

2014-
15

Statewide Self Advocacy Network

Annual Report

October 1, 2014- September 30, 2015



State Council on Developmental Disabilities
1507 21st Street, Suite 210
Sacramento CA 9581916-322-8481

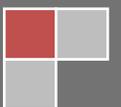


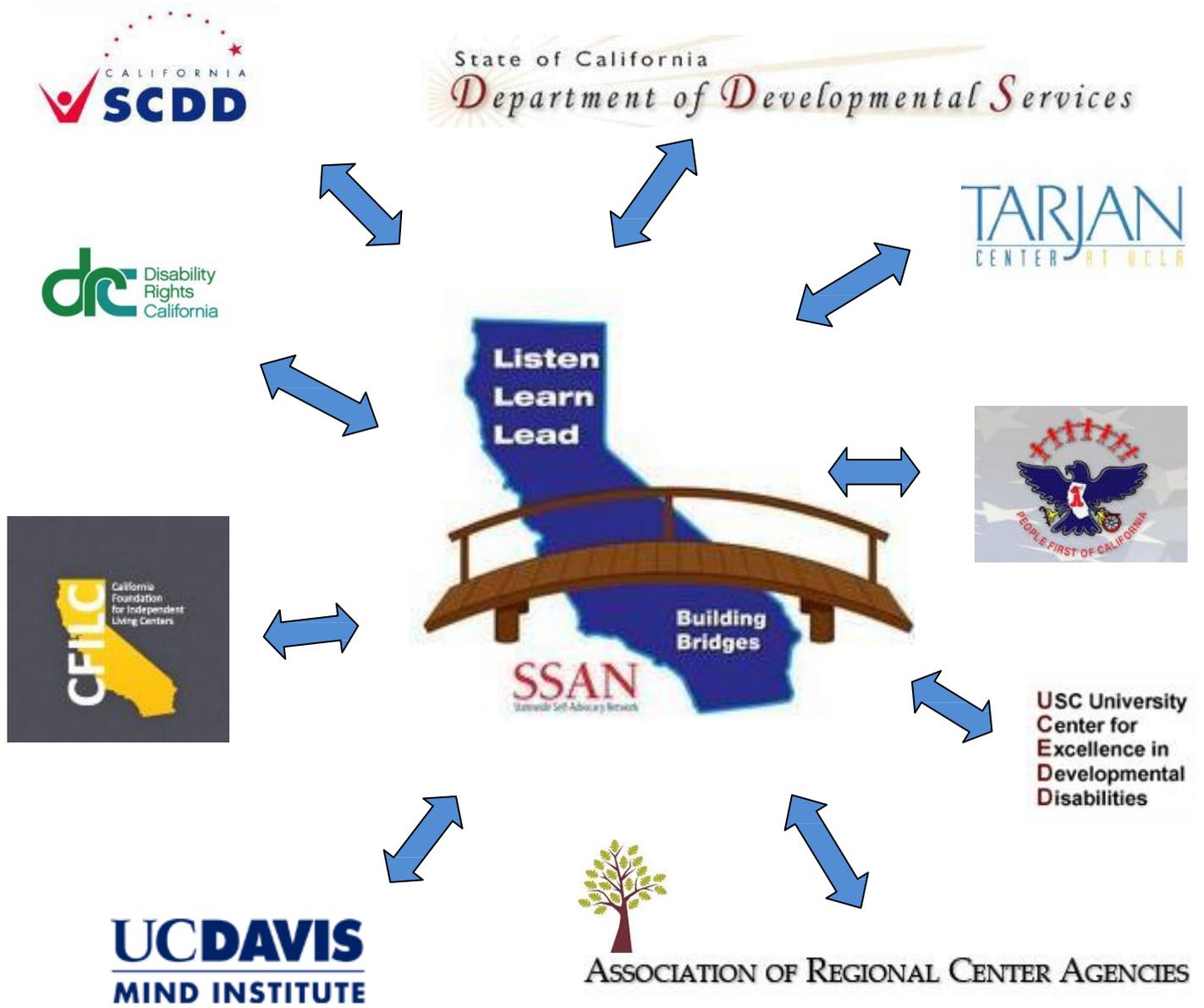
Table of Contents



SSAN Mission Statement	3
Message from the Chair	4
SCDD State Plan Self Advocacy Goal	5
SSAN Member Roster	6
SSAN Officers	7
2014-2015 SSAN Meetings	7-9
2014-2015 SSAN Accomplishments	10
Presentations and Trainings	10
Resource Sharing	11
Advocacy	12
Bullying	12
Employment	12
Health	12
Lanterman Coalition	14
Rights	14
Safety	14
Self Determination	15
Starting Self-Advocacy Groups	15
General Information	15
SSAN Members Pictures	16-23
Statewide Activity Highlights	24
Work Group Information	25-28
Plans for the Future	29
Members in Action	30-32

Mission Statement

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



Message from SSAN Chair

As the SSAN, we are moving to empower individuals by increasing the number of advocates in our catchment areas. We have sat at the table with policy makers, the Governor and his staff. We continue to provide opportunities to strengthen our resource network. We have developed work groups that have established goals and objectives. SSAN members have identified these goals and objectives to be important to work on as a group.

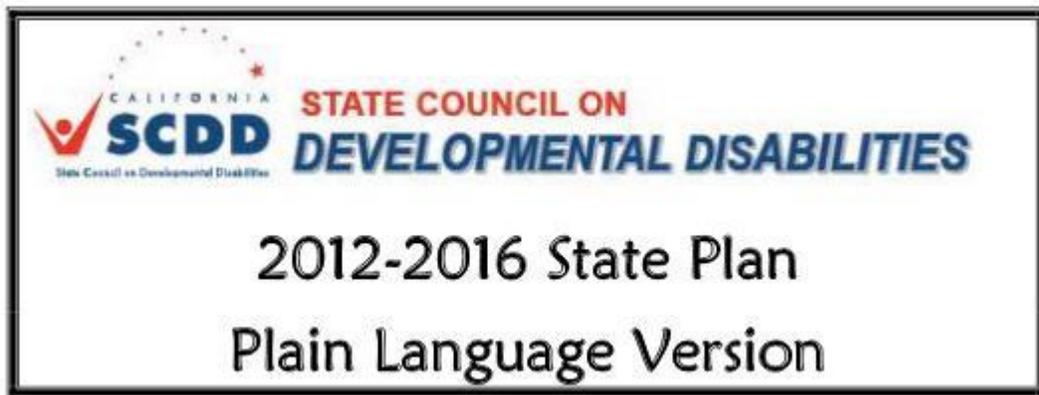


Advocacy is what drives me. Not only am I to advocate for myself, but I have a mission to teach others with disabilities to advocate for themselves. It is not always easy to be an advocate, sometimes we make people uncomfortable by insisting on change, by insisting on self-determination. I am okay with creating that feeling of discomfort; it is what an advocate is supposed to do.

Here are the needs that SSAN will continue to address:

- We need to promote leadership development.
- We need to promote inter-agency collaboration.
- We need to be representatives at the table of the policy makers.
- We need to *be* the policy makers.

Cheryl Hewitt
SSAN Chair



SCDD Self-Advocacy Goal

Goal #1: People with developmental disabilities get the help they need to be a part of the community and control their own lives.

1.1: The Council will train, support and help 1,450 self-advocates and work to grow the statewide self-advocacy network (SSAN), making it stronger with money and other kinds of support. This will include adults and young people with different types of disabilities.

SSAN Members (Roster) 2014-2015

- Region 1 – Charles Adams
- Region 2 – Charles Horne-Nutt
- Region 3 – Lisa Cooley
- Region 4 – Michael Arbios
- Region 5 – Regina Woodliff
- Region 6 – Robert Balderama
- Region 7 – Cheryl Hewitt
- Region 8 – Rebecca Donabed
- Region 9 – Ramon Hernandez
- Region 10 – Julie Gaona
- Region 11 – Kyle Minnis
- Region 12 – Arman Khodaei
- Region 13 – Paul Mansell
- Association of Regional Center Agencies – Desiree Boykin
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers – Ted Jackson
- Department of Developmental Services – Nicole Patterson
- Disability Rights California – vacant
- People First of California – Joseph Meadours
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities – David Forderer
- University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
(UCEDD) UC Davis MIND Institute – Robert Levy
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center – Kecia Weller
- UCEDD USC - vacant



SSAN Officers

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

2014-2015 SSAN Meetings

SSAN held 4 meetings between October 1, 2014 and September 30, 2015. Meetings were held on December 15 -16, 2014, March 4 - 5, 2015, June 24 - 25, 2015 and September 23 - 24 - 2015.

Each SSAN meeting included member reports on issues and concerns in their regions, legislative updates, training for members, and resources to distribute to member's communities.

Members received legislative updates on these issues:

Legislative Updates 2014-2015

- Independent living services (ILS)
- AB 1595
- In Home Support Services (IHSS)
- The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- The Achieving a Better Life Experience Act (ABLE)
- SCDD Legislation Positions Voted on May 20, 2015
- Aging and I/DD
- Parental Fees
- Silver Alerts
- Dental Care
- Restrooms

- Income and Medi-Cal Eligibility
- Bullying
- Seclusion & Restraints
- Reasonable Accommodation Retaliation
- Veterans Contracts
- Adult Day Care
- Dyslexia
- Peace Officer Training
- Brain Injury
- Regional Centers
- Coordinated Care
- Voting
- End of Life
- Mental Health Crisis Act
- "Capitol Track" for Bill location and information
- Lanterman Coalition
- 10% cut

Members received training on:

- Council Vision Discussion and Council Chair Updates
- Becoming a Non-Profit Organization
- Self-Advocacy Council 6 - Starting a Self-Advocacy Group
- Lanterman Coalition
- SCDD State Plan
- AB 1595
- Pacific Alliance on Disability Self-Advocacy (PADSA)
- Employment First
- Self Determination
- Leadership

During 2014-2015, SSAN worked on these organizational and operating issues:

- Developing a SSAN newsletter
- Reviewed bylaws
- Elected officers
- Compiled a listing of self advocacy groups throughout the state
- Established four workgroups and an ad hoc Memo of Understanding (MOU) workgroup.

Each member is on at least one or more of the following workgroups:

- Employment
- Self Determination
- Newsletter
- Legislation

There were a total of 47 workgroup meetings

- Employment met 18 times
- Self Determination met 12 times
- Newsletter met 10 times
- Legislation met 7 times

Additionally, the SSAN Chair produced 20 weekly summaries that kept members updated on current events and the work in progress.



From Robert Balderama-representative from SCDD-North Valley Hills

“The best part of being a member of SSAN is our achievements across the state. We are all individuals from all over California. We have different thoughts, ideas and work extremely well together to get things done”.

2014-2015 SSAN Accomplishments

What We Do

- *Develop the knowledge and skills to make a difference in our region and state.*
- *Speak up for people with disabilities.*
- *Learn about and advocate for issues important to people with disabilities.*
- *Lead regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks*

~SSAN Bylaws

Presentations & Trainings

SSAN members provided 34 presentations and trainings to 1,150 individuals throughout the state. Presentation and training topics were:

- Black History Month (1 presentation, 25 participants)
- Bullying (1 presentation, 25 participants)
- Employment First (3 presentations, 137 participants)
- HIPPA (1 presentation, 20 participants)
- Leadership (1 presentation, 20 participants)
- Medi-Cal Managed Care (5 presentation, 50 participants)
- People First of CA (PFCA) (2 presentations, 90 participants)
- Rights (1 presentation, 25 participants)
- Self-Advocacy (3 presentations, 36 participants)
- Self Determination (3 presentations, 130 participants)
- SELPA Legislative Day (1 presentation, 50 participants)
- Sensitivity Training (1 presentation, 25 participants)
- SSAN (5 presentations, 225 participants)
- Transition (5 presentations, 192 participants)
- Voting (1 presentation, 100 participants)

Resource Sharing

SSAN members distributed information about these resources to their communities:



ASAN / PADSA



PADSA Mini-Grants Information was distributed. Based on SSAN's work in getting the word out, People First of California and 5 California Self-Advocacy groups received grants from PADSA, an AIDD Project of National Significance through ASAN. PADSA works with four states – California, Oregon, Washington and Montana. All the mini-grants awarded for this fiscal year were in California.

PADSA website and Resource Guide Information was shared with all members –

1. Working Better Together: Embracing Good Conflict and Solving Bad Conflict
2. Project Management
3. Making a Plan to Win: How to Run an Advocacy Campaign
4. Starting a Non-Profit is Like Having a Baby: 8 Questions Your Group Should Ask Before Starting a Nonprofit:
5. Color communication Badges
6. Fantastic Facilitation: Leading Effective, Inclusive Meetings
7. Getting What You Came For: Using Meetings to Advance an Agenda
8. Intro to Policy Guide: Did You Know that Anybody Can Write a Law?
9. Consulting and Coordinating: Funding Your work Through Fee-for-Service Projects
10. Strategic Partnerships: Building a Relationship with DD Network Providers

PADSA Webinar on Social Media Information Flyer was distributed.



Advocacy

- Disability Action Coalition - 12th Annual Disability Capitol Action Day
- The ADA Legacy Project – Preserve * Celebrate * Educate - ADA 25 Anniversary 1990-2015.
- People First of California Gathering – “Advocacy is a Path.. You Choose the Direction”
- Strengthening Self Advocacy Resource Guide – San Diego People First created resources to share with others
- Disability Unity Festival & Parade
- California #ADA25 Conference
- Community Living Campaign – Transforming Lives by Building Aging and Disability Friendly Neighborhoods
- People with Disabilities Foundation – Education/ Public Awareness and Advocacy Services



Bullying

- SCDD – Enough is Enough! Anti-Bullying Strategies for Students with Developmental Disabilities, Their Families, and Their Schools



Employment

- National Federation of the Blind – Information sheet on The Fair Wages for Workers with Disabilities Act of 2013 (H.R. 831)2015



Health

- Bed Bugs – University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Statewide IPM Program and UCCE, University of California Cooperative Extension.
- LAO Family Community Empowerment, Inc. Brochure – Improving Lives Through Education, Service and Advocacy
- University of the Pacific – Affordable Quality Dental Hygiene Oral Health Assessment information
- Covered California Brochure
- Vial of Life – Keeping medical information in one place
- SCDD Flyer – Important Health Plan Medi-Cal Changes for People with Disabilities and Seniors in 28 County Medi-Cal Managed Care Expansion
- California Telephone Access Program – Free Specialized Telephones
- People with Disabilities Foundation – Information sharing regarding Reasonable Accommodations in Housing for People with Psychiatric and/or Developmental Disabilities
- DAN – Diversability Advocacy Network – collaboration between various agencies representing seniors and people with disabilities in the North State to understand Medi-Cal Managed Care

The Lanterman Coalition



- The Lanterman Coalition info – Sharing Your Story; Ten Things You Can Do;
- The Lanterman Coalition – 10% increase for the budget
- The Arc California & United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration – Action Alert regarding advocacy for the State budget not providing \$ for the Developmental Disability service system.



Rights

- Office of Clients’ Rights Advocacy Listing in California
- Disability Rights California (DRC) Brochure - You and Your Clients’ Right Advocate
- DDS - Rights of Individuals with Developmental Disabilities

Safety

- Get Safe Bus Safety Tips
- DDS Feeling Safe, Being Safe Personal Safety Materials
- Get Safe – Disability Awareness Training Helping First Responders understand people with autism and other developmental disabilities





Self-Determination Informational Resources

- Self-Determination - The Main Ideas
- Self-Determination – What To Do Now
- Self-Determination Power Point

Starting Self-Advocacy Groups



- Self-Advocacy Council 6 – DVD
 - Self-Advocacy tip sheet



Information

- SCDD Flyer – Then and Now, new names for regional offices
- AIDD Fact sheet: AIDD Programs
- AIDD Fact sheet: State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- 19th Annual Golden Gate Self-Advocacy Conference Flyer
- Children’s Hospital Los Angeles – ABLE Act Webinar
- People First of California filling vacant board member positions around the state flyer

SSAN Members- Statewide Network 2014-2015

Region 1-North Coast Office Charles Adams



Region 2- North State Office Charles Horne-Nutt



Region 3- Sacramento Office Lisa Cooley



Region 4- North Bay Office
Michael Arbios



Region 5- Bay Area Office
Regina Woodliff



Region 6- North Valley Hills Office
Robert Balderama



**Region 7- Silicon Valley- Monterey Bay Office
Cheryl Hewitt**



**Region 8- Sequoia Office
Rebecca Donabed**



**Region 9- Central Coast Office
Ramon Hernandez**



Region 10- Los Angeles Office

Julie Gaona



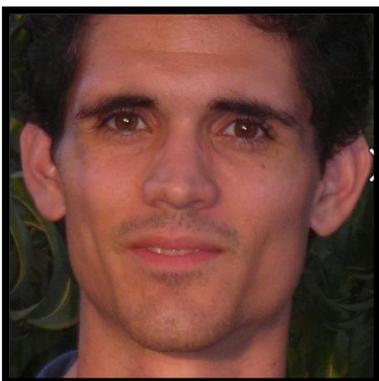
Region 11- Orange County Office

Kyle Minnis

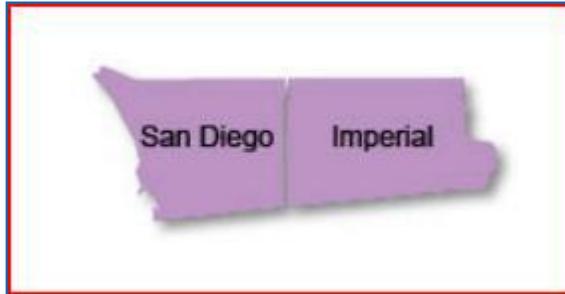


Region 12- San Bernardino Office

Arman Khodaei

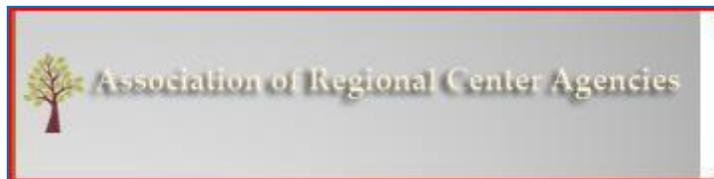


**Region 13- San Diego Imperial Office
Paul Mansell**



AGENCY PARTNERS

**Association of Regional Center Agencies
Desiree Boykin**



California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

Ted Jackson



Department of Developmental Services (DDS)

Nicole Patterson



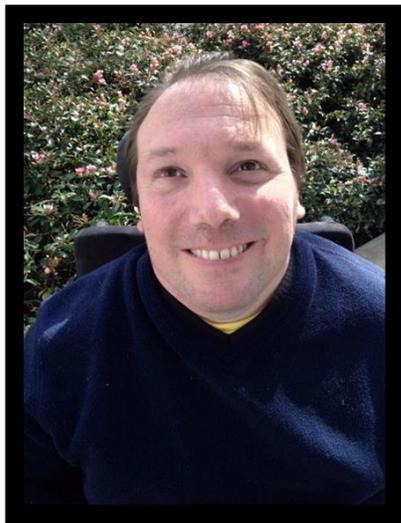
Disability Rights California Vacant



**People First of California
Joe Meadours**



**State Council on Developmental Disabilities
David Forderer**



**UCEDD MIND Institute
Robert Levy**



**UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center
Kecia Weller**



**UCEDD USC
vacant**





Statewide ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS **from members**

- Participated at Regional Advisory Committees
- Participated at SCDD Meetings in Sacramento
- Participated on the SCDD Self Advocacy Advisory Committee
- Attended the following conferences- Self Determination in LA, Supported Life Institute in Sacramento, PFCA Gathering in Fresno, CHOICES 2015 conference in Stockton, and San Diego People First conference.
- Completed and presented an Employment First webinar
- Members are on their regional center boards, IHSS Public Authority, transportation boards, and People First groups.
- Wrote a letter to Senator Feinstein requisition reforms to treatment of prisoner with disabilities.
- Met with Senator Beall on the “Right to Die” Legislation
- Received information on the Abel Act and plan to present it to our communities
- Spoke at the San Jose City Council meeting about affordable housing
- Project Homeless- to help people with I/DD who are homeless.
- Attended Capitol Action Day
- Completed 3 newsletters
- ADA forum at Capitol Action Day
- Transition Fairs and presentations made across the state





WORK GROUP INFORMATION

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

Purpose: The Newsletter workgroup will communicate what SSAN is about so members can take information back to their community to help self-advocates.

Goal: Redesign Quarterly Newsletter Template and Establish cutoff dates for members to submit articles.

Measurable Objectives: Redesign template to allow articles to be dropped in without changing the format of the template.

Robert Levy is the chair and Desiree Boykin is the vice chair of this work group. Joe Meadours and Kecia Weller and Cheryl Hewitt are members of this group. Here are some articles/information/resources we have had in our 3 editions:

- Bullying- members shared their experiences with bullying and resources were given.
- Bio's of new members and thoughts on being a self-advocate and 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 2014-201

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

SSAN Plans for the Future

For 2015-2016, SSAN officers identified these plans:

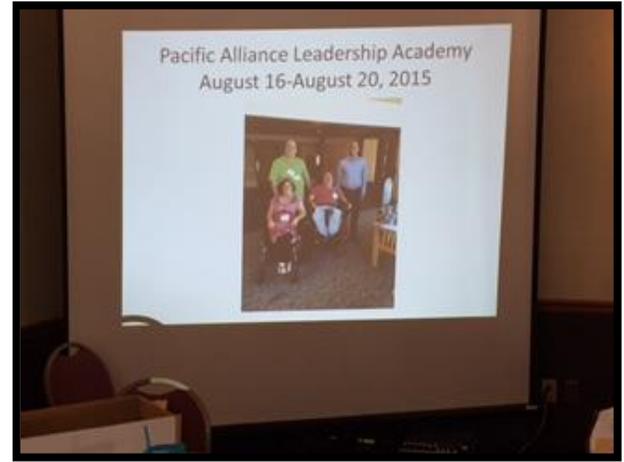
- **Communication** – Continue to produce SSAN newsletters to share information in SSAN meetings as well as with members' local communities.
- **Legislative Advocacy** – SCDD has provided valuable legislative information to SSAN. SSAN would like to engage in more legislative advocacy and expand the distribution of legislative information and alerts.
- **Training Development** – SSAN developed an introductory power point training on Self Determination and is currently working on developing updated training materials about Self Determination. SSAN would like to continually develop updated training materials for self-advocates by self-advocates.
- **Networking** - Continue networking within SSAN, and network outside of SSAN with other agencies.



My name is Desiree L. Boykin, I have been the Consumer Advocate for the South Los Angeles Regional for four years. I served on the Association of Regional Agencies for SCLARC. I now represent for the ARCA on the SSAN we meet 4 times a year. What I've learned in the past two years being on the SSAN is about the California Independent living Centers how Ed Roberts was leader and founder of that disabled movement at University of California Berkeley the important for the developmental disabled adults to live independently. My experience on the SSAN has always been positive as I learn how all of the organizations work to together Regional Center, State Council, Regional Center offices, Independent Living Centers, Disability Organization Network, People First, ARCA, UCEED Davis, UCLA, USC too support the consumer or client independence. We are a network of advocates who work hard to get information on to the developmental disabled community.

Members in Action





Please check out www.scdd.ca.gov
Go to the Self-Advocacy tab and hit SSAN overview for
more SSAN info!



Full SSAN Newsletters can be found at www.scdd.ca.gov/self-advocacy/SSAN



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network

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. This newsletter will help us bridge the gap between those members who don't have day-to-day internet access. It will also show the great things the network is doing in their local areas, hopefully with a lot of pictures.



Hi this is Julie Gaona, from Region 10. The person who inspired me to be an advocate was my mother, Linda Dixon. My whole childhood she always encouraged me to live my life to the fullest regardless of my disability. Even when I didn't want to do things such as drama or school dances, she'd make me go do these types of things. No matter what, the word 'no' was not in her vocabulary.

She broke down a lot of barriers for me to be independent, such as making sure ramps were built at school and I had assistance during classes, like taking notes and getting my work completed. Later on, when I grew up, I had the confidence she had given me and the knowledge to be an advocate.

I attended college after high school. I was not very successful with that, so God put me on a path to work for an independent living agency. Lucille Walls the old executive director from an independent living center called Community Access gave me a chance to work at the center and I took it. I knew I could accept this challenge because of the confidence and knowledge my mother instilled in me.

1



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network
Volume 2- April 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.



Hi there, my name is Ramon Hernandez. I was raised in the town of Oxnard, California and continue to reside in the County of Ventura. I was reared by two loving, hard working parents who wanted nothing but the best for me in order to lead the best life possible. It was through their hard work and dedication that I later on realized my parents were my first advocates. At the age of 13, I began to witness the injustices and inequalities taking place in my environment. At 17 years old, this is where I started analyze and make sense of everything that was taking place around me, in which also initiated my interest in history and politics. It was not until I became involved in community organizing at the grass-roots level in my hometown that I noticed people-power could make a tremendous impact. Although it was not intentional, I felt excluded from these activities because the issues I encountered as a person with a developmental disability were not being addressed. It was not until I moved into a program called, Training for Independent Living from the Arc of Ventura County that I came to terms with my identity as a person who is developmentally disabled. Not long after, I came across a state agency that provides services to people who are developmentally disabled in order to help them achieve self-determination and integrate into their communities called, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, also known as SCDD. In this (Continued on page 2-Hernandez)

"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)!

1



Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide Self Advocacy Network
Volume 3- September 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 Two Members!!!



My name is Paul Mansell. I am a San Diego native, have an identical twin (John), and fraternal twin-half-sisters (Susan and Cheryl), deceased parents, received a BA in Political Science and a MA in Educational Technology both from SDSU. While a senior in college, I interned at the GAO in Washington D.C. I enjoy and devote a great deal of energy to writing and love to read. My literary hero is Jean Valjean of Les Misérables, my favorite novel. Matters of mercy, redemption, and transformation resonate with me and my life experience. My favorite non-fiction author is Raymond E. Brown. I enjoy poetry and carrying on deep conversations with those whom I know well. I am partial to talking about Philosophy and Theology. (Continued on page 5- see Mansell)



Hello, my name is Lisa Cooley. I lived in Sacramento for over 30 years. I have done disability advocacy work for nearly 19 years. I started with disability advocacy work on local transportation issues at the transportation committee. I started regional center work in 2001 as a member of the board (Continued on page 5- see Cooley)

1



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)

1