

September 19, 2023

AGENDA ITEM 5 B.

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

September 18, 2023

Meeting's Focus

The Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) met to review Council business relating to self-advocacy and discussed ongoing challenges of meeting the needs of people with I/DD throughout California.

Several members of the public addressed the committee including: a representative from DDS came to the committee to request a member of the committee serve on a DDS subcommittee. A representative from the North Valley Hills Office of SCDD shared SCDD's continued support of the California Memorial Project. A recent grantee of SCDD asked for assistance from SAAC members in reviewing their materials for accessibility.

Members shared their concerns about the ongoing need to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community living. Areas of concern included: reliable and accessible public transportation, building and maintaining healthy relationships, access to disability inclusive healthcare, competitive integrated employment (CIE) and its impact on disability benefits, and the marriage penalty for disability benefits. Members continue to be concerned about the need to promote inclusive language, barriers to participation in the Self-Determination Program, and general access to supports and services for people with disabilities.

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on the status of the agency and an overview of the September Council meeting agenda. Executive Director Carruthers asked members to share their top issue of concern about people with I/DD. Members stressed the need to include people with disabilities in the planning and development of all parts of community living.

The Chair and the Secretary of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Leadership Team assisted SCDD SSAN Representative Alex Reyes in providing a summary of the September SSAN meeting.

The meeting ended with a message about the importance of social benefits and supports.

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the July 17, 2023, meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee is meeting on November 27, 2023.