by SSAN members and has made recommendations for additional updates to the SSAN Bylaws. The proposed 2023 updates include:

- Including virtual meetings in SSAN meetings
- Including YO Disabled and Proud as a member organization of SSAN
- Adding the Workgroup Chairs to the Operations Workgroup
- Updating language to be more inclusive and plain language
- Adding member responsibilities
- Adding a section on travel for meetings

Attachments

Draft 2023 Updates to the SSAN Bylaws

Recommended Action

Approve the 2023 Updates to the SSAN Bylaws

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SSAN Bylaws



Bylaws

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN)

A self-advocacy group supported by the State Council on
Developmental Disabilities

Article 1: Name, Purpose, and Description

Section 1 – Network Name

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN)

Section 2 – Network Purpose

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.

Section 3 – Description

SSAN is a statewide cross-disability network of self-advocates in California that was established in 2012.

SSAN Bylaws

SSAN works to do the following:

- Develop the knowledge and skills to make a difference in our region and state.
- Speak up for all people with disabilities.
- Learn about and advocate for issues important to all people with disabilities.
- Lead regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks.
- Train advocates in their communities in order to grow the Self-Advocacy movement in California.
- Share information about programs and supports for people with disabilities.

Article 2 - Membership

As a cross-disability training network, SSAN members are Californians with disabilities represent regions, organizations, and affiliates in the state that are interested in promoting systems change. As a group supported by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, at least 51% of SSAN members will identify as someone with an intellectual and developmental disability (I/DD).

Section 1. Makeup:

SSAN membership is made up of Regional Representatives, who represent the SCDD Regional Offices, and Agency Representatives. All members of SSAN are voting members of SSAN. Each member has one vote.

Section 1a - Regional Representative:

Each regional office of the SCDD will have one regional representative on SSAN who has been identified as a leader or emerging leader from their local I/DD community. If that the number of regional offices changes, the SSAN officers may discuss options on how to proceed with regards to the SSAN membership.

Section 1b - Regional Offices of SCDD:

The Regional Offices (RO) of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) include:

- North Coast
- North State
- Sacramento
- North Bay
- Bay Area
- North Valley Hills

SSAN Bylaws

- Central Coast
- Sequoia
- Los Angeles
- Orange County
- San Bernardino
- San Diego/Imperial

Section 1c - Agency Representatives:

Agency Representatives include:

- Association of Regional Centers Agencies (ARCA)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- Youth Organizing (YO!) Disabled and Proud
- California Foundation on Independent Living Centers (CFILC)

Additional organizations may be included as the network expands and grows throughout California.

Section 1d – Member Responsibilities:

SSAN members are leaders at the local and state level.

Choosing to be a member of SSAN means that you commit to the following responsibilities:

- Share and exchange information with other SSAN members
- Provide information and outreach in the community
- Be a resource for local advocacy groups
- Promote legislative and policy change
- Provide support and training to local self-advocacy groups
- Participate in SSAN workgroup and project meetings
- Communicate regularly with SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator and relevant SCDD staff

Section 1e – SSAN Mentor/ Ambassador:

If a member of SSAN decides to step down from being a full member of SSAN, the member can decide to be a SSAN Mentor and Ambassador. The SSAN Mentor/ Ambassador is a former member of SSAN who would like to continue being involved with SSAN after they are no longer a member of SSAN. A SSAN Mentor/Ambassador would help to mentor the

SSAN Bylaws

new SSAN Representatives over Zoom or local meetups and help SSAN with presentations and outreach. SSAN Mentors and Ambassadors are encouraged to work with SSAN members to identify training and outreach needs.

Section 2. Orientation:

New members will participate in an orientation on SSAN and SCDD with the Chair of SSAN and the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator. New members will receive copies of the SSAN Bylaws and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SSAN and SCDD.

Section 3. Attendance:

Members are expected to attend all meetings and inform the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator or Chair of the SSAN if they must miss a meeting. The regional office or sponsoring agency, that the SSAN member represents will be notified by the Chair of the SSAN if their member misses more than two consecutive meetings unexcused.

Section 3a. Extended Absences:

In the event a member needs to miss more than two FULL SSAN Quarterly meeting due to medical and/or personal matters, members are expected to submit a notice of leave of

SSAN Bylaws

absence to both the Chair of SSAN and the Self-Advocacy Coordinator in an email. All notices of leave should include the timeframe the member expects to be away from their SSAN responsibilities. The Self-Advocacy Coordinator and the Chair of SSAN will communicate with the Regional Office/Agency the member represents to decide if either a temporary replacement or a new member is needed. See Temporary Member section for more details.

Section 3b – Temporary Replacement Member:

If a member needs to go on temporary leave, because of personal or medical reasons, the Regional Office or Agency may ask the appointment of a temporary replacement member. It is up to the Regional Office or the Agency to decide on the responsibilities and expectations of the temporary member's responsibilities.

Section 4. Member Terms:

Members appointed by Regional Offices **will** serve a four-year term. **There is no limit to the number of consecutive terms that a member can serve, as long as their decision to continue their service is supported by their regional office, agency or organization.** While SSAN and SCDD cannot direct an organization or department on who their representative to SSAN will be, the SSAN officers may provide input to the organization or department if there are any concerns about attendance and participation.

Process for Terms is the following:

- The SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator will monitor and review the SSAN Roster and keep SSAN leadership aware of terms that will expire.
- The SSAN Chair and SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator will review annually and discuss with any member whose term will expire.
- **While there is no limit to the number of terms that a member can serve on SSAN, SSAN members have the right to decide if they can continue to serve on SSAN for another term depending on their situation and guidance from the region/agency they represent.**

SSAN Bylaws

- If a member chooses to continue for another term, the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator will update the roster.
- If the member chooses not to continue for another term, a plan will be developed to find a replacement. This could include assistance from the regional office, self-advocacy group and the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator.

In the event that a regional representative is unable to complete their current term, the SSAN Officers **will** use the SSAN Membership Process to fill the vacant position. The SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator will contact and inform the regional office manager of the vacancy and the strategy to fill the position. The new member will start a new term upon selection.

In the event of an agency member being unable to complete their current term, the SSAN Officers **will** request the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator to contact the agency to request a new representative. The new member will start a new term upon selection.

Article 3 – Meetings

Section 1. Number of Meetings:

The SSAN will meet no more than four times a year (quarterly) in-person and/or virtually depending on hotel, technology, funding, or staffing availability. Members may meet in between quarterly meetings to work on projects and as a participant of a workgroup. The SSAN may have regional or special meetings to discuss important issues or presentations, if there is room in the SSAN budget and SCDD approves the request. Meetings will be noticed and conducted according to the Bagley-Keene Act and Roberts Rules of Order.

Section 2. Quorum and Voting:

Section 2a – Quorum

A quorum for SSAN requires a simple majority (50% plus 1) of the membership. A quorum is needed for the group to take action on SSAN business.

Section 2b – Voting

Each member has one (1) vote and has the authority to vote on issues presented at SSAN meetings. All voting will be by roll call.

Section 3. Travel

Travel for SSAN quarterly in-person meetings is booked through the SCDD travel Coordinator and hotel accommodations are to be requested through the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator.

Requests for travel and lodging for SSAN meetings must be submitted at least 1 month before the meeting. For more information about SSAN travel, please reference the SCDD Travel Policy Training.

Section 3a – Temporary Member Travel

Temporary SSAN Members are expected to follow the same process for requesting help for travel to in-person SSAN meetings.

Section 4. Workgroups:

SSAN may create workgroups to focus on issues and projects in between SSAN meetings. Workgroups may meet monthly by webcam, telephone, or in-person. Workgroups can be created or dissolved at any time at the direction of the SSAN membership.

Section 4a. Operations Workgroup

The Operations Workgroup is a standing workgroup made up of the SSAN Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Workgroup Chairs/Project Leads. This group works with SCDD staff to set the agenda and address any business that may arise between regularly scheduled SSAN meetings.

Section 4b. Workgroup Chairs/Project Leads

In addition to participating in the Operations Workgroup meetings, the Workgroup Chairs/Project Leads work with SCDD staff to set the agendas and the projects for their respective workgroup.

Section 4c. Ad Hoc

A member can make a motion to create a temporary workgroup if they feel one is needed. An ad hoc workgroup will have a Chair, who is appointed by the SSAN Chair. Ad hoc workgroup terms and duties are determined by SSAN.

SSAN Bylaws

Article 4 – Officers and Elections

SSAN officers will be Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Section 1. Eligibility:

In order to be able to run for a SSAN Officer position, a SSAN member must identify as a person with an I/DD. All SSAN members with I/DD may run for the position of Vice-Chair or Secretary. A SSAN member must be a member of SSAN for at least one (1) year before they can run for the position of SSAN Chair.

Section 2. Terms:

A SSAN Officer's term will be two years. An officer stays in their position until they term out, they are elected to a new office, or they resign. An officer is limited to serving one (1) term per officer position, but may run again for that officer position after sitting out for one term. Members are free to run for any other officer position during that two-year waiting period.

Section 3. Vacancies

The Chair can fill any officer or workgroup chair vacancies on a temporary basis until a permanent replacement is chosen.

Section 3a. Officer Vacancies

If a SSAN Officer is appointed by the SSAN Chair, they will serve in the position until the next full meeting, when an election will be held to fill the remainder of the term. A member who was elected to serve out a partial term due to a vacancy will be allowed to run for that same position for a full term at the next officer election.

Section 3b. Workgroup Chair Vacancies

A SSAN Workgroup Chair appointed by the SSAN Chair to fill a Workgroup Chair vacancy will serve as the workgroup chair until the next scheduled workgroup meeting. At the next scheduled workgroup meeting, members will choose the new Chair for the workgroup.

Section 4. Duties of Officers:

Section 4a – Duties of the Chair

- Work with the Vice Chair, Secretary, **Workgroup Chairs**, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, and other support staff to prepare meeting agendas.
- Represent SSAN in the community.
- Work with SSAN members to follow up on issues brought up at meetings.
- Work with SSAN support staff in between meetings.
- Communicate as needed with SSAN members in between meetings while following the Bagley-Keene Act.
- Know and implement the SSAN bylaws.

Section 4b – Duties of the Vice-Chair:

- Work with the Chair, Secretary, **Workgroup Chairs**, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, and other support staff to prepare meeting agendas.
- Perform all duties of Chair in absence of Chair.
- Have ongoing communication with the Chair before each meeting while following the Bagley-Keene Act.
- Assist Chair to follow up on issues brought up at meetings.
- Act as timekeeper

Section 4c – Duties of Secretary

- Work with the Chair, Vice Chair, **Workgroup Chairs**, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, and other support staff to prepare meeting agendas.
- Perform all duties of Vice Chair in their absence.
- Perform all duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.
- Take roll call to establish quorum.
- Works with support staff to prepare and distribute minutes of meetings.
- Keep track of motions, votes and actions at meetings.
- Act as parliamentarian.

Section 4d – Duties of Workgroup Chairs

- **Work with the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, and other support staff to prepare meeting agendas.**
- **Keep Operations Team informed about workgroup projects and activities**
- **Work with staff to lead Workgroup breakouts during full SSAN meetings.**
- **Report workgroup discussions to full SSAN during full meetings.**

Section 4e – Expectations of Officers

- Attend all SSAN meetings
- Attend SSAN officer meetings
- Serve as a mentor for new members
- Know SSAN bylaws and meeting procedures
- Help support workgroups

Section 5. Election of Officers

The SSAN will nominate and vote for their officers. Elections will be held at the first SSAN meeting following October 1. The new officers will take office immediately after the election is complete.

Section 5a – Nominations

- Nominations will be made on Day 1 of the meeting.
- Members cannot nominate themselves. Another member must nominate them, and that nomination must be seconded.
- The nominee has the right to accept or refuse the nomination.

SSAN Bylaws

Section 5b – Speeches

- Speeches will be done on Day 2 of the meeting.
- Each candidate will have five (5) minutes to give a speech.
- If there are 10 or more candidates for all offices combined the SSAN members may vote to reduce the time limit.

Section 5c – Voting

- Voting **will** be by roll call.
- All members get one (1) vote, including the Chair.
- If there is a tie, there will be a run-off election, without speeches, between the top two candidates.
- The Chair will not vote in a run-off election. If the run-off election results in a tie, the Chair will break the tie.
- The candidates receiving the most votes will hold that officer position for a term of two (2) years.

Article 5 – MOU between SSAN and SCDD

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SSAN and SCDD was signed in January of 2017 **outlining** the relationship between the SSAN and SCDD. The MOU **explains** the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of both groups in order to facilitate a working relationship that benefits both parties. The MOU will be reviewed every three (3) years from the date last signed by both SCDD and SSAN. **The MOU between SSAN and SCDD provides more details of processes and procedures for SSAN than the SSAN Bylaws. The two documents are meant to work together.** For a copy of the MOU, contact the Self-Advocacy Coordinator at SCDD Headquarters in Sacramento.

Article 6 – Finances

Section 1. Fiscal Year:

As a project of SCDD, SSAN will follow the federal fiscal year for the purpose of the budget. The federal fiscal year begins on October 1 through September 30.

Section 2. Funds:

The funds for SSAN will be maintained by the SCDD in accordance with the MOU. The Self-Advocacy Coordinator will monitor and track SSAN-related expenses. SSAN will receive

SSAN Bylaws

regular financial updates at the March and September meetings to keep them informed of the SSAN budget.

Article 7 – Amendments

Amendments to these Bylaws require a 2/3 vote of the full SSAN.

Adopted 9/11/2013
Amended 3/9/2017
Amended 3/26/2019
Amended 9/7/2023

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 5

ACTION ITEM

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



Structure of SSAN Workgroups and Projects

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is considering refocusing the structure of the SSAN workgroups to be project and/or issue focus. This change is being proposed for two reasons. The first reason is to help carry out the guidance laid out in the MOU between SCDD and SSAN. The second reason for this change is to reflect updates to the SSAN Bylaws.

Recommended Actions

- Adopt recommended action on the structure of the SSAN workgroups and projects.

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

**SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 6
INFORMATION ITEM**

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

SCDD Update



SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers will update SSAN members on Council activity related to meeting the needs of Californians with I/DD during these challenging and unique times.

Possible Handouts

- Council Meeting Summary

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 7
INFORMATION ITEM**



Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

SCDD Legislative and Office of Employment First Update

SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky will be joined by Sabrina Epstein, Policy Analyst for Disability Rights California to provide members with an update on SCDD Legislative activity since the June SSAN meeting and share updates on the development of the new California Office of Employment First. Members are encouraged to share any ideas that they have on how SSAN can collaborate with the Office of Employment First.

Attachments

- Office of Employment First Announcement

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An Employment First Office is Coming to California!

"We all want to work, and employers need employees. The new Employment First Office will focus on helping everyone, including the state agencies supporting us."

- Wesley Witherspoon, Chair
California State Council on Developmental Disabilities





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 12, 2023

Contact: Office of Policy and Public Affairs
Policy@scdd.ca.gov

Californians with Disabilities Win Big with the Creation of the State’s Employment First Office

SACRAMENTO—The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD), along with a coalition of disability advocate partners including [California APSE](#), [Disability Rights California](#), [Integrated Resources Institute](#), [PathPoint](#), and [Progressive Employment Concepts](#), championed what began as a proposal to the legislature and ended in the successful creation of the Employment First Office.

California became an employment first state in 2013, yet employment of people with disabilities has continued to linger at 17% despite their ability and desire to work for wages at or above the state minimum wage. Employment First Policy assumes everyone wants to work and that needed services are provided regardless of the severity of an individual’s disability. Used successfully in other states, the Employment First Office will help support and coordinate consistent understanding and application of Employment First Policy statewide.

The Employment First Office will be a permanent state office under the California Health and Human Services Agency charged with facilitating the consistent and complete interpretation and implementation of Employment First Policy across the many state agencies and departments providing services to the intellectual and developmental disabilities community.

In 2021, SCDD championed SB 639 by Senator Durazo (Los Angeles), which directs the phase out of subminimum wage programming in California, effective January 1, 2025.

As an employment first state, the next logical step is creating an office to help realize Employment First Policy and improve employment opportunities for our community statewide.

“We all want to work, and employers need employees,” said SCDD Chair Wesley Witherspoon. “The new Employment First Office will focus on helping everyone, including the state agencies supporting us.”

The Employment First Office will resolve the incomplete interpretation and implementation of California's Employment First Policy. You can read more about the policy here:

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4869.&highlight=true&lawCode=WIC&keyword=employment+first+policy

Read the 2023 SCDD report with recommendations about how to phase out of subminimum wage here: https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/01/SB-639-REPORT-FINAL_ACCESSIBLE-FOR-WEB_1.2023.pdf.

###

About The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities: *The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) advocates, promotes, and implements policies and practices that achieve self-determination, independence, productivity, and inclusion in all aspects of community life for Californians with developmental disabilities and their families. For more information about SCDD visit www.scdd.ca.gov.*

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 8
ACTION ITEM



Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

Approval of September 2023 Newsletter

Robert Levy, Chair of the SSAN Newsletter Workgroup will present SSAN members with a DRAFT version of the September 2023 Newsletter and ask members for any changes or additions. Robert will then lead a discussion about ideas for the December 2023 Newsletter, so please come prepared with your ideas for the December 2023 edition.

Attachments

- DRAFT September 2023 Voices of SSAN Newsletter
- Voices of SSAN Newsletter Article Tips Newsletter Article Tips

Recommended Action

Approve the DRAFT September 2023 Voices of SSAN Newsletter

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IN THIS EDITION:

This issue focuses on employment resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

- Article 1:** Tips for Protecting Against Unhealthy Air
- Article 2:** How to be Independent
- Article 3:** The Role of a Community Organizer
- Article 4:** The History of employment at PEC and CES
- Article 5:** The History of Employment at UC Davis MIND Institute
- Article 6:** Kudos Corner
- Article 7:** Good News Corner
- Article 8:** Self-Advocacy Reads
- Article 9:** Positive Tips
- Article 10:** Community Resources
- Article 11:** Save the Dates

Editor: Robert Levy

Contributors:

- Eric Aguilar
- Wesley Witherspoon
- Rebecca Donabed
- Robert Levy
- Lisa Cooley

Learn More about Volume 34 Theme



In honor of the fact that October is recognized as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) SSAN has chosen to highlight the issue of Employment for the September 2023 issue of Voices of SSAN. Some articles in this issue highlight members’ employment stories, while others highlight organizations that help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) find jobs. There are also articles in this edition that share tips and resources on how people can protect themselves, their families, and their communities from harm. The SSAN Leadership team would like to thank members who wrote articles and shared information for this issue of Voices of SSAN.



10 Tips to Protect Yourself from Unhealthy Air

By Eric Aguilar, San Bernardino Regional SSAN Representative

1. Check daily air pollution forecasts in your area. Air Now is a great national online resource that can help you see the forecast in your zip code. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is the tool that is used to measure the safety of the air outside. The six colors in the color-coded tool can let you know when the air is unhealthy in your community.
2. Avoid exercising outdoors when pollution levels are high. When the air is bad, walk indoors in a shopping mall or gym or use an exercise machine. Limit the amount of time your child spends playing outdoors if the air quality is unhealthy.
3. Always avoid exercising near high-traffic areas. Even when air quality forecasts are green, the vehicles on busy highways can create high pollution levels up to one-third a mile away.
4. Use less energy in your home. Generating electricity and other sources of energy creates air pollution. By reducing energy use, you can help improve air quality, curb greenhouse gas emissions, encourage energy independence and save money! Check out the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's easy tips for conserving energy at home.
5. Encourage your child's school to participate in the EPA's Clean School Bus Campaign to reduce exposure to emissions from school buses. To keep exhaust levels down, schools should not allow school buses to idle outside of their buildings.
6. Walk, bike or carpool. Combine trips. Use buses, subways, light rail systems, commuter trains or other alternatives to driving your car.
7. Don't burn wood or trash. Burning firewood and trash are among the major sources of particulate pollution (soot) in many parts of the country.
8. Use hand-powered or electric lawn care equipment rather than gasoline-powered. Old two-stroke engines like lawn mowers and leaf or snow blowers often have no pollution control devices. They can pollute the air even more than cars, though engines sold since 2011 are cleaner.
9. Don't allow anyone to smoke indoors and support measures to make all public places tobacco-free.
10. Get involved. Start by checking out our Healthy Air Campaign which has more information about what you can do.

Help yourself and others breathe easier. Support national, state, and local efforts to clean up sources of pollution. Your life and the life of someone you love may depend on it.



How to Be Independent

By Wesley Witherspoon, USC Children’s Hospital UCEDD SSAN Representative

It is important to be independent. For some, people can be independent by doing everything on their own. For some, self-advocates can ask for help from their family members or support staff. If you are conserved, your conservator can decide things for you. Pillars of Independence are knowing:

- How to use transportation
- How to make health care decisions, take care of yourself, and make good decisions.
- How to have a social life.
- What it means to work, volunteer, and/or attending day programs
- How to have a routine (things that you do in a day)
- How to budget your money.
- How to maintain good hygiene (cleaning yourself, your clothes, and maintaining good health.)
- How to fix your own meals (cooking, cleaning, and preparing meals).
- How to get some exercise.
- How to use technology such as a computer, phone, tablet, etc.
- How to protect yourself from harm.
- How to make good decisions with your life and ask for help as needed.

Independence is important for people with disabilities. With support, you can live independently.

SSAN Members

- Sonya Force – North Coast
- Charles Nutt – North State
- Lisa Cooley – Sacramento
- Ellen Sweigert – North Bay
- Regina Woodliff – Bay Area
- Robert Balderama – North Valley Hills
- David Forderer – Central Coast
- Rebecca Donabed– Sequoia
- Julie Gaona – Los Angeles
- Sean Sullivan – Orange County
- Eric Aguilar – San Bernardino
- Vacant – San Diego Imperial
- Desiree Boykin – ARCA
- Goldie House – CFILC
- Nicole Patterson – DDS
- Scott Barron – DRC
- Robert Levy – UC Davis Mind Institute
- Kecia Weller – UCLA Tarjan Center
- Wesley Witherspoon – SCDD and USC Children’s Hospital
- Alex Reyes – SCDD



The Role of a Community Organizer for a Independent Living Center

By **Rebecca Donabed**, Sequoia Regional SSAN Representative



My name is Rebecca Donabed, and I am the Community Organizer at Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV). Our main office is in Fresno and our satellite offices are in Visalia and Merced. I work in the Visalia office. I'm in charge of networking and advocating for all of the people that we serve. I'm working to meet as many elected officials as I can, including Mayors, Vice Mayors, City Council Members, Assemblymember, etc. RICV received two proclamations for Disability Employment Awareness month and one for Disability Awareness month. One was from the City of Tulare and the other was from Tulare County Board of Supervisors. I attend a lot of meetings via Zoom such as; SSTAC & VAAC, SSI, Housing, etc. I also run the DAT Meeting which is on the 1st & 3rd Thursday from 3-4:30pm of every month. If you want to reach out to me you can email me at rdonabed@ricv.org

SSAN Mission Statement

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) promotes leadership and builds bridges that strengthen advocacy among disability communities by focusing on policy change.

SSAN's past Newsletters, Annual Reports, and Meeting info, can be found at www.scdd.ca.gov under the "Self-Advocacy" tab

Let us know if you want to see anything specific in future newsletters!

How do you contact the SSAN Newsletter Editor Robert Levy? Leave a message for him by contacting the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator **Riana Hardin at (916) 263-8196**

Check out the [SCDD YouTube Page](#) for stories from self-advocates, past meetings, and more!



The History of employment at PEC and CES

By Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD SSAN Representative

Progressive Employment Concepts (PEC) has been helping people with disabilities find employment opportunities since 1995. PEC opened a second location in Davis, California in 2002 called Community and Employment Services (CES) and keeps expanding to serve more clients in the Sacramento region. PEC /CES works to help people with disabilities to have a productive life through employment opportunities like volunteering out in the community, supported employment, or Competitive Integrated Employment (equal pay for equal work). The Executive Director /CEO President and Owner Carole Watilo went to college and got a master's degree in social work. At the start of her career, Carole visited numerous employment sites to get some work experience and learn about the needs of people with disabilities in looking for work. Carole became interested in the field of social work because she likes helping people with disabilities, and continues to enjoy the work that she does to this day.

Carole decided to open her own business because she saw a need for an organization focused on helping people with disabilities find employment opportunities and reaching their goals, whether it is through going to college, learning independent living skills, volunteering, participating in supported employment, or through Competitive Integrated Employment. A lot has changed since the beginning of PEC/CES, like when the organization first started there was no social media. There was not a lot of cell phone use, and the employees used to not work from home.

This year marks 28 years of service to the community for PEC/CES and I am thankful for all that the organization has been able to accomplish. I know that I would not be where I am today, working at PEC/CES and the UC Davis MIND Institute without PEC/CES. Over the years, there have been a lot of changes happening, especially with a lot of the staff being able to work from home, having social media like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. All employment sites are using Zoom to be more productive. Both PEC and CES are able to get more clients and more staff hired. For PEC/ CES the work will never be done. There are always going to be people with disabilities who need help to be productive in society who can get the services that they need from PEC/CES.

So happy 28th anniversary to PEC/CES and many more years. I look forward to helping PEC/CES continue to serve our community of people with disabilities for years to come.



The History of Employment at UC Davis MIND Institute

By Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD SSAN Representative

This year marks 25 years since the UCD MIND Institute opened its doors, but it all started at a different location for the first 5 years. There were several families who have family members with disabilities who thought we should have a permanent research center at a permanent location site. Back in 2003 the UCD MIND Institute opened its doors at their new location where it has continued to operate for the last 20 years. 3 years later in 2006 the UCD MIND Institute decided to start program called the Center of Excellence for Developmental Disabilities to help other people with disabilities to have a productive life. In 2006 the UCD MIND Institute decided to start to develop a day-long conference called the Summer Institute. Now the UCD MIND Institute has done a lot of YouTube videos with different types of programs and keeps people informed through website updates. Services have also expanded internationally. The MIND Institute started to use social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

In the fall of 2021, The MIND Institute started new programs called the Redwood Seed program and the PCORI PAIR grant project being a 2-year program which it will end this year. The MIND Institute also does the Northern California Business Council committee including the LEND trainings during the period from September through May each year. I provide presentations to that group, as well as for the UCD Medical Student module training each year. Now we use Zoom to do our staff meetings and numerous other meetings. It's been much better than driving back and forth and using up the time that we could do more work at home to get more work done.

I would like to wish a happy 25th anniversary to UCD MIND Institute and say congratulations on 25 years of service to the community. This work will never be done, there will always be more work to do to help people with disabilities to have a productive life. If it wasn't for several families who had decided to develop this idea there wouldn't be the UCD MIND Institute and I wouldn't have job. So, keep up the good work and I can't wait to celebrate 30 years of service in 2028!



Kudos Corner

By **Robert Levy**, UC Davis MIND Institute UCEDD SSAN Representative

Julie Gaona is a great self-advocate. She has done numerous presentations to SSAN, in her local region of Los Angeles, and statewide over the years. In October of 2022, she was appointed to be a member of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and served as the Chair for the Employment First Committee briefly before the creation of the Employment First Office. Julie has had numerous leadership roles in SSAN throughout the years.

Julie has been a member of SSAN representing the Los Angeles region since 2012 when she took over the role of Regional Representative from Kecia Weller, who took on the role of representing the UCLA Tarjan Center UCEDD on SSAN.

Julie belongs to numerous self-advocacy committees and has led many trainings and created many training manuals with the Los Angeles Regional Office of SCDD over the years. Julie lives independently with her husband and does a great job of advocating for her needs.

Julie is an expert on relationships and the co-chair of PAC of USC. Julie enjoys having a variety of responsibilities on her plate but makes the time to collaborate and support others. I think that we all should say congratulations to Julie Gaona for all the self-advocacy work that you have been doing over the years. From all of us at SSAN Kudos to you Julie Gaona!

The **Los Angeles Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities** has exciting **trainings** coming up on **Zoom**:

- The **California Budget Process** on September 11th in English/ September 18th in Spanish
- **Testify** and Influence **Public Policy** on September 25th in English/ October 2nd in Spanish
- How to be an **Effective Board Member** on October 9th in English/ October 16th in Spanish

All trainings are held at 10 AM over Zoom using the link: <https://bit.ly/3qEUp5X>

Contact Sofia.Cervantes@scdd.ca.gov for more details.



Good News Corner

Here are some examples of websites that you can find uplifting news:

- [The Good News Network: California](#) for up-to-date information about interesting positive things that are happening
- [Positive News](#) is a site that you can check out to see what is happening around the world that is positive
- [Good Good Good](#) shares really good news, not just feel-good news
- [Happy News](#) celebrates all that is good in the world
- [Optimist Daily](#) is a site that shares solutions and good news from around the world

Disability-Related Reads and Podcasts

Here are a few Self-Advocacy and Disability-related publications to check out:



[Lawmakers Work to Improve Air Travel on Disability Scoop](#) through SB 1459 and other bills. [Disability Scoop](#) is an online resource with disability-related news



[Social Security Administration Blog](#) has SSI information



[World Institute on Disability News](#) has updates on what is happening around the world



[RespectAbility News](#) has updates on national efforts to engage people with disabilities in the political process



Learn About SSAN Member Organizations

- [Association of Regional Center Agencies](#)
- [California Foundation for Independent Living Centers](#)
- [Department of Developmental Services](#)
- [Disability Rights California](#)
- [University of California, Davis MIND Institute](#)
- [University of California, Los Angeles, Tarjan Center](#)
- [University of Southern California, Children's Hospital](#)

Self-Determination Update

Self-Determination is LIVE in California. Check out the [DDS Self-Determination Newsletter](#) for the latest on California's Self-Determination Program. Talk to your service coordinator to learn more.



Tips for Staying Positive in Trying Times

There is so much happening in our communities right now and at times it can feel over whelming. Here are some tips for keeping calm that we want to share with you:

- Remember your ABC's: Always Be Caring
- Listen to music: your favorite artist, or type of music
- Have a dance party and move around
- Try boxing or Thai Chi
- Talk to a friend or family member
- Mentor another advocate
- Write about how you are feeling or thinking
- Read and learn something new
- Go for a walk or jog outside: fresh air is good for you
- Check out a coffee/tea shop and people watch
- Volunteer for an issue that you care about
- Share your story/experiences with others
- Get plenty of rest to feel energized for the next day
- Try to eat healthy
- Practice Yoga/stretching or mindful meditation
- Know that you are not alone
- Stay involved in your community by joining a board

Community Resources

- [SARTAC Zoom Meetings](#)
- [ARCA Regional Center COVID-19 Resources](#)
- [DRC's Build Back Better Resources](#)
- [SSA Ticket to Work Tips to Open Your ABL Account](#)
- [Office of Self-Determination Ombudsperson](#)
- [US Dept Of Education Office of Civil Rights Digital Access Series](#)
- [How to Talk about Disability Sensitivity](#)
- [20 Ways to Boost Your Mood from Tips for Success](#)

SAVE THE DATES

Disability Rights California



[Events and Trainings](#)

CalABLE



[News](#)

[and Trainings](#)



[DO](#)

[Network Training Library](#)

Plain Language COVID-19

Resources Available on:

[SCDD Website](#)

Register for the Monthly

[California Statewide Self-](#)

[Advocacy Chats](#) on Zoom



SARTAC
Self Advocacy and Beyond

[Current Issues and Resources](#)

[Voting Resources](#)

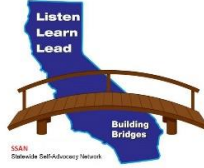
DRC

Voting Hotline: 888-569-7955

[Disability Vote California](#)

Have questions about the Self-Determination Program? [The Self-Determination Advocates Leadership Group](#) meets monthly on Zoom

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Voices of SSAN Newsletter Article Tips

Audience: Keep in mind that “Voices of SSAN” is shared with people across California. Try to write articles that would interest the statewide disability community.

Purpose: Is the article a human-interest story or an issues story? If it is a human-interest story, can you tie it back to an issue or larger regional or statewide problem?

Helpful Tips:

- Tie your article back to the Mission/Vision/Purpose of SSAN
- Write articles about systems change (city/county/regional/statewide) problems
- Limit individual advocacy articles
- When Interviewing people, tie questions back to systems change advocacy, SCDD State Plan and SSAN
- Stay away from writing about personal details of an individual

Types of Articles: Articles in “Voices of SSAN” should be related to the SCDD State Plan. Here are some topic areas covered under the SCDD State Plan:

- Self-Determination
- Employment
- Housing
- Health and Safety
- Transportation and other Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

Key Parts of Articles:

- Title
- Author (Your Name)
- Introduction: Tie the article back to SSAN
- Evidence or Support: 1-3 paragraphs
- Closing: Tie it back to SSAN

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 9
INFORMATION ITEM**

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



Volunteer to Career

Rebecca Donabed, SSAN Secretary and Sequoia Regional SSAN Representative will talk about how volunteering played a role in her pathway to employment.

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 10
INFORMATION ITEM**

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



Brainstorming for the SSAN Annual Report

SSAN Members will have the opportunity to share their ideas for what should be added to the SSAN 2022-2023 Annual Report.

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SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

**SSAN MEETING AGENDA ITEM 11
INFORMATION ITEM**

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



Meeting Takeaways and Planning for December 2023

The SSAN Chair will lead the group in a discussion about ideas for the December 2023 meeting and members will have the opportunity to complete meeting evaluations for the September 2023 meeting.

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