



SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 27, 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.

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 18th, 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 18th 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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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.

Legend:

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