

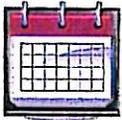


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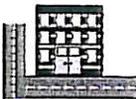
STATEWIDE SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK MEETING INFORMATION



DATE: Wednesday, December 2, 2015
Thursday, December 3, 2015



TIME: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



WHERE: Hawthorne Suites
321 Bercut Drive
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 441-1200

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 the meeting, should contact Dena M. Hernandez at State Council on Developmental Disabilities, North Valley Hills Office 2529 W. March Lane Suite 105 Stockton, CA 95207 or by phone: 209-473-6930 or e-mail: dena.hernandez@scdd.ca.gov. Requests must be received by 5 pm, on Wednesday, November 25, 2015.



AGENDA FOR DAY 1

December 2, 2015
10:00am-5:00pm



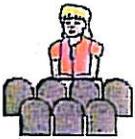
Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson
Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair
Desiree Boykin, Secretary



Review and Approval of Agenda

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson
ACTION



Public Comment

Public comment is welcome. Comment on agenda items is taken as they are discussed.



Review and Approval of Minutes September 2015

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson
ACTION



Work and Social Security Benefits

Mayra Fernandez, Crossroads Diversified Services



Voting

Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial Representative



SSAN Annual Report

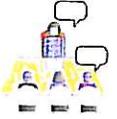


Lunch – 90 minutes on your own



Member Action Reports

- a. Desiree Boykin, Purpose of Reports
- b. Paul Mansell, Monthly Activity Logs



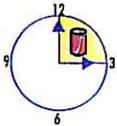
SCDD SAAC Report

David Forderer



SCDD Employment First Committee (EFC) Update

Kecia Weller, Employment First Committee Chairperson
Discussion



Quick Break



Workgroups Meet and Report back with Action Plans ACTION



SCDD Update

Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director



5:00 pm Adjourn



AGENDA FOR DAY 2

December 3, 2015

9:30am-3:00pm



Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson
Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair
Desiree Boykin, Secretary



Review of Agenda

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson
Discussion



Public Comment

Public comment is welcome. Comment on agenda items is taken as they are discussed.



Legislative Update

Bob Giovati, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Planning
Nelly Nieblas, SCDD Legislation and Communication Manager



Pacific Alliance on Disability Self Advocacy Update

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson



Memo of Understanding (MOU) and Bylaws

David Forderer, MOU Committee Chair
Cheryl Hewitt, MOU Co-Chair
Small Group Discussions



Lunch – 90 minutes.

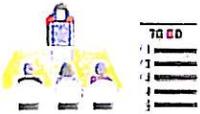


Memo of Understanding (MOU) Continued

David Forderer, MOU Committee Chair

Cheryl Hewitt, MOU Co-Chair

Small Group Discussions



Review Member Action Plans/Assignments

SSAN Officers



Input for next SSAN Meeting

ALL



3:00pm Adjourn



Statewide Self Advocacy Network
Meeting Minutes
September 23-24, 2015
Hawthorne Suites, Sacramento

<p><u>SCDD Regional Office Members in attendance</u></p> <p>Charles Adams- North Coast Robert Balderama-North Valley Hills Lisa Cooley- Sacramento Rebecca Donabed- Sequoia Thomas Forderer- SCDD Julie Gaona- Los Angeles Ramon Hernandez-Central Coast Cheryl Hewitt- Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Charles Horne-Nutt- North State Arman Khodaei- San Bernardino Paul Mansell- San Diego- Imperial Regina Woodliff-Bay Area</p> <p><u>Agency Members in attendance</u></p> <p>Desiree Boykin- ARCA Robert Levy-Mind Institute Joe Meadours- People First of California</p> <p><u>Members not in attendance</u></p> <p>Ted Jackson- CFILC representative Kyle Minnis- Orange County Nicole Patterson- DDS Kecia Weller- Trajan Center</p>	<p><u>SCDD Staff in attendance</u></p> <p>Sonya Bingaman-Sacramento (Day 1 only) Dena Hernandez- North Valley Hills/HQ George Lewis- North Valley Hills Sarah May- North State Dawn Morley- North Coast Mary Agnes Nolan- SCDD HQ Vicki Smith-San Bernardino/LA (Day 1 only) Mary Ellen Stives- San Diego-Imperial Ron Usac-Bay Area</p> <p><u>OTHERS PRESENT</u></p> <p><u>Non SCDD Facilitators</u></p> <p>Robin Rhoades (Day 1 only) Steve Ruder- US Davis Mind Institute Desiree (Julie Gaona's support person) Jana Chapman-Plon</p> <p><u>Guests & Speakers</u></p> <p>Amy Westling- ARCA (Day 1 only) Aaron Carruthers- SCDD Acting Executive Director (Day 1 only) Bob Giovati- SCDD (Day 2 only)</p>
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DAY 1

Call to Order, Welcome, Roll call, Introductions

Cheryl Hewitt, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Desiree Boykin took Roll Call and there was a quorum. There were 15 members in attendance. Cheryl welcomed three new members and gave them their first assignment as a SSAN Member. Charles Adams from North Coast was asked to give the minion award for member who participates the most at the meeting, Arman Khodaei from San Bernardino was asked to give out the Red Elmo award for the most presentations between meetings and Paul Mansell from San Diego –Imperial was asked to give the Winnie the Pooh award for the most interesting report.

Review and Approval of Agenda

ACTION: Motion #1 to approve by David Forderer/Second by Rebecca Donabed. Roll call vote taken and ALL members voted unanimously YES in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review and Approval of Minutes June 2015

ACTION: Motion #2 to approve the June minutes by Lisa Cooley/ Second by Rebecca Donabed. Roll call vote taken and ALL members voted YES in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

AGENCY MEMBER PRESENTATIONS

Robert Levy, UCEDD MIND Institute representative prepared and presented a power point presentation on services at the MIND Institute that includes the following: Distinguished Lecture Series; "Minds behind the Minds"; MIND Summer Series; Fiesta Educativa Sacramento; Adulthood & Transition; Social Skills Training Group Program; CAPTAIN. Robert also had a slide with a picture of himself with Temple Grandin who has autism.

Joe Meadours, PFCA Representative prepared and presented a power point presentation on what People First is. Joe is an advocacy trainer and explained their foundation, who they are, who they serve, their mission, the five principals of People First, what they are doing around the state, and how they do work similar to SSAN. There was discussion with members talking about the type of work SSAN members do with local People First chapters. PFCA has a board meeting this next week and will be talking about finding a speaker for the next gathering. They support Self-Determination and want to share more information. They recently received a grant from Pacific Alliance to help fill the vacant board seats.

Quick Break

Members were given a break. After the break, a few agenda items were moved up until the next presenter arrived.

SCDD SAAC Report

David Forderer presented his SCDD SAAC report that was included in the packet. David additionally provided information on the Pacific Alliance on Leadership Training he attended and talked about the NACDD Conference he attended.

SCDD Employment First Committee (EFC) Update

Lisa Cooley presented Kecia Weller's Employment First Committee report from the June 30, 2015 SCDD EFC meeting and went over the highlights of the meeting. The next EFC meeting will be on September 29, 2015.

Member Action Reports (early)

While waiting for the next presenter, Julie Gaona presented information provided by Nicole Patterson, DDS representative. Members watched a short video that DDS produced on Self-Determination and the video led to a discussion on Self Determination. Members also received the "Blueprint for Reform" handout that was also presented at our last meeting. Information was shared on the Sonoma Developmental Center Closure and surveys were handed out to members that were later collected by Julie to be given to Nicole. The DDS CAC is working on doing a new publication and wants feedback from self advocates throughout the state.

AGENCY MEMBER PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Desiree Boykin SSAN ARCA CAC representative introduced Amy Westling, Director of Policy who presented on the Nuts and Bolts of ARCA, explaining why they are needed, their purpose, how it works and what they do. ARCA staff research issues that impact the whole state or country. Each regional center gets a vote in ARCA and is represented by its Executive Director and a member of its Board of Directors. They work with state agencies like DDS on projects and recently worked on the Self-Determination Program and Medi-Cal services for children with autism. They work on bills to help individuals with developmental disabilities. They also work with the Legislators regarding the State Budget and explaining why programs for individuals with developmental disabilities need money.

Lunch Break

SSAN Annual Report / Member Action Reports

After lunch Cheryl referred members to the SSAN Annual report in the packet and advised members that it is time to do another one. Member Action Reports will help with the process and their information will be included in the new report.

Mary Agnes assisted in explaining. Cheryl handed out a copy of her report as an example to the members. Desiree assisted Cheryl with presenting it.

SCDD Update

Aaron Carruthers, SCDD Executive Director provided some information on Self Determination and led a discussion on what is currently occurring. Members shared their thoughts on the DDS process and felt that the current process isn't fair and doesn't make sense. There are also concerns that not enough people will have access to the DDS website to get more information. At Cheryl's request, Aaron Carruthers also provided members with information on what the group may develop in regards to the MOU. The MOU is about the relationship between SSAN and SCDD and needs to spell out what SSAN members are going to do and what the Council will provide.

Memo of Understanding (MOU) and Bylaws

David Forderer, MOU Committee Chair and Cheryl Hewitt, MOU Co-Chair led a discussion on the MOU and Bylaws. Cheryl explained she would like to amend the bylaws to have the existing officers continue in their current positions. There was a vote with a motion with discussion and due to some confusion Cheryl asked Mary Agnes to help explain part of the issue. Members voted

ACTION: Motion #3 to allow the current officers to remain until 2017 by David Forderer/ Second by Charles Horne-Nutt. Roll call vote taken and ALL members voted YES in favor of this motion with one NO vote. Motion passed.

Adjourn DAY 1

Prior to the meeting being adjourned there was a discussion that introductions at the beginning of the meeting would be helpful. The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm

SSAN DAY 2 Minutes

Call to Order, Welcome, Roll Call and Introductions

Cheryl Hewitt, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Desiree Boykin, Secretary provided roll call attendance. Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair led the introductions of all members and audience members. Happy Birthday wishes were shared for Joe Meadours.

Review and approve the Agenda

ACTION: Motion #4 to approve agenda by Charles Horne-Nutt/Second by Rebecca Donabed. Roll vote taken and ALL members voted unanimously YES in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Legislative Update

Bob Giovati, SCDD Deputy Director of Policy and Planning provided a legislative update and Regina handed out documents on current SCDD supported legislation and a sheet on legislative definitions. There was a discussion on what is happening with the 10% cut and Bob explained about the special session that is still going on although he doesn't expect anything to happen in the next few months. One member asked if it was time to embarrass our legislators since services are being affected. Some members are afraid that services may disappear and that is why they feel desperate. There was a discussion that being aggressive and embarrassing legislators does not get the outcomes that are wanted. Members were encouraged to continue to reach out to their legislators. SSAN would like to have a person trained to track the bills. Robert Balderama is willing to be trained by Bob Giovati.

Workgroups Meet

Individual Workgroups met and worked on updating the workgroup calendars and writing a half page information document to be included in the SSAN annual report of what was accomplished by the workgroup since October 1, 2014.

Workgroups Report back to SSAN with Action Plans

Workgroups reported on what they came up with for the annual report and calendar updates before leading into a discussion as a group on the MOU process. David Forderer started the discussion and gave background about what a MOU is and that this is the beginning of the process. Cheryl asked for suggestions of what people would like to have in the MOU.

Lunch & Recognition Awards-

Working Lunch After the lunch break the stuffed animal awards were distributed because some members had to leave. Awards were given:

Pooh – Member with the most interesting report. Paul Mansell picked Robert Balderama

Minion – Member who participated the most. Charles Adams picked David Forderer.

Red Elmo– Member who did the most presentations in between SSAN meetings – Arman Khodaei picked Lisa Cooley.

Employment Work Group Webinar Report

Lisa Cooley, North State Office Representative presented on the Employment workgroup webinar that she and Kecia Weller, Tarjan UCEDD representative presented on with Ted Jackson, CFILC representative through the DO Network.

Member Action Reports Continued from Day 1

Member action reports resumed from day 1. Members presented on the work that has been completed in the region they represent. DRC doesn't currently have a representative on SSAN but did send a copy of all the Clients Rights Advocates at each Regional Center listing their contact information.

Pacific Alliance Presentation

Charles Horne-Nutt, North State Office representative led the presentation with Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia Office representative, David Forderer, SCDD representative and Robert Levy, MIND Institute UCEDD representative. They talked about what they learned at the Pacific Alliance on Disability Self Advocacy leadership training that they attended in Seattle, Washington.

Review Member Action Plans/Assignments

SSAN Officers had passed about evaluations earlier in the day and used this time to collect them. Members will now record all activities for the next SSAN Report which will be for October 1, 2015-September 30, 2016.

Input for next SSAN Meeting

Due to people having to leave there was not an opportunity for input. SSAN Executive Committee will be working on the agenda for the next meeting and members were encouraged to send any ideas to Cheryl.

Cheryl adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by SCDD staff

DISABILITY IS ABILITY



CROSSROADS
Diversified Services

Receiving Social Security Benefits?
What happens if you chose to work?

Learn The Facts!

Presented by:

Mayra Fernandez

Community Work Incentives Coordinator
Workforce Development Division

CROSSROADS
Diversified Services



The MYTHS:

- If I go to work, I will lose my eligibility/entitlement to cash benefits
- If I go to work, I will lose my Medical and/or Medicare
- If I go to work and can't sustain employment because of my disability, I will not be able to get back on the benefits.
- Working will NOT positively impact my financial situation and/or quality of life.

The FACTS:

- There are employment supports that ensure you don't lose your cash benefits prematurely.
- There are Medical and Medicare programs designed especially for the working disabled.
- If you have to stop working because of your disability, you can re-instate your benefits without a new applications.
- Your financial situation and quality of life WILL Improve.

Did you know?

- You can earn up to \$59,892 this year (2015) and have Medi-Cal. Yes, with the Medi-Cal Working Disabled program, YOU CAN!
- You can continue to receive Medicare while employed.
- You may be able to keep Medi-Cal and/or Medicare along with your private health insurance.



Are You Excited Yet!?

Things to Remember:

- You always come out ahead by working.
- Working will not cause the premature termination of benefits.

Ready to Learn How to Increase Your Financial Independence by Working?

Let's DO IT! ☺

SSDI Employment Supports and Work Incentives

- Trial Work Period (TWP)
- Extended Period Of Eligibility (EPE)
- Grace Period
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs)
- Subsidies and Special Conditions
- Continuation of Medicare

Trial Work Period

- 9 month period.
- Earnings do not affect SSDI benefits.
- In 2015, a Trial Work Month will count when monthly gross earnings are at or over \$780.00.
- Trial Work Period months do not have to be consecutive.
- Is completed during a 60 month rolling period.

Questions?



Example of Trial Work Period

• Lulu secured part time employment earning \$925 per month. She began working in August of 2015. Assuming she continues to work at this level, when will her TWP begin? When will it End?

2015:	2016:
Aug: \$975 (TWP 1)	Jan: \$975 (TWP 6)
Sept: \$975 (TWP 2)	Feb: \$975 (TWP 7)
Oct: \$975 (TWP 3)	Mar: \$975 (TWP 8)
Nov: \$975 (TWP 4)	April: \$975 (TWP 9)
Dec: \$975 (TWP 5)	

Example of Trial Work Period:

Larry begins working as a landscaper in January of 2015. His monthly wages vary. The following have been his gross earnings from the time he started working:

January: \$580	May: \$300	September: \$500
February: \$770	June: \$900	October: \$700
March: \$800	July: \$950	November: \$870
April: \$870	August: \$925	December: \$600

- When did Larry's TWP begin? Has it ended?

I have completed my TWP, now what?

- **Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) Evaluation:**
 - In 2015, countable earnings of \$1,090 or more per month is SGA. (\$1800 for the blind)
 - If after your TWP, your earnings are above SGA, your benefit will be suspended.
 - SSA will consider:
 - Subsidies/Special Conditions
 - Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs)

****You can work and earn more than \$1090 and still keep your benefit if you have enough deductions to bring you under SGA.

How are IRWEs utilized?

Lulu is earning \$1200 per month.

Lulu has the following monthly expenses that are related to her disability and she needs in order to work:

- \$50- medications
- \$50- transportation
- \$70- service dog

Total: \$170

**Lulu's gross wages \$1200 - \$170
= \$1030 in Countable Earned Income**

Are Lulu's countable wages SGA?

Examples of IRWEs

- Transportation/Mileage Expenses/Driver Assistance
- Medical Equipment/Devices
- Work Related Equipment & Assistants
- Residential Modifications
- Routine Drugs/Medical Services

*****Expenses must be related to your disability on file, must be paid out of pocket by YOU, AND you must NEED the items purchased in order to work**

Subsidies and Special Conditions

If you receive: reduced production rate, frequent breaks, fewer job duties, receive job coaching, or any other accommodation you may qualify for an additional deduction:

Example: Lulu works 5 days a week, 7 hours a day at \$9 an hour. She has a job coach assisting her during 3 hours per day, every day. The job coach gets paid \$15 per hour.

How much of a deduction can SSA apply to Lulu's situation?



Subsidies and Special Conditions

• The amount of the subsidy is based on the employee's wages, not the job coach's salary

- Lulu's wages without subsidy:
 $7\text{ hrs per day} \times \$9\text{ per hour} = \$63\text{ per day}$
 $\$63\text{ per day} \times 5\text{ days per week} = \315
 $\$315\text{ per week} \times 4.33\text{ weeks in a month} =$

\$1363.95/month

Example of Job Coaching Deduction:

Lulu has a job coach assisting her during 3 hours per day, every day:

- $3\text{ hrs per day} \times \$9\text{ per hour} = \$27\text{ per day}$
- $\$27\text{ per day} \times 5\text{ days per week} = \135
- $\$135\text{ per week} \times 4.33\text{ weeks in a month} = \$584.55/\text{month}$

$\$1363.95\text{ of Lulu's wages} - \$584.55\text{ subsidy} =$
\$779.40 monthly countable income

What if I am Earning SGA?

- **Extended Period of Eligibility:**
- 36 consecutive month period. Begins the month after the conclusion of the Trial Work Period.
- If earnings fall below SGA during EPE, SSDI payments are resumed without completing a new application.

YAY!!!



...and you may utilize Grace Period:

- 3-month period of continued benefits
- Your cash benefits continue during this time even if your earnings are SGA.
- Grace Period can occur during EPE if you earn SGA at a later time...

CONFUSED? Let's Illustrate!

Grace Period Example:

- Lulu began working in January 2015 earning \$2000 per month.
- Her Trial Work Period begun In January, 2015
- Her Trial Work Period ended In September 2015 (9 months later)
- Because earnings are SGA after TWP, her grace period will take place during: **October, November and December 2015**

In other words, Lulu gets to keep her cash benefits for an entire year!

And there is MORE good news....

Are you ready!?



Extended Medicare Coverage

- Medicare is available for at least 93 months after the completion of TWP and SGA has been established.

YES, 93 months!

IS THIS GREAT, OR WHAT!?



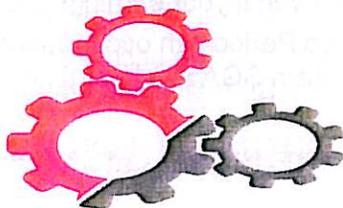
I know this could be confusing...

• QUESTIONS? Please ask



Okay, Now that we learned SSDI Work Incentives and Protections....

Let's Switch Gears



SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Employment Supports

- General and Earned Income Exclusions
- Impairment Related Work Expenses (IRWEs)
- Blind Work Expenses (BWEs)
- Plan to Achieve Self Sufficiency (PASS)
- Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)
- Medical 1619b

SSI Calculation

• SSI and earnings are calculated with a formula. These deductions are subtracted from the gross income to determine countable income:

- General Income Exclusion \$20.00
- Earned Income Exclusion \$65.00
- Subtract Student Earned Income Exclusion (if any)
- Subtract IRWE (if any)
- Divide remainder by two
- Deduct Blind Work Expenses (if any)

Example 1

Lulu is working and earning \$1085 per month in gross wages:

$$\begin{aligned} \$1085 - \$20(\text{general income exclusion}) &= \$1065 \\ \$1065 - \$65 (\text{earned income exclusion}) &= \$1000 \\ \$1000/2 &= \$500 (\text{countable Income}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\$889(\text{SSI Base Rate}) - \$500 = \$389 (\text{new SSI payment})$$

$$\underline{\text{Lulu's monthly Income: } \$389 + \$1085 = \$1474}$$

Example IRWEs

• Lulu is working and earning \$1085 per month. Lulu has the following monthly IRWEs:

- Transportation: \$50
- Medications: \$50
- Service animal: \$70
- Total: \$170 in IRWEs



Lulu's Finances with IRWEs:

$$\begin{aligned} \$1085 - \$20 &= \$1065 \\ \$1065 - \$65 &= \$1000 \\ \$1000 - \$170(\text{IRWEs}) &= \$830 \\ \$830/2 &= \$415 (\text{Countable income}) \\ \$889 - \$415 &= \$474 (\text{New SSI Payment}) \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Monthly Financial Outcome for Lulu: } \$474 + \$1085 = \$1559$$

She has \$670 more per month!



Blind Work Expenses (BWEs)



- BWE's are an SSI work incentive only
- BWE exclusions are subtracted after the division in the SSI Earned Income Calculation

Examples of BWE's:

- Payroll deductions including federal and state income taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, State Disability taxes
- Union dues
- Cost of meals purchased for consumption hours
- Transportation costs
- Adaptive technology
- Memberships in profession organizations
- Mandatory pension deductions



Are you Between the Ages of 16-22 and a Student?

SSI fully excludes the following income in 2015:

- Earnings up to \$1,780 per month
- Earnings not to exceed \$7,180 per year
- Earnings are calculated using the standard SSI earned income calculation

Let's Look at an Example

Student Earned Income Exclusion

Michelle is 20 and receives SSI in the amount of \$889 per month and recently started working as a receptionist where she earns \$2,000 per month. Michelle is also a student at American River College.

- $\$2,000 - \$1,780$ (SEIE) = \$220
- $\$220 - \$20 - \$65 = \135 Countable Earnings
- $\$135.00/2 = \67.50 Countable Income
- $\$889 - \$67.50 = \$821.50$ New SSI Payment

Income increases by \$1,932!!!!



Need money to accomplish your work goals?

Take advantage of the Plan to Achieve Self Support!

- Allows you to set aside \$\$\$ that would otherwise be deducted from your SSI payment.
- SSDI recipients can also utilize this work incentive



PASS Plan Deduction Example

- Lulu is working and earning \$1085/month.
- $\$1085 - \$20 - \$65 = \1000
- $\$1000 / 2 = \500

- \$500 is Lulu's countable income and the \$\$\$ that will be used for PASS.
- This leaves her with \$0 in countable income and a full SSI cash benefit of \$889

Calculation:

$\$1085$ (gross wages) + $\$889$ (SSI) = $\$1974$
 $\$1974 - \500 (PASS deduction) = $\$1474$ monthly



Questions?

Please ask ☺



How can a SSDI recipient utilize PASS?

- Example:
- Ryan receives a SSDI cash benefit of \$900 per month.
- Ryan wants to purchase an automobile that will increase his employability opportunities.
- Ryan can set aside his countable SSDI cash benefit
- Ryan will become eligible for a SSI cash benefit of \$889.

Is that **AMAZING**, or what!?



What can I use PASS plan for?

- Tuition, fees, books, and supplies
- Direct transportation costs related to direct travel
- Specialized clothing
- Supported employment
- Vocational training
- Non-reimbursed medical/counseling services

Examples of items that the PASS cannot cover

- Food, clothing (not related to job goal), shelter
- DMV fees, IRS fees

What will happen to my SSI linked Medical?

- Even if your SSI check stops due to earned income, you will keep your Medical under "1619(b) Extended Medicaid Coverage"
- There is no time limit to how long a person can remain eligible.
- You **must** continue to adhere to resource limits!
- As long as you keep your Medical under 1619(b), you will be listed in the Social Security system as an SSI recipient who is simply not getting a monthly check.
- **You are not suspended or terminated; you are just not in SSI cash payment status**

Resource Limits for SSI & 1619b Medical

- GROSS annual earned income less than the current state "threshold amount" of \$37,805; and
- Resources under the current limit of \$2,000 for an individual SSI recipient.

Monitor bank accounts closely!



So what if I am earning more than \$37,805/year? Will I lose Medical?

In 2015, you can CONTINUE to receive Medical and earn up to \$59,892.
YES! That is **NOT** a typo



250% Working Disabled Program

Eligibility:

- Must be employed
- Meet Social Security's medical definition of a disability
- Initially meet asset and income requirements
- IRS approved retirement accounts (IRA's, 401K, etc.) are NOT counted
- **A monthly premium is assessed based on countable earned income**
- Publicly funded disability benefits are NOT counted

Make an appointment with a Benefits Counselor to learn more!

Questions?

Please Ask 😊



**Okay, I am excited to go back to Work!
Who can help me find employment?**

- Ticket to Work: provides the services and supports needed to help you prepare, obtain and maintain paid employment



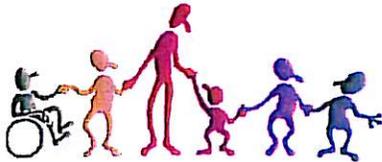
Benefits of the Ticket to Work:

- No medical review while ticket is in use
- The program is voluntary
- You are in charge!
- You select the Employment Network
- Employment Network works for you
- Flexibility to change Employment Networks if necessary



**For a list of Employment Networks
through Ticket to Work:**

Visit:
www.socialsecurity.gov/work



**Have Questions about
Work Incentive Planning and
Assistance?**

Make an appointment today to meet/speak with a
Community Work Incentive Coordinator:
1-800-936-4237



Work Incentives Planning & Assistance

Talk to a Benefits Planner & Learn About:

- SSI & SSDI Employment Supports that ensure you don't lose you cash benefits prematurely
- Work Incentives designed to help you reach your employment & educational goals
- Medicare programs available specifically for the Working Disabled
- SSI protections specially tailored for students between the ages of 16-22
- How you can qualify/retain Medi-Cal with yearly earnings of up to \$59,892
- How to effectively utilize your Ticket to Work



**Do You Receive Social Security Benefits?
Concerned About What Happens to Your Benefits When You Work?**

**Learn How You Can Increase Your Financial Independence by Calling:
1-866-936-4237**

Get the Facts!



For general information about the Ticket to Work and work incentives, call the Ticket to Work Help Line:
1866-968-7842(V) 866-833-2967(TTY)
M-F 8am-8pm Eastern Time

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Voting is speaking up for yourself.



Voting is taking pride in your country.



America is a democracy. Carry out your civic responsibility.



Government affects your rights, benefits and services.



Voting is being a role model.



Voting honors those in the armed services.



Statewide Self Advocacy Network
MEMBER ACTION REPORT
December 2-3, 2015



Member name: _____

Agency or Regional Office: _____

Please list the Counties you represent.

Please list the Regional Center (s) you represent with the names of the Client Rights Advocate (s) and Consumer Advocate(s).

Please list the ILC (s) located in the area you represent.

Please list the Legislators located in the area you represent.
(<http://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>)

Please list the trainings or work with any agencies or organizations you have done and say how many people attended.

Please list how many presentations or outreach activities (including emails and phone calls) with new self-advocates. Please list the number of self-advocates who attended or how many you talked to.

Please list any new resources you plan to share and bring copies to for other members.

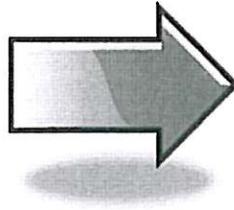
Please list ANY barriers to doing any SSAN work in your community.



DISABILITY ORGANIZING NETWORK ORGANIZER DIRECTORY

Network Staff		ILC	Program Title	Phone	EXT	Email
Angela Nwokie	Claremont (SCIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(909) 621-6722	206	angela@scil-ilc.org	
Arturo Nevarez	Downey (SCRS)	Systems Change Coordinator	(562) 862-6531		anevarez@scrs-ilc.org	
Brandon Young	Berkeley(CIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(510) 841-4776	3137	byoung@cilberkeley.org	
Chris Jensen	Sacramento (RIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(916) 446-3074	201	chrisj@ril-sacramento.org	
Cindy Calderon	Eureka (TILI)	Systems Change Advocate	(707) 445-8404		cynthia@tilinet.org	
Cynde Soto	Central Los Angeles (CALIF)	Systems Change Advocate	(213) 627-0477	205	cydsoto1@yahoo.com	
Dina Garcia	Central Los Angeles (CALIF)	Systems Change Advocate	(213) 627-0477	206	dgarcia@calif-ilc.org	
Dolores Tejada	Hayward (CRIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(510) 881-5743	21	dolores.tejada@crilhayward.org	
Fiona Hinze	San Francisco (ILRCSF)	Systems Change Coordinator	(415) 543-6222	106	fiona@ilrcsf.org	
Forest Harlan	Chico (ILSNC)	Systems Change Advocate	(530) 893-8527	130	forest.harlan@ilsnc.org	
Melissa Parker	San Bernardino (RSI)	Systems Change Advocate	(760) 949-7626	23	mparker@rollingstart.com	
George Sharp	Modesto (DRAIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(209) 521-7260	309	george@drail.org	
Anthony Acosta	San Bernardino (RSI)	Systems Change Advocate	(760) 949-7626	25	aacosta@rollingstart.com	
Will Taylor	Auburn (PIRS)	Systems Change Advocate	(530) 885-6100	15	wtaylor@pirs.org	
Jacob Lesner-Buxton	Santa Barbara (ILRC)	Systems Change Advocate	(805) 963-0595	105	jlesner@ilrc-trico.org	
Jeff Michaelson	West Los Angeles	Systems Change	(310) 390-3611	272	jeff@wcil.org	

	(WCIL)	Advocate			
Jenette Heitmann	Claremont (SCIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(626) 337-8868		jenette@scil-ilc.org
Jose Pena	Garden Grove (DMC)	Systems Change Advocate	(714) 621-3300		jpena@daylemc.org
Justin Harford	Nevada City (FREED)	Systems Change Advocate	(530) 477-3333	207	justinh@freed.org
Kurt Baldwin	Van Nuys (ILCSC)	Systems Change Advocate	(818) 785-6934	108	Kbaldwin@ilcsc.org
Leticia Vizcarra	San Diego (A2I)	Program Manager	(619) 293-3500	222	lvizcarra@a2isd.org
Maddy Ruvolo	Marin (MCIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(415) 459-6245		mcilmaddy@gmail.com
Maria Magna	Salinas (CCCIL)	Systems Change Advocate	(831) 757-2968		mmagana@cccil.org
Charity Tokash	Fresno (RICV)	Systems Change Advocate	(559) 221-2330		Ctokash@ricv.org
Mario Janesin	Riverside (CAC)	Systems Change Advocate	(951) 274-0358	104	scadvocate@ilcac.org
Mark Romoser	San Jose (SVILC)	Systems Change Advocate	(408) 894-9041		markr@svilc.org
Nancy Hall	Santa Rosa (DSLCL)	Systems Change Advocate	(707) 528-2745	304	nhall@sonic.net
Paul George	Santa Rosa (DSLCL)	Program Manager	(707) 528-2745	314	paul-dslc@sonic.net
Racquel Vega	San Diego (A2I)	Olmstead Community Organizer	(619) 293-3500		rvega@a2isd.org
Richard Hernandez	Long Beach (DRC)	Systems Change Advocate	(562) 427-1000	16	rhernandez@drcinc.org
Roger Acuna	Concord (ILRCCC)	Systems Change Advocate	(925) 363-7293	112	rogera@ilrsc.org
Ted Jackson	CFILC	Community Organizing Director	(916) 737-5337	337	ted@cfilc.org
Tracey Mensch	Bakersfield (ILCKC)	Systems Change Advocate	(661) 325-1063	36	tracey@ilcofkerncounty.org
Vincent Merola	San Mateo (CID)	Systems Change Advocate	(650) 645-1780	118	vincentm@cidsanmateo.org



Report from SCDD Meeting TO SSAN by David Forderer
Highlights from the December 1, 2015 Council Meeting in Sacramento

- My report will be provided in person since the next SAAC/Council meeting is on November 30 and December 1, 2015 which is the same week as the SSAN meeting.
- The SAAC meeting on November 30, 2015 will focus on Emergency Preparedness and we will be having a guest speaker from the Office of Emergency Services. I will provide copies of the handouts from the SAAC meeting at the SSAN meeting.
- The next SAAC/Council meeting is on January 19-20, 2015 in Sacramento



SCDD Employment First Committee
Report to the SSAN Meeting
December 2, 2015 - December 3, 2015
Kecia Weller



I last reported on the June 30, 2015 EFC meeting. Since that time the EFC met on September 29, 2015 and adopted the CECY policy priorities as their platform for the coming year.

EFC members prioritized 3 key elements which could be addressed through legislative action and legislative language.

- 1) Incentivize competitive integrated employment by increasing the rate for individual placements in supported employment programs.
- 2) California should commit to stopping new placement of individuals with I/DD in sheltered work and establishing bridge funding (transition funding) for sheltered work facilities to transition into competitive integrated employment.
- 3) Address the barrier in the trailer bill language prohibiting regional center day services for students 18 to 22 years old.

At the meeting, Amy Westling, ACRA representative, outlined the different funding structures that regional centers have to work with. There was an insightful discussion between the representatives from Department of Rehabilitation, Department of Developmental Services and Association of Regional Center Agencies of the different rules each agency must follow. The EFC agrees to incorporate the above priorities into legislative language that will be presented to the EFC as a whole and to be forwarded to the SCDD Legislative and Public Policy Committee.

The EFC will meet again on January 12, 2016



Employment Work Group Information for the Annual Report 2014-2015

SSAN established an Employment Workgroup in September 2014.

Members identified the Purpose, Goals and Objectives for the workgroup.

The Purpose is to educate people with disabilities about their rights for employment,

The Goal is to increase opportunities for people with disabilities to get meaningful and competitive employment.

The Objective is to do a webinar on the employment first power point and do 4 presentations to day programs. (1 presentation per member)

Since October 1, 2014 the group has accomplished the following:

- Met a total of 9 times to work on the power point and develop the materials for presentations.
- Presented the Employment First Power Point 3 times. On 12/9/14 it was presented to the SCDD Employment First Committee, on 1/21/15 to the Self Advocates Advisory Committee and on 1/22/15 to the Council. The workgroup received valuable feedback from each presentation. On 2/24/15 the SCDD Executive Committee approved the final power point presentation for distribution.
- Created an outreach plan with materials to use in presentations. These materials include:
 - ✓ The power point
 - ✓ "Making a Good Speech Handout"
 - ✓ the EF policy
 - ✓ Resource sheets
 - ✓ Survey
- Identified groups to present to by identifying schools, day programs, People First Chapters and others to provide these trainings to during the next year. It was also suggested partners be located to provide these trainings with.



Legislative Work Group Information for the Annual Report 2014-2015

The group was formed in December of 2014. The group started with Charles Nutt as chairman who resigned. David Forderer took over the position when asked by chair Cheryl Hewitt.

The group determined a purpose, goal and objective which as follows:

Purpose: To inform & educate the communities on legislation the SCDD council has taken a position on

Goal: To research and utilize training materials (in plain language) to educate the communities on bills AB 449, SB 11 and SB 29

Objective: To do a minimum of 8 presentations on legislative bills by 12/31/15

Legislative Workgroup Members have accomplished the following:

- Participated in Capital Action Day
- Created a legislative template for SCDD staff to use to inform members about legislative bills
- Created a survey as to how SSAN members would like to receive information on legislation and bills
- Created a list of dates they would meet via teleconference from 10/15 through 6/16



Newsletter Work Group Information for the Annual Report 2014-2015

We meet on a monthly basis over the phone to discuss what we should put into our newsletter and the timeline to finish one. We completed three newsletters (January, April, and September) to share with self advocates and agencies around the state of California. They are posted on the SCDD website under self advocacy. Robert Levy is the chair and Desiree Boykin is the vice chair of this work group. Joe Meadours and Kecia Weller are members of this group along with SSAN chair, Cheryl Hewitt. We want to do four newsletters a year and get ideas from SSAN members on what should be in the newsletters. We have our mission statement and list members and participating agency partners in each edition. Here are some articles/information/resources we have had in our 3 editions:

- Bullying- members shared their experiences with bullying and resources were given to help people if they or someone they know are or have been bullied.
- Bio's of new members and their thoughts on being a self-advocate and bios on executive team (chair, vice chair & secretary)
- Capitol Action Day 2015
- 20th Annual Statewide Self Advocacy Conference
- PFCA Self Advocacy Gathering
- San Diego People First
- CHOICES Conference
- Employment First
- Self Determination
- ADA- 25 Years
- Special Olympics –World Games in Los Angeles
- Supported Life Conference
- California Memorial Project
- SCDD State Plan Survey information
- History of SSAN
- Resources on Health and Wellness



Self-Determination Work Group Information for the Annual Report 2014-2015

4 members have participated in providing information for this group: Julie Gaona (Chair), Charles Horne-Nutt, Cheryl Hewitt, and Ramon Hernandez

SSAN formed Self Determination (SD) workgroup in September 2014.

Purpose: The Self Determination workgroup will reach out to other regions to find out what works and what does not!

Goal: Call each Regional Center and find out their status on Self Determination!

Measurable Objectives: Outreach and inform them about the budget cuts and how it is going to affect self-determination.

- SD Workgroup began developing Power point about SD Program in October 2014. Feedback was gathered from various resources to determine content and plan. Presentation finalized and approved by SCDD in February 2015 for distribution and education to communities throughout California.
- SD Workgroup members contacted Regional Centers to see if local SD Advisory Committees had been formed in March 2015.
- SD Workgroup Members presented on May 2, 2015 at 2015 Supported Life Statewide Self-Advocacy conference about SD Program.
- SD Workgroup is planning a webinar in September/October 2015 to be presented in November 2015.
- Examples of information are as follows:
 - Suggestions on How to give a Presentation on SD
 - Copy of Approved SD Power Point
 - SD Handout – A New Option!
 - Copy of Regional Centers Directory
 - Copy of Regional Center's on California Map
 - Copy of Maria Marquez' power point from September 2014
 - DRC Fact Sheet on SB 468 – Self-Determination

FACT SHEET: SB 324

ACHIEVING A BETTER LIFE EXPERIENCE IN CALIFORNIA

AUTHOR: SENATOR FRAN PAVLEY

(Principle Co-Authors: Assembly Member Irwin and Wilk)

Co-authors: Assembly Member Dodd and Kim)

BACKGROUND

In the United States, there are multiple financial tools for individuals to be able to save for future expenses (e.g. college savings accounts, health savings accounts, and individual retirement accounts).

In December 2014, President Obama signed the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act into law.

The ABLE Act creates a tax-free savings account for individuals with disabilities and their families. This account will help ease the financial strains faced by individuals with disabilities and their families.

In addition, under the ABLE Act each state is responsible for establishing and operating an ABLE Program.

The Secretary of the Department of Treasury is currently in the process of developing regulations that will provide guidance to states seeking to establish these programs.

THE PROBLEM

Millions of individuals with disabilities and their families rely on a variety of public benefits, such as SSI, SNAP and Medicaid. These programs require meeting a means test, which limits program eligibility to individuals with less than \$2,000 in cash savings, retirement funds and other items of significant value.

Thus, in order to be able to access these programs, individuals with disabilities must

remain poor, and cannot plan and save for large future expenses.

In addition, while states are authorized to create an ABLE program, statutory direction is needed for the state agency responsible for establishing this new program.

Lastly, to ensure that these savings accounts are truly tax-free, a statutory change is needed to conform the state revenue and taxation code with federal law.

THE SOLUTION

SB 324 establishes an ABLE Act program, within the State Treasurer's office, that will provide financial tools for individuals with disabilities.

The measure also ensures that these ABLE savings accounts are tax free.

This new program will ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families will be able to save without fear of losing eligibility for public assistance programs.

SUPPORT

- Autism Speaks (co-sponsor)
- California Disability Services Association (co-sponsor)
- National Down Syndrome Society (co-sponsor)
- The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy
- Association of Regional Center Agencies
- California State Treasurer, John Chiang
- Cal-Tax
- Center for Autism and Related Disorders
- Down Syndrome Society of Orange County
- North Los Angeles Regional Center



1507 21st Street, Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95811 ~ (916) 322-8403 Voice ~ (916)443-4957 Fax ~ Council@scdd.ca.gov Email

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor

MEMBER APPLICATION

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Work Number: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Do you have access to the Internet? Yes No Do you have access to email? Yes No

Email Address: _____

Home Address: _____

Are you a: (Please check all that apply)

- Person with a developmental disability
- Member of an advocacy group

Are you able to do the following: (Please check all that apply)

- Attend two-day meetings in Sacramento (4 times a year)
- Able to participate in webinars, phone calls (web cam meetings, SKYPE)
- Participate in local Self-Advocacy meetings and share information with SSAN
- Available to serve a 4-year term as a SSAN Representative

Why do you want to be a SSAN Volunteer Member:

What local advocacy groups or committees to you belong to:

How long have you been in an advocacy group or committee? _____

How much time can you dedicate to SSAN activities and help share information with others:

Are you currently employed by an organization providing service(s) to persons with developmental disabilities?

YES NO If yes please explain:

Do you need any accommodations to participate in a meeting, if so please explain:

YES NO

Do you need a facilitator/helper, if yes please explain how they would help you:

YES NO

Please provide a letter of support from your supporting agency and two references.

I am willing to serve as a SSAN member and have included why I wish to serve as a SSAN Representative:

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please return completed forms to: Change this information with each vacancy



STATEWIDE SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK (SSAN) MISSION

**PROMOTES LEADERSHIP AND BUILDS BRIDGES THAT STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY
AMONG DISABILITY COMMUNITIES BY FOCUSING ON POLICY CHANGE**

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Members must make a commitment to attend 2 day meetings 4 times a year in Sacramento.
- Ability to work in both large and small groups
- May be expected to work as a group leader
- Be a mentor to others
- Help carry out advocacy activities with self-advocacy groups and organizations.
- Reach out to people in your area to share and receive information
- Be resource for the local self-advocacy groups.
- Be able to learn from others
- Be active in your community and willing to do presentations
- Be willing to share materials that other member can use
- Be willing to work as a team

If you have questions or need more information
about becoming a
Statewide Self Advocacy Network representative
for ___(agency)___, please
contact ___(name & phone #)_____



Interview Questions

Name of Applicant: _____

1. Please tell us about your experience with self-advocacy
2. Please tell us about your leadership skills
3. What is your experience with speaking in public?
4. What are your strengths?
5. Are there jobs that would be difficult for you to complete?
6. Do you use email?
7. Do you have access to a computer and a printer?
8. Are there any issues or concerns in our region you would like to see change?
9. Describe your experience as a team member?
10. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide
Self Advocacy Network
Volume 4- December 2015

SSAN's Mission

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

"We have a voice! The strength of our voice needs to be heard by all individuals in California. Our job is to make their voice loud as well. As we strengthen those voices they will be empowered to speak up and express what is needed to improve their lives."

*~Cheryl Hewitt,
SSAN Chair*

**From Cheryl Hewitt,
SSAN Chair**

Welcome to "Voice of SSAN," a newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network (SSAN)!

Meet our NEW Members!!!



My name is **Charles Adams** and I am the new North Coast representative for Lake, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties.

When I was born in Sacramento, I was 3 months early. I was small but I've always had a big heart so you might say that I have been an advocate my whole life. When I was 5, my mom died, so I moved to

Mendocino County to live with family. I have lived in Mendocino County for 15 years.

Currently I work at Fort Bragg Feed and Pet and I am a student at the Transition Learning Center where I am working toward my diploma. My goal is to go to school to become an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) after I graduate from high school.

(Continued-See **Adams** page 5)



My name is **Chen Curtiss**. I represent the State Council North Bay office. I was born in San Francisco and went to school in Forestville (Sonoma County). I have gone to many different programs. I didn't like the programs where I couldn't work.

(Continued -See **Curtiss** page 6)

SSAN Members

- Charles Adams, North Coast
- Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills
- Desiree Boykin, ARCA
- Lisa Cooley, Sacramento
- Chen Curtiss, North Bay
- Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia
- David Forderer, SCDD
- Julie Gaona, Los Angeles
- Ramon Hernandez, Central Coast
- Cheryl Hewitt, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
- Vacant, North State
- Ted Jackson, CFILC
- Arman Khodaei, San Bernardino
- Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute
- Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial
- Joe Meadours, PFCA
- Kyle Minnis, Orange
- Nicole Patterson, DDS
- Marinda Reed- DRC
- Kecia Weller, UCLA Tarjan Center
- Regina Woodliff, Bay Area

Experiences of the leadership training in Seattle

By Robert Levy

David Forderer experiences are the State Plan group sessions when discussing the state goal of becoming a non-profit. Boundaries Exercises staying in charge of your Facilitator. Ari Ne eman's presentation on Managing a Self Advocacy Organization.



My Experiences are S.M.A.R.T Goals and Boundaries. Rebecca Donabed experiences are Boundaries, Role Playing, the S.M.A.R.T Goals and I really enjoyed it. Charles Horne Nutt (Former SSAN Member) experiences are the S.M.A.R.T Goals, Boundaries and Fundraising information.

That's all the information from all of us from all of our experiences of the Leadership training in Seattle, Washington back on 8/16/15-8/20/15.

My highlighted outreach event story when I meet Dr. Temple Grandin By Robert Levy

It was on February 11, 2015 when Temple Grandin came to the UCD MIND Institute to talk about her new book called " Temple talks about Autism and sensory issues " that was released on April 4, 2015. I thought it was great to meet her in person there were about 80 people and on February 10, 2015 at the Mondavi center then there were about hundreds of people who attended too. I got her autograph from one of her books. Now you can order her new book on line or you go to your local book store and buy one there too.

(Continued –See Levy next page)

SSAN Partner Agencies

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- People First of California (PFCA)
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD)
UC Davis MIND Institute
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center
- UCEDD USC

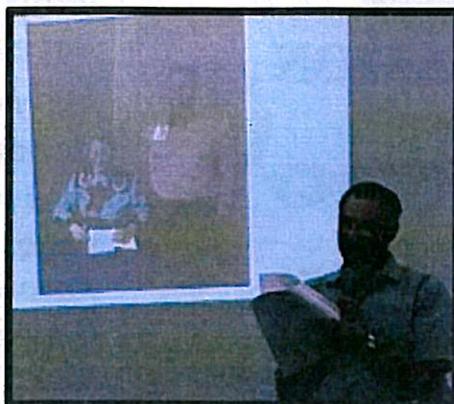
SSAN Officers

Cheryl Hewitt, Chair
Regina Woodliff, Vice Chair
Desiree Boykin, Secretary

Newsletter Committee

Robert Levy-chair
Desiree Boyton-vice chair
Cheryl Hewitt
Joe Meadours
Kecia Weller

(Levy story continued from page 2)



It should a great book to read and you can learn a lot from her what she had gone with her life living with Autism. When she went to college and got her doctorate degree in 1989. Now at the age of 68 she came a long

way she even drives her around and lives independently by doing what everybody else for other people out in the community who don't have developmental disabilities like Autism. You can even watch her movie even on the computer or netflix on your T.V. I thought Temple did a great talk. She currently lives in Colorado and still is a college professor. She even does presentations to the community. She is even has her own website world wide and she is a famous celebrity and a legend and a great Self Advocate.



Article from Desiree??

Carlos Quintong*
CELEBRATION
 of
Self-Advocacy

Friday October 23, 2015
 6:00 – 9:00 PM
 Ed Roberts Campus
 Ashby BART Station
 3075 Adeline Street
 Berkeley *Light dinner*

Music By
The Dream Achievers
SOUL TRAIN LINE
 Friends **FUN** Dancing

RAFFLE

Donation:
 Self-advocates \$5
 All others \$20

**SSAN’s chair- Cheryl Hewitt
 Receives the Carlo Quintong
 Self Advocacy Award! By
 Robert Balderama**

I had the pleasure of attending the *Carlos Quintong-Celebration of Self Advocacy* in Berkeley on Friday, October 23, 2015. From the flyer is said “This celebration is to honor the memory of Carlos Quintong, a local leader in the self-advocacy movement. He was the founding member and president of South

Alameda County People First and Bay Area People First, and President of People First of California. Carlos spoke to many groups in California and throughout the country. He participated in the President’s Committee in Intellectual Disabilities. He exemplified self-advocacy”. SSAN’s own Cheryl Hewitt was nominated for this award by David Forderer, SCDD representative and David Grady, manager from the SCDD/Silicon Valley-Monterrey Bay office. David Grady read his nomination and gave Cheryl this well-deserved award. Cheryl has worked hard as the SSAN chairperson and for self-advocacy in her area too. It was a great evening!



Above-SSAN members David Forderer, Cheryl Hewitt, Regina Woodliff & Robert Balderama celebrate Cheryl’s award!

Left-David Grady presents Cheryl Hewitt with the award.

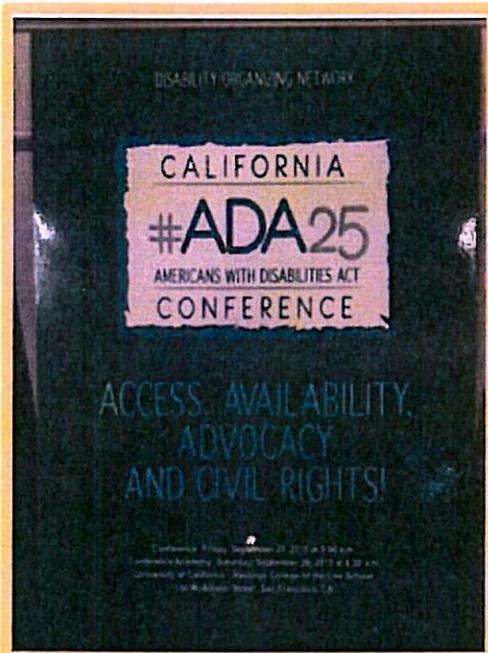
(ADAMS-Continued from page 1)

In my free time I participate in Special Olympics softball and basketball plus I coach the Mendocino Youth Lacrosse team.

I became interested in self-advocacy at a very early age when I attended People First community activities with a family member at age 8. I now serve as the Vice-Chair for the local Fort Bragg Chapter of People First. I applied to be on the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network because I was looking to get more involved in advocacy.

Our region is very large so one of my first projects will be to set up a website where people in my region can let me know about issues they have and what is happening in their communities.

I am glad that I was appointed to be on the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and I look forward to representing the North Coast.



California #ADA 25 Conference By Ted Jackson

In September 2015 the Disability Organizing Network (DOnetwork) celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disability Act by hosting the **California #ADA25 Conference**.

The conference was attended by 193 people with disabilities and their allies from across California as well as New York, Washington, D.C. and Canada – not bad for our little community organizing network.

The conference hosted 31 workshops in community organizing and access to voting, education, healthcare, employment, assistive technology and social life. Our keynote speakers included California’s Secretary of State Alex Padilla and Immigration Equality’s Pamela Denzer. Secretary Padilla’s words strengthened his commitment to equal access to voting for all citizens. (Continued –see ADA page 7)

(Curtiss- Continued from page 1)

I first got involved in self advocacy at a program called Gone for Good. I like helping people learn to be advocates. I learned how I could take charge of my IPP meeting at the self advocacy group. I led my IPP meeting using my own powerpoint. When I led my meeting, people listened to me more. I got help to meet my goals. One of my goals was to get a job and I just got my first job, working at Walmart.

After I led my meeting, I gave a presentation at Gone for Good and some of my friends saw that they could lead their meetings too. I think more people should lead their own meetings. I gave a presentation at the Supported Life Conference this year to show other people that they could take charge of their meetings too.

I want to help other people know about how to meet their goals, and how to get a job. I am excited to be part of SSAN.

DRAFT

(ADA- Continued from page 5)

And Ms. Denzer's remarks demonstrated how the ADA provides accommodation for HIV positive and LGBTQ people with disabilities seeking freedom from persecution and asylum in the United States.

And Frank Wu, Chancellor and Dean of UC Hasting-College of the Law, was certainly a highlight for the many disability historians in the room. CFILC puts a



lot of emphasis on disability history; in fact we have been a driving force for the implementation of Disability History Week and the FAIR Education Act in California's K-12 classrooms. It was wonderful to hear from a former Gallaudet University board member who was present during the Deaf President Campaign was inspiring to all.

We were also treated to an exploration of independent living advocacy from Laurie Hoirup. Laurie is the former Executive Director of Community Access Center and recently retired from the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. She spoke about her many years of advocating for increased access and the changes in the last 25 years since the ADA's passage. Laurie encouraged young advocates to continue expanding access for more people with disabilities.

Panels of experts outlined the history and stories to the passage of the ADA, the last 25 years of advocacy and the hope of young professionals for the next quarter century of increasing access.

We were lucky to wrap up our plenary sessions at a breakfast discussion with Representative Tony Coelho (U.S. House of Representatives-*retired*). Mr. Coelho added his unique view of the ADA's passage and encouraged us to embrace technology to increase access to employment and elections in the future.

The DOnetwork is a program of California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC). The mission of CFILC is increasing access and equal opportunity for people with disabilities by building the capacity of Independent Living Centers. The DOnetwork's goal is to organize for accessible communities wherever people with disabilities live, work, learn, shop, play and vote!



SCDD News- staff changes by Cheryl Hewitt



SCDD STATE PLAN SURVEY NOW IN MANY LANGUAGES!!

Go to scdd.ca.gov and find the language* you need and tell SCDD what you think should be on their next state plan!



Arabic* Armenian-Eastern*Chinese-Cantonese*Chinese-Mandarin* Farsi *Hindi *Hmong *Japanese *Khmer *Korean*Russian*Spanish* Tagalog*Urdu*Vietnamese

Still Need to Arman Khodaei picture and bio

Lisa- Employment First

Work Group info to complete- Robert Balderama(?)

SSAN WORKGROUPS WORKING HARD

Contact a SSAN member if you would like more information on any of these work groups!

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Employment</u></p> <p>Members: Rebecca Donabed (chair), Lisa Cooley, Cheryl Hewitt, Ted Jackson, Regina Woodliff, Kecia Weller</p> <p>Purpose:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Legislative</u></p> <p>Members: David Forderer (chair), Charles Adams, Robert Balderama, Ramon Hernandez, Kyle Minnis</p> <p>Purpose:</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Newsletter</u></p> <p>Members: Robert Levy (chair), Desiree Boykin, Cheryl Hewitt, Joe Meadours, Kecia Weller</p> <p>Purpose:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Self Determination</u></p> <p>Members: Julie Gaona (chair), Ramon Hernandez, Arman Khodaei</p> <p>Purpose:</p>

