

AGENDA ITEM 7 G.

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting

November 27, 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.

Members shared their concerns about the ongoing need to promote inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community living. Members would like to see greater awareness of SCDD Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) meetings, and SCDD committee meetings and wanted to hear know more about how the agency conducts outreach and engagement efforts. Self-Determination and access to education, as well as accessibility of health care services in terms of both language and physical access were also brought up as ongoing opportunities for improvement. The Committee discussed actions that they can take to increase awareness about the marriage penalty for social benefits, and how they could work to bring about reform.

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided members with an update on the status of the agency and an overview of the November Council meeting agenda. Executive Director Carruthers shared updates about SCDD efforts to think creatively and share stories of lived experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California.

Hannah Dunham, SCDD SDM-TAP Manager, gave an informative presentation about supported decision-making and the Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP). Members shared their thoughts on SDM with staff.

Members closed the meeting with reviewing their activities in 2023 and identifying the marriage penalty for social benefits, access to education, and access to medical appointments as priority issues for 2024.

Items Acted Upon

- Approved the September 18, 2023, meeting minutes.

Future Meeting Dates

The Committee is meeting on January 22, 2024.