



## NOTICE/AGENDA

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**Teleconference Location:**

SCDD HQ OFFICE  
3831 North Freeway Blvd., #125  
Sacramento, CA 95834

**TELECONFERENCE: (669) 900-9128**

**MEETING ID: 863 7583 2503**

**MEETING PASSWORD: 207447**

**Join by Zoom:**

<http://bit.ly/SCDDJan2024SAAC>

Check out [Zoom Download Instructions](#) and [Tips on how to use Zoom](#) to learn the basics about the Zoom platform.

### **STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

POSTED AT: [www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)

**DATE:** January 22, 2024

**TIME:** 1:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

**COMMITTEE CHAIR:**

Eric Ybarra

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**Item 1. CALL TO ORDER**

**Item 2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

**Item 3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

#### **Item 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

This item is for members of the public only to provide comments and/or present information to the Committee on matters not on the agenda. Each person will be afforded up to 3 minutes to speak.

Additionally, there will be up to 5 minutes allocated to hear from the public on each agenda item, with each person allotted up to 1 minute to comment.

#### **Item 5. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 27, 2023 Page 5 MINUTES**

#### **Item 6. MEMBER UPDATES Page 11**

- A. Updates/concerns from Regional Advisory Committees
- B. Emerging issues or barriers to self-advocacy
- C. Community self-advocacy projects/activities
- D. SCDD committee updates
- E. Recommendations for future meetings and projects

#### **Item 7. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT Page 13**

#### **Item 8. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS Page 33**

Presented by: SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers

- A. SCDD agency updates
- B. Statewide updates
- C. Nation updates

**ITEMS RELATED TO COUNCIL BUSINESS ARE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET**

**Item 9. SCDD PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EXPERIENCE Page 35**

Presented by: Brandi Halstead, San Bernardino Regional Office  
Intern

**Item 10. OVERVIEW OF SCDD STORYTELLERS BLOG Page 37**

Presented by: Michelle Cave, SCDD Communications Manager

**Item 11. PLANNING FOR 2023 – 2024 SAAC ACTIVITIES Page 39**

Presented by: SCDD Staff

**Item 12. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: March 22, 2024

**Accessibility**

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**All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.**

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 5**

**ACTION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Approval of NOVEMBER 27, 2023 Minutes***

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***Action Recommended***

Approve the November 27, 2023 SAAC Minutes

***Attachments***

- November 27, 2023 SAAC Minutes

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**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**September 18, 2023**

**Members Present**

Julie Gaona (SA)  
Julio Garnica (SA)  
Sonia Jones (SA)  
Nester Nieves (SA)  
Kara Ponton (SA)  
Alex Reyes (SA)  
Rosanna Ryan (SA)  
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)  
Eric Ybarra (SA)

**Members Absent**

Nicole Adler (SA)

**Others Attending**

Rihana Ahmad  
Hilary Baird  
Renee Bauer  
Aaron Carruthers  
Hannah Dunham  
Riana Hardin  
Beth Hurn  
George Lewis  
Stacy Martinez  
Charles Nguyen  
Walker Woodward

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Acting Committee Chair Eric Ybarra called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M.

**2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

**3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**5. APPROVAL OF September 18, 2023 MINUTES**

Members reviewed the minutes from the September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting. The minutes can be found starting on page 7 of the November 2023 SAAC packet.

**ACTION 1**

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [SA]/ Ponton [SA]) and carried to approve the September 18<sup>th</sup> minutes as presented. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

**6. MEMBER UPDATES**

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 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.

**7. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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 collect and share stories about the lived experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in California.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate



## **DRAFT**

### **8. OVERVIEW OF SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SDM TAP)**

SCDD's Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program (SDM-TAP) began in early 2023, following the passage of AB 1663, which added Supported Decision-Making into three (3) of California's codes (through California's Welfare and Institutions, Probate, and Health and Safety Codes). The California legislature allocated \$5 million dollars from the State General Fund to SCDD for the development and administration of the program.

Hannah Dunham, SCDD SDM-TAP Manager, along with the rest of the SCDD SDM-TAP team gave an informative presentation about supported decision-making and the SCDD SDM-TAP. Members were encouraged to sign-up for the [SDM-TAP Newsletter](#). For more information about the program, please visit the [SCDD SDM-TAP Website](#).

### **9. REFLECTIONS ON 2022 – 2023 SAAC ACTIVITIES AND PLANNING FOR 2023 – 2024**

Members closed the meeting by 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.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 P.M.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**  
**AGENDA ITEM 6**  
**INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Member Updates***

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Each member will have a chance to give the Committee updates on local and regional concern(s) for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Updates may include:

- A. Updates/Concerns from the Regional Advisory Committees (RAC)
- B. Emerging issues or barriers to self-advocacy
- C. Community self-advocacy projects/activities
- D. SCDD Committee updates
- E. Recommendations for future meetings and projects

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***SSAN Report***

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SCDD SSAN Representative will provide a verbal report of the December SSAN Meeting.

***Attachments***

- December 2023 SSAN Report
- 2022–2023 SSAN Annual Report

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**January 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.  
INFORMATION ITEM**



**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

**Recent Activity:** The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) held a meeting on December 12, 2023, over Zoom.

**Focus of Meeting:**

The December 2023 began with members sharing their takeaways from participating in SSAN and self-advocacy this year.

Following introductions, several members of the public provided comments to the group about upcoming events, training and volunteer opportunities. The UC Davis MIND Institute, Disability Voices United (DVU), and Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV) were the organizations to provide public comment. The fliers and information shared in their comments will be posted as handouts on the SSAN page.

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided updates on SCDD activities since the September SSAN meeting. SCDD has had several important accomplishments in 2023. SCDD submitted a report to the legislature on SB 639 and will be providing an update soon. SCDD worked closely with the Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to create an Office of Employment First to promote competitive integrated employment (CIE) for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). SCDD awarded grants to groups in Los Angeles and San Francisco interested in changing policy and improving hiring practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. SCDD is working on expanding outreach and services for people with I/DD in underserved communities in 2024. California is a part of a community of practice (COP) at the national level on the intersection of aging and disability, in an effort to improve services and supports.

The SSAN Leadership Team led a planning discussion on the next steps for the SSAN workgroups, encouraging people to join a workgroup that interests them. A list of the current workgroups can be found at the end of this report.

**January 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.  
INFORMATION ITEM**



**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

The [SCDD Supported Decision-Making Technical Assistance Program \(SDM-TAP\)](#) team provided an overview of the new SCDD initiative that started in July 2023 to provide resources and support to self-advocates and their family members on Supported Decision-Making. Several members expressed an interest with sharing information about supported decision-making with their communities. The presentation will be shared with members and posted on the SSAN page as a resource.

SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator Riana Hardin provided SSAN Members with an overview of the SSAN Trello Board, a tool to help members track SSAN related deadlines, projects, and resources.

SCDD Policy Analyst Veronica Bravo provided members with an overview on SCDD legislative accomplishments for 2023. The creation of the California Office of Employment First was a major win for the agency and Californians with I/DD. The legislation that created the Office of Employment First also ensured that the Limited Examination and Appointment Program State Internship Program (LEAP SIP) is now permanently funded by the state. This agenda item included an update on SCDD supported legislation and will be posted on the SSAN page for reference.

SSAN currently has 4 project driven workgroups, an ongoing quarterly newsletter project, and a leadership team that meet regularly to plan SSAN activities.

**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 September 2023 SSAN Meeting
- Approved the 2022 – 2023 SSAN Annual Report
- Approved the December 2023 Edition of the SSAN Newsletter

The next SSAN Meeting will be held on February 28 – 29 over Zoom. Be on the lookout for more details and visit the [SSAN Page](#) on the SCDD website for more information.



2022 – 2023 |



# SSAN Annual Report

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



The 2022 – 2023 SSAN Annual Report was produced by the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities



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# About SCDD

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state (Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act or Lanterman Act) and federal (Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 or DD Act) law and is one of 56 State Councils on Developmental Disabilities within the U.S. and its territories. SCDD belongs to the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD), which provides guidance and support to all 56 Councils. Growing and supporting self-advocacy is a core principle for every State Council, as identified by the DD Act.

SCDD designated ‘Self-Advocacy’ as the focus for its first goal in the new 2022 – 2026 5-year state plan and is committed to supporting self-advocacy in California. To meet its commitment to establish and strengthen a program led by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, develop and promote leadership skills, and expand participation in a cross-disability coalition, SCDD created the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) in 2012. Through supporting SSAN, SCDD aims to help self-advocates throughout California advocate for their civil and service rights and be integrated and included in all areas of community life. SCDD supports the efforts of SSAN members to be leaders in their communities.

# About SSAN

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

## **Vision Statement**

SSAN is a cross-disability network of self-advocates that was established in 2012 and 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 to grow the Self-Advocacy movement in California
- Share information about programs and supports for people with disabilities

# Agency Connections



[California State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#)



[California Department of Developmental Services](#)



[California Foundation for Independent Living Centers](#)



[Association of Regional Center Agencies](#)



[Disability Rights California](#)

## California UCEDDs



[UCLA Tarjan Center](#)

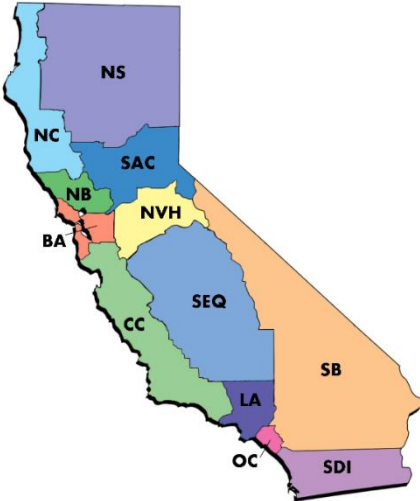


[USC Children's Hospital](#)



[UC Davis MIND Institute](#)

# SSAN Members (Roster) 2021–2022



- North Coast Region – Nathaniel Florez/Sonya Force
- North State Region – Charles Nutt
- Sacramento Region – Lisa Cooley
- North Bay Region – Ellen Sweigert
- Bay Area Region – Regina Woodliff/Sara Desumala
- North Valley Hills Region – Robert Balderama
- Central Coast Region – David Forderer
- Sequoia Region – Rebecca Donabed
- Los Angeles Region – Julie Gaona
- Orange County Region – Sean Sullivan
- San Bernardino Region – Daniel Fouste/Eric Agular
- San Diego Imperial Region – Paul Mansell



- Association of Regional Center Agencies – Desiree Boykin
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers – Goldie House
- Department of Developmental Services – Nicole Patterson
- Disability Rights California – Scott Baron
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities –
  - Matthew Lagrand
  - Maria Marquez
- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
  - UC Davis MIND Institute – Robert Levy
  - UCLA Tarjan Center – Kecia Weller
  - USC Children's Hospital – Wesley Witherspoon



# Message from SSAN Leadership

We would like to start by thanking SSAN members for electing us to serve as your SSAN Leadership Team from December 2022 – December 2024. As the SSAN Leadership Team, we were committed to continuing the important work of SSAN to make sure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and other disabilities are included in society and able to choose how they would like to live. The great part about SSAN is that it connects advocates from across the state and opens doors to opportunities of collaboration. During our time as your SSAN Leadership Team, we will work to support SSAN members and encourage them to create out of the box ways to connect with each other and their communities during these difficult times. We hope to continue supporting the vision of building a solid SSAN identity by supporting cross-disability partnerships and working collaboratively with the workgroups to support SSAN projects.

The need for self-advocacy, leadership and social engagement is clear as we continue to face different public health, safety, climate-related, and social justice concerns. We want to thank both SSAN members and our supporters for their hard work in and commitment to supporting self-advocacy. During these challenging times, it is important to support each other by showing compassion and appreciation.

The past year has been one of change for SSAN and our members, as we have said goodbye to some members and welcomed new members to the group. We continue to work together to advocate for access to public health information and services, provide plain language public health and safety information, and end the practice of paying subminimum wage to people with I/DD in California. The 2022 – 2024 SSAN Leadership Team plans to continue to work together and support members during ongoing public health challenges and other social issues. Thank you for your continued advocacy and participation in SSAN.



## Charles Nutt (Chairperson)



Charles Nutt represents the SCDD North State Regional Office on SSAN. Charles started his advocacy journey by getting involved with Paradise People First and served as Vice President for a time. Charles attended Butte College where he studied Business Computer Science and was involved in the honors society Sigma Alpha Pi, which helped him to develop an interest in leadership. After completing his degree, Charles connected with the North State Regional of SCDD getting involved on their Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) and becoming a SSAN Member. Charles stepped away from SSAN in order to represent the North State Region on the SCDD Board for 6 years and give another advocate the opportunity to represent the North State Region on SSAN.

Charles is passionate about California's Self-Determination Program (SDP) and currently serves as the Chair of the Far Northern Regional Center (FNRC) Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) in an effort to increase the number of people enrolled in self-determination. Charles hopes that through his leadership, he is able to listen and learn from his fellow officers and collaborate to find solutions and build a strong ship to strengthen self-advocacy in California. Charles would like to strengthen the self-determination program, educate others about resources, bring motivational speakers to SSAN and focus on getting youth involved in advocacy. Charles is excited to serve as the 2022–2024 SSAN Chair.

## **Nicole Patterson (Vice-Chairperson)**

Nicole Patterson represents the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) on SSAN. Nicole is the Advocacy and Self-Advocate Liaison with DDS. Nicole has worked in the field of empowering people with different disabilities for over 30 years and has spent the last 17 years working within DDS in different roles, advising department leadership and working with advocates to build their confidence and encourage them to speak-up for themselves.



Nicole has been involved with the SSAN since the beginning. Nicole's vision for the SSAN during this term is to help SSAN and its members become even more of a driving force when it comes to people with disabilities involving services and supports, youth engagement, employment, growing self-determination in the state of California, and gaining more seats at the table when policies and procedures are being changed that involves people with disabilities.

## **Rebecca Donabed (Secretary)**



Rebecca Donabed represents SCDD Sequoia Regional Office in the Central Valley on SSAN. Rebecca works as a Community Organizer for Resources for Independence Central Valley (RICV). Rebecca has been part of SSAN since 2013 and is excited to take on the role of Secretary once more and support SSAN and its members. Rebecca is active in her local community and is a part of several different committees focused on transportation, voting, and employment.

Rebecca served as Secretary of SSAN from 2016-2018 and is excited to be in the role again. Being on SSAN, means that she can get more involved in her advocacy work on the state level and bring it back to her community.

# 2022–2023 Meeting Highlights

SSAN held 4 meetings between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023. Three meetings were held over Zoom, and one was a hybrid meeting. Some highlights from meetings include:

- Organizational Practices:
  - Elected 2022 – 2024 Leadership Team
  - Reviewed and approved an updated MOU between SSAN and SCDD
  - Drafted and approved a Medical Leave Policy
  - Updated the SSAN Bylaws
- Training:
  - Bagley Keene Act
  - Youth Organizing and Advocacy Tools
  - SCDD Travel Policy Training
  - Emergency Preparedness Training
  - Leadership Development
  - Individual Advocacy vs Systems Change
- Provided feedback on:
  - SCDD Facilitation Guide
  - SCDD Webpages
- Updated systems change efforts:
  - SCDD-supported legislation and agency updates
  - Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBS) updates
  - DDS Coordinated Family Services
  - Efforts to end subminimum wage in California
- Discussions/Conversations:
  - Grieving the loss of a loved one
  - The impact of SSAN

# 2022–2023 SSAN Approved Materials and Member Projects

- Reviewed and Approved
  - Minutes from 4 full SSAN meetings
  - Minutes from workgroup meetings
  - 2021-2022 SSAN Annual Report
  - Reviewed and approved 4 editions of the SSAN newsletter
  - Updated SSAN Employment First Presentation
- Projects and Collaborations
  - Department of Developmental Services (DDS) projects
  - Updated SSAN presentations
  - UC Davis MIND Institute PAIR Projects
  - Created a SSAN Youth Seat
  - Participated on SCDD Disability Expert Advisory Panels (DEAPs)
  - Developed the [SSAN Transition Employment Survey](#)

SSAN Members are regularly asked to participate in events and present at conferences because they are strong leaders in their communities across the state and throughout the nation.

- Members' Presentations and Project Topics:
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
  - Self-Advocacy
  - Self-Determination
  - Healthy Relationships
  - Conversations with Medical Students

# 2022–2023 Member Highlights

SSAN Members participate in Coalitions, Boards and Planning committees throughout California along with providing self-advocates, family advocates and others with trainings related to increasing self-advocacy and access to community supports. Highlights from members during the 2022 – 2023 reporting period include:

- Participating on SCDD Regional Advisory Committees (RACs)
- Participating actively in virtual governance meetings
- Organizing, attending and presenting at the following events:
  - People First (PF) gatherings (Virtual)
  - CHOICES Conference (Virtual)
  - California Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference (Hybrid)
  - Disability Vote California trainings and chats (Virtual)
  - Regional Self-Advocacy chats (Virtual)
- Collaborating on the UC Davis MIND Institute PAIR Project
- Serving on IHSS Public Authority, transportation boards, People First groups
- Sharing their stories with Legislators in support of SB 639 and the importance of ending subminimum wage in California
- Working with regional centers on Coordinated Future Planning Taskforces
- Collaborating with SCDD Regional Offices to give regional and statewide trainings
- Collaborating with SCDD Regional Offices to distribute personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Giving presentations and informing their communities about SSAN
- Giving presentations on the Self-Determination Program

# Measuring the Impact of SSAN



“SSAN provides advocates with the unique opportunity to have honest conversations about issues and share ideas about how to address barriers. SSAN is made up of leaders from across California and we are looked at as role models. I would like to see us work on building more of a public presence. I would like to see one major project a year and really focus on a pressing issue.”

– Scott Barron, Disability Rights California Representative

“SSAN is important to me because it is a network of individuals who have a similar goal to teach self-advocacy and to become stronger leaders for individuals with disabilities in their communities throughout California and even nationally.”

– Charles Nutt, North State Regional Representative



“SSAN is important because it provides members a chance to share their thoughts and concerns for the developmental disability community in California. I am excited about expanding SSAN and the Self-Advocacy Movement to help the next generation of people who have developmental disabilities.”

– Lisa Cooley, Sacramento Regional Representative

“SSAN is a great way for talented passionate advocates to not only learn about issues, but also learn from each other. Together we are strong and able to advance the advocacy movement. No matter your age, there is always something you can learn. Everyone has value and something to add to the discussion.”

– Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills Regional Representative





# Planning for the Future

A common theme brought up in 2023 SSAN meetings was the interest in connecting with other advocates in California and across the country. Members are interested in growing the inclusive, collaborative nature of SSAN in the near future. Here are a few ideas shared by members at meetings:

- Connect and educate advocates in California
  - Outreach to regional center and independent living center self-advocacy groups
  - Reach out to advocates with diverse identities and needs
  - Work together to share ideas and solutions to problems
  - Share ways that advocates can get involved in their communities by getting on boards and commissions
- Create Resources and Trainings
  - Increase the number of plain-language and easy read resources
  - Teach people about their rights and services
  - Teach people about the importance of voting and connecting with local officials
- Restructure Workgroups to focus on short term projects
  - Educate others on employment options and resources
  - Improve accessibility of public transportation
  - Improve accessibility of medical offices and hospitals
  - Increase the availability of affordable and accessible homes
- Connect with the next generation through social media, storytelling, and mentorship
- Host community engagement events
  - Learn more about and get more involved in legislative issues



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**JANUARY 22, 2024**  
**AGENDA ITEM 8**  
**INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Review of Council Business***

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State Council on Developmental Disabilities staff will review Council business with the Committee. This item may include:

- A. SCDD agency updates
- B. Statewide updates
- C. National updates

**Items related to this agenda item can be found in the Council packet.**

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***SCDD Paid Internship Program (PIP) Experience***

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California became an Employment First state in 2013 thanks to the advocacy of Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, nonprofits, and state agencies like State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD). Since 2013, additional legislation and advocacy efforts have taken place to support and promote the Employment First policy in California. In 2016 the California State Legislature approved the Paid Internship Program (PIP), a program administered by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to fund paid internship opportunities for regional center clients to develop skills and gain experience. SCDD headquarters and regional offices have served as worksites for PIP interns over the years.

Brandi Halstead is currently working as a PIP Intern in the San Bernardino Regional Office, bringing a passion for advocacy and peer mentorship to the office environment. Brandi will be sharing her experience as a PIP Intern and will talk about the projects she has had the opportunity to work on through her role.

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**

**AGENDA ITEM 10  
INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Overview Of SCDD Storytellers Blog***

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In December 2023 SCDD launched a blog on their website to collect and share stories of Californians with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their supporters about their lived experiences. Every person has a story to tell and SCDD Storytellers Blog offers a digital space to share yours.

Michelle Cave, SCDD Communications Manager will share information about this tool with SAAC members.

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**  
**AGENDA ITEM 11**  
**INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Planning for 2024 SAAC Activities***

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As a follow-up to the November 2023 meeting, members will have the chance to talk about the issues that are specific to each member, their community, and the rest of the state. SAAC members can then share ideas about issues to focus on for 2023 – 2024. Additionally, members will identify which issues can be addressed by the SAAC, and which issues may require other Committee and/or full Council action.

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**JANUARY 22, 2024**  
**AGENDA ITEM 12**  
**INFORMATION ITEM**

**SELF ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

***Adjournment***

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The next committee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2024.

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