



SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 23, 2023

Members Present

Nicole Adler (SA)
Jeana Eriksen (SA)
Julio Garnica (SA)
Julie Gaona (SA)
Maria Marquez (SA)
Kara Ponton (SA)
Alex Reyes (SA)
Rosanna Ryan (SA)
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)
Eric Ybarra (SA)

Others Attending

Rihana Ahmad
Renee Bauer
Aaron Carruthers
Charlotte Emerson
Riana Hardin
Dayle Henrikson
Beth Hurn
Peter Mendoza
Charles Nguyen
Victoria Schlusser
Erick Thurmond
Santiago Vazquez

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Nicole Adler called the meeting to order at 1:36 P.M.

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Committee members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

3. **ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

5. CHAIR REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Chair Nicole Adler encouraged members to be respectful and patient with each other as we are all navigating personal challenges. Committee Chair Adler is grateful to have the opportunity to serve as Chair of SAAC, and to have this platform, to talk about important issues in the world like COVID-19, mass shootings, mental health, and self-determination. Chair Adler stated that it is important to fight for our rights. She called for serious action to deal with the problems in our communities and urged people to love and respect others.

6. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 28, 2022 MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes from the November 28th, 2022 meeting. The minutes can be found starting on page 7 of the January 2023 SAAC packet.

ACTION 1

It was moved/seconded (Ybarra [SA]/ Marquez [SA]) and carried to approve the November 28th minutes as presented. Motion passed without objection.

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 January Council meeting agenda. The January meeting will include elections for Vice-Chair, along with a presentation on the Governor's proposed budget and a presentation from the Chair of Alaska's Council on Disabilities and Special Education.

SCDD Sacramento Regional Office staff Peter Mendoza updated the committee on the activities of the Self-Advocacy Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP). The SA DEAP has submitted project proposal ideas for the SCDD Program Development Grant Cycle 46. The committee was encouraged to share their own ideas for projects and members discussed their thoughts about the barriers and difficulties that people with I/DD face in becoming self-advocates.

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8. SAAC SELF-ADVOCACY PRESENTATION PRACTICE

Members practiced presenting the final version of the SAAC presentation, “Remembering the History of Self-Advocacy”, which will be presented at the January 24, 2023, Council meeting. Members made last minute revisions to the PowerPoint, shared personal stories that they would like to include in the presentation, and discussed strategies for delivering the presentation at the Council meeting.

9. MEMBER UPDATES

No member updates were shared.

10. SSAN REPORT

Councilmember Maria Marquez provided the committee with a report on SSAN activity since the November meeting.

11. SAAC RECOMMENDATION ON SCDD SSAN REPRESENTATIVE

Members discussed who should be the Next SCDD SSAN Representative.

ACTION 2

It was moved/seconded (Marquez [SA]/ Witherspoon [SA]) and carried to recommend Councilmember Alex Reyes as the next SSAN Representative. Motion passed without objection.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 P.M.

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