



## SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MARCH 20, 2023

### Members Present

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

### Members Absent

Julie Gaona (SA)

### Others Attending

Rihana Ahmad  
Chris Arroyo  
Renee Bauer  
Aaron Carruthers  
Sofia Cervantes  
Janet Fernandez  
Dena Hernandez  
Riana Hardin  
Beth Hurn  
Peter Mendoza  
Charles Nguyen  
Victoria Schlusser

### 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.

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Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

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#### **4. MEMBER UPDATES**

Members shared issues of concern in their communities including the impact recent weather-related power outages had on self-advocates, access to services during emergency situations, the need to promote inclusion in all school activities, access to facilitation and personal care services, and low attendance at self-advocacy meetings.

#### **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A public member, Alex the Poet, introduced himself to the committee.

#### **6. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 23, 2023 MINUTES**

Members reviewed the minutes from the January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 meeting. The minutes can be found starting on page 7 of the March 2023 SAAC packet.

#### **ACTION 1**

It was moved/seconded (Ybarra [SA]/ Eriksen [SA]) and carried to approve the January 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 March Council meeting agenda. Staff members from the offices of Assemblymember Arambula's and Senator Caballero's will be attending the Council meeting to talk about SCDD sponsored legislation. Members shared their concerns about affordable housing and how people have treated them differently because of their disability.

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## **8. CYCLE 46 GRANTS**

SCDD State Plan and Self-Advocacy Manager Rihana Ahmad provided a demonstration of the new grant submission platform for SCDD and reviewed proposed project descriptions for Cycle 46 Program Development Grants. Members provided feedback and made suggestions to improve the project descriptions. Suggestions from members included defining what a “toolkit” is and that it should include existing resources, consistency with how acronyms are used, the need to develop/update an acronym list for grantees, and the need to develop resources to help transition age youth understand the Ticket to Work Program and resources for how to get their first job.

## **9. SCDD FACILITATION GUIDE FEEDBACK**

Self-Advocacy Disability Expert Advisory Panel (DEAP) Co-Chairs, Dena Hernandez, North Valley Hills Regional Office Manager, and Peter Mendoza, Sacramento Regional Office staff, reviewed the DRAFT SCDD Facilitation Guide with members for feedback. Members shared their thoughts on the language, design, and tone of the document. Several members thought that the document would be a helpful resource for self-advocates interested in serving on boards.

## **10. SELF-ADVOCACY PROJECT HIGHLIGHT**

SCDD Los Angeles Regional Office Manager Chris Arroyo provided members with an overview of the syllabus for the Self-Advocates Leadership Academy (SALA) and asked for feedback on the program. Members suggested that future Academies include information about asking for facilitation and personal care services.

## **11. SSAN REPORT**

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

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 P.M.

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