

SSAN

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

NEWSLETTER NO 1 SUMMER 2012



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Developmental Disabilities
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Purpose

The Network creates a united voice around the state. It links advocates with community, regional and statewide leadership.

scddadvocacy.org





How it Works

Representatives from organizations and each area board region meet quarterly to learn about leadership and share advocacy plans.

Member Responsibilities

- Develop leadership skills.
- Create regional plans and take action.
- Report on advocacy plan progress and activities.
- Represent peers and act on their behalf.
- Reach out and build relationships.
- Share information and leadership tools.



Outcomes

Network has:

- Strong membership with operating rules.
- Easy-to-understand information to share.
- Increasing participation in regional and statewide advocacy.
- Online resource materials.
- Annual report about accomplishments

Network Members increase:

- Personal leadership accomplishments
- Community involvement
- Peer representation
- Advocacy
- Connections in their communities



Words from Acting Chairperson



Jennifer

“The Network will bring together self-advocates and organizations around the table to create a new avenue in the advocacy community. Our first meeting was amazing, with members from all over the state and a lot of diversity in experience. Working together we can make our voices louder and heard”.

Network Description

The Network connects self-advocates, their communities and statewide organizations to increase leadership and advocacy by persons with disabilities.

The Network is a way for individuals to:

- Get information in ways they understand
- Learn about and participate in leadership
- Have a stronger voice
- Create and carry out advocacy plans



Report from 1st Meeting — April 2012

Self and peer advocates representing 20 advocacy organizations held their first network meeting in April 2012. They kicked off their meeting by learning about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Network members plan to address other important issues to increase quality of life of persons with disabilities.

“Very important that self-advocates organize; this is a civil rights movement.”

“Professionals have been making decisions for way too long.”

Members discussed an inspirational vision that will guide the Network’s mission, using words like: “building a bridge; promoting leadership in our communities; and connecting outside the disability world.”

Members are **Thinking Big** and are dedicated to building effective partnerships that deliver outcomes. When persons with disabilities take the lead, the Network will make a difference with local, state and national policymakers.

“This group will really make a difference.”

“Met great peers and mentors here.”

Everyone returned to their regions to test learning about communication technology, develop personal advocacy mission statements and raise awareness about the Network.

- Ongoing Network Resources provided by the State Council
- Meeting facilitation and leadership training.
- Online materials in easy-to-understand formats.
- Network leadership materials for community use.
- Training for facilitators who support Network members.
- Annual summit to report outcomes, share resources and leadership development.



Additional Network Materials and Tools available



www.scdd.ca.gov



www.scddadvocacy.org

To find out more about the Network and leadership tools, contact

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