



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 Headquarters Office
3831 North Freeway Blvd., Suite 125
Sacramento, CA 95834

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: July 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 MAY 18, 2026, MINUTES Page 5



Item 5. SCDD POLICY PLATFORM UPDATES

Presented by: Chris Arroyo, Deputy Director Policy and Public Affairs

Item 6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

Presented by: Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director

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

**Item 7. DISABILITY RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN CALIFORNIA:
THEN AND NOW**

Presented by: Sascha Bittner, SAAC Committee Chair

A. Important Moments in the Disability Rights Movement
in California

B. Future of Disability Rights Movement in California

Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: Monday, September 28, 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.

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JULY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 4.
ACTION ITEM

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

Approval of May 18, 2026 Minutes

The draft minutes from the May 18, 2026, SAAC meeting are included in the July 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 May 18, 2026, SAAC meeting

Attachment

- May 18, 2026, SAAC Minutes

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**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) MEETING
MINUTES
May 27, 2026**

Members Present

Sascha Bittner (SA)
Julie Gaona (SA)
Sonia Jones (SA)
Michelle Padilla (SA)
Kara Ponton (SA)
Nestor Nieves (SA)

Members Absent

Eric Aguilar (SA)
Azucena Garcia-Ferro (SA)
Rosie Ryan (SA)

Others Attending

Rihana Ahmad
Chris Arroyo
Aaron Carruthers
David Delgado
Riana Hardin
Brian Hoang
Barbara Imle
Patricia Jackson
Austin Murphy
Robin Maitino-Erben
Charles Nguyen
DJ Tomko
“Gina” Julie’s Aide

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Sascha Bittner called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Members introduced themselves and those around them and shared what they want others to know about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their comments included: people with disabilities are often more capable than they are given credit for; people with I/DD can live their best lives possible; sometimes they may say yes when their body wants to say no; they shouldn’t give up and that it is

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate FA = Family Advocate

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okay to ask for help; they have a desire to help others when their disability allows it; developmental disability is a broad term, and it is not a bad thing; and people should presume competence. During welcome and introductions, a quorum was established for the meeting.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dena Hernandez, Regional Manager – North Valley Hills Office shared that SCDD is hosting virtual themed month events. She is working on the July event, which is focused on Disability Pride and she wants to encourage members of SAAC and SSAN to join the planned panels. She will send an email out with details to those who are interested.

David Forderer shared that he was recently appointed to serve on the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) and looks forward to working with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and the Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC). He told the committee to let him know if there is anything that they need. He is here to help.

4. APPROVAL OF MARCH 23, 2026, MINUTES

Members reviewed the March 23, 2026, meeting minutes. The minutes can be found on page 7 of the May 2026 SAAC meeting packet.

ACTION 1

Padilla (SA) moved to approve the January 20, 2026, minutes as presented, and Ponton (SA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

5. PREPARATION FOR CAPITOL DAY

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided the committee with an overview of the plan for Capitol Day, which will happen the day before the May Council meeting. Council members will have the opportunity to participate in the California Disability Leadership Alliance (CDLA) Day of Action at the Capitol. The day will include participating in a gathering with disability advocates from across the state, followed by

Legend:

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visits with legislative staffers, and viewing legislative sessions. Members shared tips on how to talk to legislative staffers, and the importance of preparing a few brief talking points to cover. Issues members raised included: increasing California's revenues, access to healthcare services (especially in rural areas), the push to return to office for state workers, and Medicaid.

6. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided committee members with an overview of Council Business.

7. DISABILITY VOTE IN 2026

Committee Chair and Councilmember Sascha Bittner gave a presentation on the importance of the disability vote in the 2026 primary and midterm elections. The California statewide primary election is scheduled on June 2, 2026, and the midterm election is scheduled on November 3, 2026. Members were provided with tips and resources on how to learn about the issues and candidates on the ballot, to help them make informed decisions. Members shared helpful tools and voting options available to help people participate in the voting process.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 20, 2026.

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JULY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 5.
DISCUSSION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCDD Policy Platform Update

SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Chris Arroyo will provide the committee with an overview of recent updates to the SCDD Policy Platform recommended by the Legislative Public Policy Committee (LPPC). This agenda item will also include a brief state budget update.

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JULY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Review of Council Business

SCDD Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers will review Council business with the Committee. This item may include:

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

Materials related to this agenda item can be found in the Council packet.

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JULY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Disability Rights Movement in California: Then and Now

July 26, 2026 marks the 36th anniversary of the signing of the American's with Disabilities Act (ADA). Since the signing of the ADA on July 26, 1990, July has been recognized as Disability Pride Month, SAAC Chair Sascha Bittner will provide the committee with an overview history of the Disability Rights Movement in California and lead committee members in conversation about what the committee can do to advocate for strengthening disability rights protections.

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JULY 20, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM

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

Adjournment

The next committee meeting will be on Monday, September 28, 2026.

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