



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting is being held in person. Members of the public may participate in person and listen by telephone. Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online at www.scdd.ca.gov.

Physical Location:

Holiday Inn Downtown Sacramento
300 J St
Sacramento, CA 95814

TELECONFERENCE: (669) 900-9128
MEETING ID: 869 0905 9338
MEETING PASSWORD: 549760

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

POSTED AT: www.scdd.ca.gov

DATE: September 23, 2024

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

MEETING CHAIR:

Julie Gaona

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 to provide comments and/or present information to this body 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.

Members of the public must be in person to provide public comment.

Item 5. APPROVAL OF JULY 15, 2024 MINUTE  Page 5

Item 6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS Page 11

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

ITEMS RELATED TO COUNCIL BUSINESS ARE INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET

Item 7. EMERGING ISSUES AND CONCERNS Page 13

- A. Updates/concerns from regional advisory committees
- B. Regional emerging issues or barriers to self-advocacy
- C. Recommendations for future meetings and projects

Item 8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) Page 15

A. SEPTEMBER 2024 SSAN REPORT

B. SCDD SSAN REPRESENTATIVE



Item 9. REVIEWING WEB ACCESSIBILITY OF GOV.CA.GOV Page 21

Presented by: SCDD STAFF

Item 10. NACDD SELF-ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE Page 23

Presented by: SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Riana Hardin

**Item 11. REGIONAL OFFICE ADVOCACY PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT:
NORTH VALLEY HILLS Page 25**

Presented by: Dena Hernandez, SCDD North Valley Hills Regional Office Manager

Item 12. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: November 18, 2024

Accessibility

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), Individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Riana Hardin at (916) 263-8196 or Riana.Hardin@scdd.ca.gov. Please provide at least 5 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests. In case a member of the public is unable to attend in person due to an ADA accommodation and would like to provide a public comment, please email Riana.Hardin@scdd.ca.gov.

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

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 5

ACTION ITEM

**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Approval of July 15, 2024 Minutes

Action Recommended

Approve the July 15, 2024 SAAC Minutes

Attachments

July 15, 2024 SAAC Minutes

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK



**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) MEETING
MINUTES
July 15, 2024**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Nicole Adler (SA)
Eric Ybarra (SA)
Nestor Nieves (SA)

Others Attending

Rihana Ahmad
Teresa Anderson
Desiree Boykin
Aaron Carruthers
Riana Hardin
Dena Hernandez
Debbie Marshall
Stacey Martinez
Charles Nguyen
PJ Swan

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Wesley Witherspoon announced that SAAC Committee Chair Eric Ybarra is unable to attend the meeting and asked him to chair the July SAAC meeting. Council Chair Witherspoon called the meeting to order at 1:35 P.M.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

DRAFT

3. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee members and others in attendance introduced themselves. During the introductions several members shared their struggles with adjusting to the heatwaves happening in several parts of the state and different cooling strategies. Members raised concerns about consistent access to air conditioning and other cooling methods.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2024 MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes from the May 20th, 2024 meeting. The minutes can be found starting on page 7 of the July 2024 SAAC packet.

ACTION 1

It was moved/seconded (Reyes [SA]/ Ponton [SA]) and carried to approve the May 20th minutes as presented. (Vote Count: 6 Ayes, 1 Abstention, and 3 Absent; Ayes: Gaona, Garnica, Jones, Ponton, Reyes, Witherspoon; Abstention: Ryan; Absent: Adler, Nieves, and Ybarra) Motion Passed.

6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers reviewed Council Business with members. Members shared their experiences with Person Centered Thinking and Planning. Additionally, members shared that they are frustrated with ongoing reports that regional center workers, service providers, and vendors are not listening to the clients that they support. Members shared their frustration with last minute cancelation of meetings without rescheduling. Members shared that they benefited from access to social and recreational activities like yoga, and inclusive education models.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

Page 2

7. EMERGING ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Members shared that greater outreach and strategies for engaging self-advocates, especially youth with disabilities, are needed. Organizations and advocates continue to adjust to hybrid meeting schedules, and it is a challenge to connect with others.

Other concerns brought up included the need for better training for medical professionals, concerns with isolation, transportation, self-determination, and having enough people present to hold an advocacy meeting (having a quorum, or half plus one member present).

Alex Reyes, the SCDD Representative to SSAN announced that they would be stepping down from their role as the SCDD SSAN Representative and requested that a new representative be chosen.

8. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

Outgoing SCDD Representative to the SSAN, Councilmember Alex Reyes, provided members with a summary report of the June 6, 2024, hybrid SSAN meeting held in Sacramento and over Zoom. The June SSAN Report can be found in the July SAAC Meeting Packet starting on page 15.

9. PANEL DISCUSSION: INDEPENDENCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND FINDING COMMUNITY

Since the passage and signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on July 26, 1990, July has been known as Disability Pride Month. In Celebration of Disability Pride Month, Desiree Boykin, Consumer Advocate for the South-Central Los Angeles Regional Center and PJ Swan, a Workforce Development and Administrative Aide in Lodi, shared how employment has helped them to create a community and build a sense of independence.

Legend:
SA = Self-Advocate
FA = Family Advocate

DRAFT

10. CALIFORNIA POLICY CENTER FOR I/DD WORKFORCE STUDY OVERVIEW

California Policy Center for I/DD (CPCIDD) Executive Director, Teresa Anderson, spoke to the Committee about CPCIDD's efforts to collect information about the impact of the shortage of direct support professionals on people with I/DD. Ms. Anderson asked for the Committee's help in recommending people to participate in their interview study.

11. REGIONAL OFFICE ADVOCACY PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT: SAN DIEGO AND IMPERIAL

Debbie Marshall, Community Program Specialist for the San Diego and Imperial Regional Office shared with the committee, the work she and the regional office have been doing to support self-advocacy in the San Diego and Imperial Valley regions of California.

Ms. Marshall highlighted the offices efforts to organize different regional conferences, support self-advocacy groups, and support self-advocates in creating and giving self-advocate led trainings on different topics.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

Page 4

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
AGENDA ITEM 6
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Review of Council Business

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.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
AGENDA ITEM 7
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Emerging Issues and Concerns

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

- A. Updates/concerns from Regional Advisory Committees
- B. Regional emerging issues or barriers to self-advocacy
- C. Recommendations for future meetings and/or projects and activities

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024
AGENDA ITEM 8
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report and Representative

The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) met on September 4 and 5, 2024, with members attending both in-person in Sacramento, and virtually over Zoom. A summary of the meeting will be provided as a handout at the meeting.

SCDD has a standing seat on SSAN and we are in the process of appointing a new representative for the SCDD SSAN position. Subsection 4 E of Section 2 E the Council Bylaws gives SAAC the ability to nominate a standing representative to SSAN. By selecting a new SCDD Representative to SSAN, SAAC could provide an additional opportunity for leadership development for self-advocates serving on the Council.

Learn more about SSAN by exploring the [SSAN Page](#) on SCDD website. Here you can find operational documents like the group's Bylaws, past editions of the SSAN Newsletter, and past Annual Reports.

Attachments

- SSAN one-pager recruitment flyer
- 2022 – 2026 SSAN Priorities

Handouts

September 2024 SSAN Report

Recommended Action:

Select the next SCDD Representative to SSAN

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK



Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

Mission Statement:

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

Who We Are:

Established in 2012, the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) is a cross-disability network of self-advocates from across California representing:

- 12 State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) regional offices
- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- YO! Disabled and Proud (Youth Organizing Disabled and Proud)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD: USC Children's Hospital; UCLA Tarjan Center; and UCD M.I.N.D. Institute)

What We Do:

- 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 in order to grow the Self-Advocacy movement in California
- Share information about programs and supports for people with disabilities

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



Joining SSAN Can Empower You To:

- Build lasting friendships
- Learn from advocates from across the state
- Develop and strengthen leadership skills
- Grow as an individual
- Solve access barriers impacting your life
- Connect you to services, supports, and resources
- Add leadership experience to your resume

Member Responsibilities:

- Share information with other SSAN members
- Outreach in the community
- Be a resource for local advocacy groups
- Provide information to local communities
- Promote legislative and policy change
- Support and training to local self-advocacy groups
- Participate in SSAN workgroup meetings

For more information, check out www.scdd.ca.gov/selfadvocacy or contact the SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator at 916-263-8196.



2022–2026 SSAN Priorities



The Purpose of the SSAN Priorities is to guide SSAN in choosing and prioritizing activities, projects and short-term/long-term goals. Based on feedback from members, the SSAN Operations Workgroup recommends the following Priorities:

❖ **Priority 1: Strengthen Self-Advocacy in California**

○ **Focus: Civic Engagement**

1. Connecting SSAN with Independent Living Centers
2. Educate self-advocates about the legislative process
3. Train self-advocates on how to engage with elected officials

○ **Focus: Youth Engagement**

1. Modernizing our approach to self-advocacy
2. Increase SSAN presence on Social Media
 - SSAN Facebook page/group
 - LinkedIn
 - Twitter
3. Visiting schools to find out what is important to students.
4. Provide Disability History training in schools
5. Get involved with the Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)
6. Provide Anti-Bullying/Harassment Trainings

○ **Focus: Self-Determination**

1. Engagement and training
2. Strengthen connection between regional centers and SSAN
3. Educate self-advocates about Supported Decision Making

❖ **Priority 2: Improve Access to Services and Supports**

○ **Focus: Accessible Medical Care and Resources**

1. Advocate for more accessible medical offices
2. Advocate for timely, reliable information in Plain Language
3. Accountability and open communication

○ **Focus: Accessible Transportation Services**

1. Increase disability participation on Transportation Boards
2. Create trainings about the needs of people with disabilities
3. Future projects/collaborations with CalTrans
4. Increase access to rideshare services
 - Collaborate with Uber/Lyft for better access

❖ **Priority 3: Improve Access to Competitive Integrated Employment**

○ **Focus: Training**

1. Training Job Coaches on Self-Advocacy
2. Train Employers
 - Tax Credit
 - People with Disabilities want to work
3. Find out what people need help with
 - Provide Resources
4. Finding/Building Your Skills
5. How to get a job with the State
6. Building a Resume
7. Collaboration with UC Davis MIND Institute

○ **Focus: Building Awareness**

1. Legislative Efforts (Changing Laws)
2. Sharing Stories/Lived Experiences
3. Mentorship Programs
4. Inclusive Hiring and Retention Practices

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

**AGENDA ITEM 9
INFORMATION ITEM**

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

Reviewing Web Accessibility of GOV.CA.GOV

Subsection 4 D of Section 2 E of the Council Bylaws allows SAAC to review training materials, resources, policies, programs, and issues affecting self-advocates in California. The SAAC has been asked to provide feedback on the accessibility of the '[Contact Us Page](#)' for the Governor's Office webpage.

Members are encouraged to explore this page ahead of time and come prepared to share their feedback. Staff will provide a demonstration of the webpage for committee members and collect their feedback to send to the Governor's Office.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 10

INFORMATION ITEM

**SELF ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

NACDD Self-Advocates Committee Update

The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) has the Self-Advocates Committee (SAC) which consists of members who have disabilities from across the 56 states and territories of the United States of America. This agenda item is intended to give members a chance to learn about the work of the NACDD SAC.

At the most recent meeting, members were asked to share their thoughts on the importance of participating in the voting process. SAC members were asked to get feedback from their states/territories on the importance of participating in the voting process. The SAC will include this feedback in a statement issued by the committee on the importance of participating in the voting process. Please take some time to reflect on the importance of voting and be prepared to share your thoughts during this agenda item.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 11

INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCDD Regional Office Highlight: North Valley Hills

The SCDD Regional Office highlight is intended to increase the Committee's awareness of the important advocacy work done by SCDD staff throughout California. This month will highlight the work that the North Valley Hills Regional Office does to support the self-advocates in their 5 counties. Dena Hernandez, Regional Office Manager for the North Valley Hills Regional Office will share an overview of the work that the regional office staff has been doing to support self-advocacy in the region.

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

AGENDA ITEM 12

INFORMATION ITEM

**SELF ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Adjournment

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

THIS PAGE IS INTENTIONALLY BLANK