



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 N 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: November 21, 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 SEPTEMBER 21, 2026, MINUTES Page 5



Item 5. SCDD 2026 THEME MONTHS SAAC FEEDBACK Page 11

Presented by: David Dalgado, SCDD Branch Chief
Headquarters Operations

**Item 6. REFLECTION ON 2026 SAAC MEETINGS AND
SELF-ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES Page 13**

Presented by: David Dalgado, SCDD Branch Chief
Headquarters Operations

Item 7. DISCUSSION: VOTING AS A TOOL FOR CHANGE Page 15

Presented by: Committee Chair Sascha Bittner

Item 8. ADJOURNMENT

Next Meeting: TBD

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.

NOVEMBER 2, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 4.

ACTION ITEM

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

Approval of September 21, 2026 Minutes

The draft minutes from the September 21, 2026, SAAC meeting are included in the November 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 September 21, 2026, SAAC meeting

Attachment

- September 21, 2026, SAAC Minutes

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**SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAAC) MEETING
MINUTES
September 21, 2026**

Members Present

Eric Aguilar (SA)
Sascha Bittner (SA)
Sonia Jones (SA)
Michelle Padilla (SA)
Kara Ponton (SA)
Nestor Nieves (SA)

Members Absent

Azucena Garcia-Ferro (SA)
Julie Gaona (SA)

Others Attending

Tom Blyth
Aaron Carruthers
David Delgado
Riana Hardin
Dena Hernandez
Brian Hoang
Katie Hornberger
Micheal McNulty
Austin Murphy
Robin Maitino-Erben
Charles Nguyen
Jua Perez
Sam Wijesiriwardane

1. CALL TO ORDER

The September Self-Advocates Advisory Committee (SAAC) meeting was held virtually from the SCDD North Bay Office. Committee Chair Sascha Bittner called the meeting to order at 1:33 PM.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Chair Sascha Bittner welcomed members to the meeting and asked that roll call be taken to establish quorum. Due to the schedule of SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers, Review of Council Business was moved up on the agenda.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate FA = Family Advocate

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3. REVIEW OF COUNCIL BUSINESS

State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Executive Director, Aaron Carruthers provided the committee with an overview of the upcoming in-person meeting scheduled September 29, 2026. During the September Council meeting, Councilmembers will have the opportunity to nominate members for the position of chair and vice-chair. Only self-advocates and family advocates are eligible to be nominated and only one self-advocate and one family advocate can hold a leadership position at a time. Councilmembers will have the opportunity to vote on 2027 Legislative Policy Projects. Ahead of the meeting, Councilmembers will receive details about the closed session that is scheduled for the afternoon. Members requested that a scheduled email to be sent to Councilmembers who are eligible for a leadership position include an estimate of the time commitment for the roles. Members talked about the importance of community living and inclusion.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

5. APPROVAL OF JULY 20, 2026, MINUTES

Members reviewed the July 20, 2026, meeting minutes. The minutes can be found on page 7 of the September 2026 SAAC meeting packet.

ACTION 1

Kara Ponton (SA) moved to approve the July 18, 2026, minutes as presented, and Michelle Padilla (SA) seconded the motion. All members present voted in favor of the motion.

6. SAAC FEEDBACK ON THE NEWDDS GRIEVANCE PROCESS

Members had an opportunity to hear about upcoming updates to how the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) processes complaints. DDS Deputy Director, Community Assistance and Regulations Division, Katie Hornberger explained that the new process will replace the 4731 and citizen's complaint process. The new complaint process will go live on February 1, 2027. The new process

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was developed in response to the federal CMS Access rule and will provide people with faster response times. People can email grievance.process@dds.ca.gov with questions about the new grievance process. For questions about the current process, please emailappeals@dds.ca.gov. A recording of the presentation from DDS will be posted on the DDS website in the future. Grievance data will also be available publicly and be used to support regional centers. No changes are being made to the Early Start complaints, Lanterman Act appeals, or whistleblower complaints. Members raised concerns about the frequency of changes to service coordinators and if there will be a difference in how DDS will handle complaints from family members vs self-advocates.

7. NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH PRESENTATION AND TIPS

Committee member and Councilmember Eric Aguilar provided members with a presentation on emergency preparedness in honor of National Preparedness Month. The presentation included 4 steps to being prepared, along with tips and items to included in your emergency go bag like important documents. Members asked for advice about how to protect medication that needs to be refrigerated and how to advocate for yourself when you are in a building with multiple stories and have an access and/or functional need.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 P.M. Committee members agreed to move the next meeting to November 2, since the Committee Chair is unavailable on November 9th, 2026.

Legend:

SA = Self-Advocate FA = Family Advocate

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NOVEMBER 2, 2026

AGENDA ITEM 5.

DISCUSSION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SCDD 2026 Theme Months SAAC Feedback

In 2026 SCDD launched an agency wide effort to provide statewide trainings and resources to Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) their families, professionals and community members. SCDD Branch Chief of Headquarters Operations, David Delgado, will provide a demonstration of the landing page for SCDD's National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) activities. Some questions to consider leading up to this agenda item:

- Did you participate in any of the theme months activities?
- Do you have any ideas on how to make the theme month pages more accessible?
- Do you have any ideas on activities that the agency should change or add for their 2027 activities?

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NOVEMBER 2, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 6.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Reflections on 2026 SAAC Meetings and Self-Advocacy Activities

This agenda item will provide committee members with the opportunity to reflect on the 2026 SAAC meetings and share any reflections that they might have on the topics and content of the meetings. SCDD Branch Chief, Headquarters Operations David Delgado will facilitate a conversation to collect any reflections that members might have on how participating in SCDD activities over the last year has impacted their awareness of and participation in advocacy activities.

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AGENDA ITEM 7.
INFORMATION ITEM

SELF-ADVOCATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Discussion: Voting as a Tool for Change

There are many different ways to participate in the voting process. This agenda item will provide members with the opportunity to share their reflections on the voting process and tips on how to prepare to vote. This agenda item is intended to provide an opportunity for a non-partisan conversation and not intended to endorse a candidate or ballot measure.

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NOVEMBER 2, 2026
AGENDA ITEM 8.
INFORMATION ITEM

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

Adjournment

The next committee meeting will be on in January 2027. The date will be shared soon.

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