



NOTICE/AGENDA

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

This meeting is being held via teleconference within the meaning of Government Code section 11123.2. Members may be physically present at one or more teleconference locations. There may be members of the public body who are participating in today's meeting that were granted a reasonable accommodation per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Accessible formats of all agenda and materials can be found online www.scdd.ca.gov.

Physical Location

SCDD Los Angeles Regional Office
411 N. Central Avenue, Suite 620
Glendale, CA 91203

Join by Zoom:

<https://bit.ly/SCDD2026SAAC>

TELECONFERENCE: (669) 900-9128

MEETING ID: 889 3643 6383

MEETING PASSWORD: 948611

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

POSTED AT: www.scdd.ca.gov

DATE: January 20, 2026

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

COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Sascha Bittner

Item 1. CALL TO ORDER/ ESTABLISH QUORUM

Item 2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Item 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Additionally, up to five (5) minutes will be set aside to give members of the public the opportunity to comment on each agenda item, with each person being allowed up to one (1) minute to speak.

Item 4. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 17, 2025, MINUTES Page 5



Item 5. SELF-ADVOCACY GOALS FOR 2026 Page 11

Item 6. OVERVIEW OF ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER

Presented by: Rebecca Donabed: Community Organizer,
Resources for Independence Central Vally

**Item 7. OVERVIEW OF THE SELF-ADVOCATES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC)**

**Item 8. FEEDBACK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)**

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Presented by: Representatives from the California
Department of Developmental Services

Item 9. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPORT

Presented by: Councilmember Eric Aguilar

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Item 10. COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Local advocacy updates

B. Local and regional issues

Item 11. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2026

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.

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

JANUARY 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 4.

ACTION ITEM

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

Approval of November 17, 2025 Minutes

The draft minutes from the November 17, 2025, SAAC meeting are included in the January meeting packet for your review. Committee members will have the chance to vote to approve the minutes and suggest changes.

Action Recommended

Approve the minutes from the November 17, 2025, SAAC meeting

Attachment

- November 17, 2025, SAAC Minutes

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**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) MEETING
MINUTES
November 17, 2025**

Members Present

Eric Aguilar (SA)
Sasha Bitner (SA)
Julie Gaona (SA)
Sonia Jones (SA)
Nestor Nieves (SA)
Michelle Padilla (SA)
Kara Ponton (SA)
Rosie Ryan (SA)

Members Absent

Nicole Adler (SA)
Azucena Garcia-Ferro (SA)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
David Delgado
Riana Hardin
Brian Hoang
Barbara Imle
Robin Maitino-Erben
Austin Murphy
Charles Nguyen
Nicole Patterson
Tina Reszler
DJ Tomko

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Kara Ponton called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves by sharing their favorite holiday traditions. Traditions shared included spending time with friends and family, eating tamales, and volunteering.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was established.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

5. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2025, MINUTES

Members reviewed the September 29, 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes can be found on page 7 of the January 2026 SAAC meeting packet.

ACTION 1

It was moved and seconded (Bittner [SA]/Gaona [SA]) and carried to approve the September 29, 2025, minutes as presented. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and it passed.

6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided the committee with a detailed update on agency-wide, statewide, and national efforts and projects. This agenda item included an overview of the Council agenda, the state budget process, and federal impacts on the agency's budget. The Governor will release the proposed state budget on January 10th. The agency was able to use reserve funds during the federal shutdown and will be reimbursed now that the government is open. The agency has developed a draft 5-year state plan and has been gathering feedback from the community about the agency's focus for the next five (5) years. Once the plan is approved by the Council, there will be a 45-day public comment period for members of the public to provide feedback on the plan. Executive Director Carruthers has been traveling throughout the state to visit Councilmembers in their communities.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

DRAFT

7. STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) REPRESENTATIVE

Riana Hardin, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, provided members with a summary of the September SSAN meeting. The September SSAN meeting was held over Zoom on September 3 and 4. A full summary of the meeting is included in the September SAAC and Council packets.

Members discussed the need for a new SCDD representative to SSAN since Councilmember Ryan's term on the Council is ending.

ACTION 2

Councilmember Kara Ponton [SA] nominated Councilmember Eric Aguilar to be the SCDD SSAN Representative and Council Chair Julie Gaona [SA] seconded the nomination. All members present voted in favor of the motion, and it passed.

8. REFLECTIONS O SAAC IMPACT IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Riana Hardin, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator provided an overview of the role of the SAAC within the Council structure. Members were invited to share self-advocacy-related work that they have been doing during the past year.

Members shared examples of their self-advocacy work in their communities. One member shared their work with a self-advocacy theater troupe that teaches self-advocates about issues that affect their lives. Another member shared their work with various advocacy groups and committees. Members also shared that they participated in advocacy efforts to protect Medicaid and other disability supports and services.

9. SERVICE DELIVERY CODE WEBSITE PROJECT UPDATES

Charles Nguyen, SCDD Information Technology Associate, shared recent updates to the new searchable website for service delivery codes. Members were invited to provide feedback on the tool.

Suggested changes included: increasing the font size, make the "select topic" option more visible, and making it easier to sort services available

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

Page 3

DRAFT

by Regional Center. Members were encouraged to send additional feedback to Riana.Hardin@scdd.ca.gov.

10. NACDD LEADERS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCES (LLE) UPDATE

Riana Hardin, SCDD Self-Advocacy Coordinator, provided members with an update on the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD) LLE Committee meeting held September 9, 2025. The meeting included a recap of the first network-wide informal chat space. The Committee is developing an electronic form to collect stories about a wide variety of issues that affect the lives of leaders with lived experiences.

The LLE Committee is collaborating with the Public Policy Committee to create a resource that highlights the importance of accessible voting options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). Information about the next meeting will be shared with committee members when it becomes available.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate

FA = Family Advocate

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JANUARY 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.

DISCUSSION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Self-Advocacy Goals for 2026

The start of a new year provides an opportunity to think about goals for the year ahead. Members will have 3-5 minutes to share what they hope to accomplish as a member of this committee. To prepare for this item, think about:

- A. Advocacy-related goals you would like to accomplish through your individual efforts
- B. Advocacy-related goals you would like to accomplish while working with the committee
- C. Types of agenda items they would like to see at future meetings

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JANUARY 20, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 6.

INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

ROBERT'S RULES 101

Rebecca Donabed, SSAN Chair and Community Organizer for Resources for Independence Central Valley will provide members with an overview of Roberts' Rules of Order.

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JANUARY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Overview of the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC)

This agenda item will give members an overview of the role of the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) within the Council's structure. We will review the committee description outlined in the Council's bylaws.

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JANUARY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

FEEDBACK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is currently looking for feedback from the community regarding remote services. DDS would like to know your experience participating in remote Individual Program Plan (IPP) and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings. This is your opportunity to share your experience with DDS.

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JANUARY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 9.
INFORMATION ITEM

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

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Report

Councilmember Eric Aguilar will provide the committee with an update on Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) activities and accomplishments. He will review the summary of the December SSAN meeting, the 24/25 SSAN annual report.

Attachments

- Summary of December SSAN meetings
- 2024-2025 SSAN annual report

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December 15, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 9.

INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Summary of December 2025 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

SSAN Meeting Date and Location: The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) held virtual meetings on December 10 & 11, 2025, over Zoom.

Summary of Meeting:

Day one began with a moment of silence for Alice Wong, a Bay Area disability rights activist who passed away. Following the moment of silence, members provided updates on local self-advocacy efforts and their favorite holiday traditions. Highlights of advocacy efforts included: hosting trainings; meeting with elected officials to advocate for issues important to the disability community; participating in Master Plan on Developmental Services implementation efforts; serving on panels; and attending regional center board meetings. Favorite holiday traditions mentioned included: spending time with friends and family; attending holiday celebrations; shopping, and cooking seasonal holiday foods, such as tamales and latkes.

Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director, provided members with an update on SCDD activity since the September Meeting. This update included changes to MediCal and CalFresh, as well as the development of SCDD's next 5-year State Plan. Starting in January 2026, CalFresh will have additional work requirements, but people with disabilities should be able to qualify for exemptions. Changes to MediCal are delayed until 2027. Members were encouraged to review the proposed plan and provide comments using the [SCDD State Plan Public Comment Survey](#).

Chris Arroyo, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, presented the fourth and final segment of the Systemic Advocacy Leadership Academy (SALA) training for SSAN members. This item covered how ideas become laws and the different ways advocates can participate in the process. Members of the public can work with an organization or directly with their elected officials to submit ideas for legislation, share their lived experiences by writing letters, calling their elected officials, and/or providing testimony during hearings.

Jennifer Lucas, SCDD Regional Manager, Central Coast Office and Yolanda Cruz, SCDD Regional Manager, San Diego and Imperial Office, provided a sensory-friendly emergency preparedness training. This agenda item reviewed the eight senses that people experience and explained why some people may experience sensory overload during an emergency.

December 15, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 9.

INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Summary of December 2025 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

Ideas to prevent or reduce sensory overload included, having access to communication supports; creating sensory-friendly kits with items like ear plugs and fidgets; providing extra time for people to process information; and training emergency response staff on disability awareness.

Day one ended with members sharing their favorite parts of the day.

Day two began with members sharing their hopes for the new year. Hopes and resolutions included: prioritizing mental and physical health, improving work-life balance, meeting new people, and advocating for positive change in their communities.

Members reflected on the year's accomplishments highlighted in the SSAN Annual Report. During the 2024-2025 federal fiscal year, members used information from SSAN meetings to create and host leadership trainings, speak at conferences and events, and partnered with regional offices to provide training and outreach. Other accomplishments included SSAN hosting 3 virtual webinars over the year and publishing quarterly newsletters.

Members discussed the challenges of participating in SSAN meetings and other self-advocacy activities while managing life demands, such as attending medical appointments, maintaining their health, meeting personal and work-related obligations, and dealing with Zoom fatigue. Members highlighted the importance of ensuring members and attendees feel included at meetings, which can be hard to accomplish in virtual settings. Some members reported preferring the convenience of online meetings, while others preferred in-person meetings for better collaboration and networking. Overall, members expressed the need for future meetings to be flexible and accommodate both in-person and virtual participation.

Ellen Sweigert, SSAN Secretary and North Bay Regional Representative provided a presentation on the different types of advocates. The presentation provided definitions, approaches, and tools used by individual focused advocates, self-advocate ambassadors, community self-advocates, nonprofit advocates, and self-advocate peer leaders. Members shared which type of advocate they identify as, and several members noted that they identified with multiple types, depending on the situation.

December 15, 2025

AGENDA ITEM 9.

INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Summary of December 2025 Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) Meeting

Ellen Sweigert, SSAN Secretary and North Bay Regional Representative, along with Executive Director of North Bay Regional Center, Gabriel Rogin, led a conversation about how SSAN members can collaborate with regional centers. Ideas included sharing SSAN materials and newsletters with regional centers, reaching out to regional center client information specialists, and maintaining a list of specialists for each regional center. Gabriel also encouraged SSAN to put together a list of ways regional centers can support SSAN that he can share with regional center leaders.

Visit the [SSAN Page](#) on the SCDD website for updates on meeting dates and group activities.

Actions Taken

- Approved September 2025 Meeting Minutes

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2024 – 2025
The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



SSAN ANNUAL REPORT

THE STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK

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About SCDD

The California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) is established by state law (the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, or Lanterman Act) and federal laws (the Developmental Disabilities Assistance or DD Act, and Bill of Rights Act of 2000) 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 in the DD Act.

SCDD is committed to advancing self-advocacy efforts in California and designated self-advocacy as the focus of its first goal in the 2022-2026 five-year state plan. SCDD established the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN) in 2012 to meet its commitment to support and strengthen an organization led by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, which develops and promotes leadership skills and expands participation in cross-disability coalitions.

By supporting SSAN, SCDD aims to: 1) train self-advocates throughout California to advocate for their civil and service rights; 2) advance meaningful participation and integration of self-advocates in their chosen communities; and 3) encourage and support SSAN members to become leaders in their local communities and across the state.

About SSAN

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

Vision Statement

SSAN is a 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 local regions and across the state
- Speak up with and for people with all kinds of disabilities
- Learn about and advocate for issues important to all people with disabilities
- Collaborate and organize with other regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks
- Help the Self-Advocacy movement in California grow by training self-advocates in their communities
- Share information about programs, resources, and support available for people with disabilities

Agency Connections

[California State Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) (SCDD)

[California Department of Developmental Services](#) (DDS)

[California Foundation for Independent Living Centers](#) (CFILC)

[Association of Regional Center Agencies](#) (ARCA)

[Disability Rights California](#) (DRC)

California University Centers on Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs)

[UCLA Tarjan Center](#)

[USC Children's Hospital](#)

[UC Davis MIND Institute](#)

SSAN Members (Roster) 2024–2025

Regional Representatives:

North Coast Region – Sonya Force

North State Region – Vacant

Sacramento Region – Lisa Cooley

North Bay Region – Ellen Sweigert

Bay Area Region – Sara Desumala

North Valley Hills Region – Robert Balderama & Crystal Enyeart

Central Coast Region – Daniel Stickley

Sequoia Region – Rebecca Donabed

Los Angeles Region – Julie Gaona

Orange County Region – Sean Sullivan

San Bernardino Region – Eric Aguilar

San Diego Imperial Region – Viri Salgado

Agency Representatives:

Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA) – Desiree Boykin

California Foundation of Independent Living Centers (CFILC) – Russell Dawson-Rawlings

Department of Developmental Services (DDS) – Nicole Patterson

Disability Organizing DO Network – Rebecca Donabed

Disability Rights California (DRC) – Scott Barron

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) – Rosie Ryan

University Centers on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDDs):

- 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 take this opportunity to thank you, our fellow SSAN members, for voting for us as your leaders during such a challenging time.

To be a leader means to be patient, have a sense of responsibility, and to be a motivational public speaker. Leaders serve as inspirations and role models for others. Leaders should also be humble, kind, and willing to share their experiences and include others in their efforts. These are just a few thoughts that came up during the transition meeting with the 2022-2024 leaders.

Developing leadership skills is an important part of strengthening self-advocacy. Leaders can use their platforms to highlight issues members are experiencing and to share resources and information about what is happening in their communities. Building leadership skills help advocates to develop confidence, and become consistent, relatable, and reliable leaders who can motivate others. We are honored to have this opportunity to apply the skills we have developed over the years so we can help lead this network.

Here are key areas we would like to focus on in order to grow SSAN over the next two (2) years:

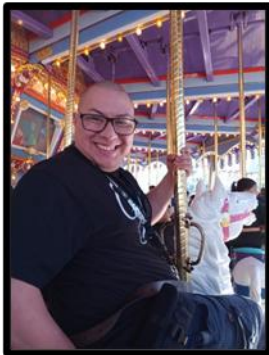
- Expand SSAN to become a true cross-disability network
- Encourage members to advocate for themselves and communities
- Develop knowledge of advocacy tools
- Increase outreach and awareness of SSAN
- Promote mentorship and sharing of responsibilities
- Explore new ways for members to engage locally
- Inspire and train new leaders
- Connect with and educate the younger generations about the self-advocacy movement

Thank you again for trusting us to be the elected leaders of SSAN. We look forward to working with you to strengthen and expand the self-advocacy movement in California. We hope you will join us.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Donabed, SSAN Chair



Eric Aguilar, SSAN Vice-Chair



Ellen Sweigert, SSAN Secretary

2024–2025 Meeting Highlights

SSAN held four (4) meetings between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, using the Zoom platform. Highlights from meetings include:

Organizational Practices:

- Elected the 2025-2026 Leadership Team
- Continued work on organizing virtual events and publishing the quarterly newsletter

Training:

- Systemic Advocacy Leadership Academy (SALA) (SCDD)
- Emergency Preparedness (SSAN Member)
- Medical Advocacy (SSAN Member)
- History of Self-Advocacy (SSAN Member)
- What's Your Platform (SSAN Member)

Provided feedback to:

- SCDD's 5-Year State Plan Development Survey
- Regional Center Service Delivery Code Project

Updated systems change efforts and programs:

- SCDD-supported legislation and
- SCDD agency updates

Discussions/Conversations:

- The Future of SSAN

2024–2025 SSAN Approved Materials and Member Projects

Content Created and Reviewed

- 2023-2024 SSAN Annual Report
- Four (4) editions of the Voices of SSAN newsletter
- Three (3) webinar recordings
- Minutes from four (4) SSAN meetings

Projects and Collaborations

- SSAN NDEAM 2024 event (Zoom Webinar)
- SSAN Developmental Disability 2025 Awareness event (Zoom Webinar)
- SSAN ADA 2025 celebration event (Zoom Webinar)
- 2025 UCLA Leadership Academy
- California's Master Plan on Developmental Services
- Training regional transportation agencies
- Training on voting accessibility
- DO Network Outreach and Training Activities
- Disability Vote California
- Participated in SCDD Disability Expert Advisory Panels (DEAPs)

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.

Topics of Member Presentations and Projects:

- Leadership
- Self-Advocacy
- Self-Determination
- Emergency Preparedness
- Healthy Relationships
- Conversations with Medical Students

2024–2025 Member Highlights

SSAN members participate in coalitions, Boards and Planning committees throughout California along with providing self-advocates, family advocates and others with training related to increasing self-advocacy and access to community support.

Highlights from members during the 2024 – 2025 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
 - California Statewide Self-Advocacy Conference (In-Person)
 - California Supported Life Institute Conference (In-Person)
 - Regional Self-Advocacy chats (Virtual)
- Serving on IHSS Public Authority, transportation boards, People First groups
- Sharing their stories with Legislators in support of legislative efforts
- Working with regional centers on Coordinated Future Planning Taskforces
- Delivering training with SCDD Regional Offices
- Assisting SCDD with distributing personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Educating and informing their communities about SSAN
- Providing presentations on the Self-Determination Program
- Participating in ‘Advocacy Days’ with the Arc of California

Measuring the Impact of SSAN

In October 2024, over 150 people registered and over 30 people attended SSAN's second virtual event recognizing National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) "Access to Good Jobs for People with Disabilities: Resources and Supports for Your Future". Attendees appreciated hearing from representatives from the Department of Rehabilitations, Progressive Employment Concepts, and Resources for Independence Central Valley about resources available to help in the search for employment.

In March 2025, over 650 people registered and over 100 people attended SSAN's second Developmental Disability Awareness Month event called "The Choices We Make Together: Understanding Limited Conservatorships and Less Restrictive Alternatives". The event included presentations from Disability Rights California (DRC), the UC Davis MIND Institute, CalABLE, as well as SSAN members who shared their experiences using different support tools.

In July 2025, SSAN hosted its first virtual event celebrating Disability Pride Month. The title of the event was "Still Rising: 35 Years of Disability Rights and Pride". The event featured a combination of video clips, reflections, and discussions. Videos shown included "History of Our Community", "Do Disabled People Really Have the Same Rights?", and "PBS Medicaid Cuts". Over 70 people registered for and over 60 attended the event. It was a great success. People appreciated the chance to learn about the organizing efforts of the disability rights movement.

Planning for the Future

A common theme brought up in 2024-2025 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:

Get connected

- Outreach to regional centers, independent living centers and self-advocacy groups
- Expand connections with other groups with diverse identities and needs
- Increase collaboration to explore solutions to problems

Create new resources

- Increase the number of plain-language and easy read resources
- Develop more one-pagers and tip sheets
- Restructure workgroups to focus on short-term projects
- Train more advocates about their rights, services they are entitled to, and the importance of voting

Expand topics of presentations and training materials

- Employment options and resources
- Accessibility of public transportation
- Accessibility of medical offices and hospitals
- Affordable and accessible homes

Increase interest and activate more advocates

- Connect with the next generation through social media, storytelling, and mentorship
- Discover new, creative and effective ways that advocates can get involved
- Host community engagement events



California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
3831 North Freeway Blvd. Suite 125
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 263-7919

JANUARY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 10.
INFORMATION ITEM

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

Community Updates

This agenda item will provide members with the chance to share updates on advocacy efforts and any new or existing issues related to services and support for people with disabilities. Here are some ideas on what to share during this item include:

- A. Self-advocacy related updates from other advocacy committees and groups
- B. Local and regional issues

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JANUARY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 11.
INFORMATION ITEM

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

Adjournment

The next committee meeting will be held virtually over Zoom and is scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2026.

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