

September 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM**



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Summary of September 2023 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

Recent Activity: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) held a hybrid meeting on September 7, 2023, in Sacramento and over Zoom.

Focus of Meeting:

The September 2023 SSAN meeting was held at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West and on Zoom. The meeting began with members sharing tips on what they do to be prepared for emergencies.

SSAN members reviewed and approved the proposed updates to the SSAN Bylaws. The 2023 updates included the following changes:

- Including the option to hold meetings virtually
- Adding a YO Disabled and Proud Representative to SSAN
- Changing the Operations Workgroup to the Leadership Team
- Adding the option of adding Workgroup/Project Chairs to the Leadership Team when appropriate
- Updating the language of the document to be more inclusive and plain language
- Including Member Responsibilities
- Outline the travel request process for SSAN members
- Create a Mentorship role for former SSAN members

SSAN members dissolved the standing workgroups and, in line with SSAN Bylaws, created temporary workgroups to work on individual projects in between meetings. SSAN members discussed a variety of Employment-related projects that SSAN could engage in and approved the creation of 4 workgroups/projects:

- Employment Webinar Workgroup
- Employment Tipsheet Workgroup
- Employment Success Stories Project
- Disability Training Workgroup

September 19, 2023

**AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM**



STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Summary of September 2023 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Executive Director Aaron Carruthers and Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs Bridget Kolakosky provided updates on SCDD activities since the June SSAN meeting. SCDD is working closely on with the newly created Office of Employment First, a new coordinated effort between the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to promote competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Advocates are encouraged to email Bridget.Kolakosky@scdd.ca.gov if they are interested in sharing their employment success stories.

Rebecca Donabed, Community Organizer at Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) talked about how volunteering with an independent living center helped her to develop employment skills and professional relationships that helped her on her path toward paid work as a community organizer.

2022 – 2024 SSAN Leadership:

Chair: Charles Nutt, North State Regional Representative

Vice-Chair: Nicole Patterson, DDS Representative

Secretary: Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia Regional Representative

Actions Taken:

- Approved the Minutes from the June 2023 SSAN Meeting
- Approved the 2023 Updates to the SSAN Bylaws
- Voted to dissolve the existing SSAN Workgroups
- Voted to establish 4 new workgroups focused on employment
- Approved the September 2023 Edition of the SSAN Newsletter

The next SSAN Meeting will be held over Zoom in December. Be on the lookout for more details and visit the [SSAN Page](#) on the SCDD website for more information.