

# How the California UCEDDs Contribute to the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (SSAN)



Presented by:

**Wesley Witherspoon**

USC Children's Hospital

[WWitherspoon@chla.usc.edu](mailto:WWitherspoon@chla.usc.edu)

**Robert Levy**

UC Davis MIND Institute

[rjlevy@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rjlevy@ucdavis.edu)

**Kecia Weller**

UCLA Tarjan Center

[Kweller@mednet.ucla.edu](mailto:Kweller@mednet.ucla.edu)

# Introduction



# Presentation Outline

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Overview of SSAN
- 3) Learning from SSAN
- 4) Lessons Learned from other States
- 5) Lessons for Other States
- 6) Questions



# Overview of SSAN: State Councils and Funding

- Every state and US territory has a State Council, who work to empower individuals through activities that teach self-advocacy skills and support self-determination
- Councils get money from the Administration on Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), a federal agency
- They have a State Plan that says what they will spend their money on
- They focus on empowering individuals through activities that teach self-advocacy skills and support self-determination
- They work on advancing public policy and systems change to help people gain more control over their lives



# Overview of SSAN: History

- In 2011 the Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) held regional meetings across the country to figure out the needs of self-advocates and make plans to strengthen self-advocacy efforts
- SCDD created SSAN in 2012 so self-advocates can teach others about self-advocacy and help with public policy and systems change in California
- SSAN strengthened awareness and partnerships between communities
- SSAN helps to create common goals
- SSAN helps to change society's perception of disability, so that people are treated with respect
- SSAN helps to support and improve advocacy throughout the state



# Overview of SSAN: Purpose

- SSAN is a cross-disability training network:
  - Develop knowledge and skills to make a difference in our regions and state.
  - Speak up for all people with disabilities.
  - Learn about and advocate for issues important to all people with disabilities.
  - Lead regional and statewide advocacy groups and networks.
  - Train advocates in their communities in order to grow the Self-Advocacy movement in California.
  - Share information



# Overview of SSAN: Current Organizations or Agencies



- Organizations involved in SSAN:
  - Association of Regional Centers of California (ARCA)
  - California Foundation for Independent Living (CFILC)
  - Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
  - Disability Rights California (DRC) — Federal Partner
  - California UCEDDs — Federal Partner



# Overview of SSAN: Member Responsibilities

- Share and exchange information between SSAN and the areas they represent
- Provide information in local communities
- Provide training to local self- advocacy groups with presentations we develop at SSAN
- Promote legislative and policy change





# Overview of SSAN: SSAN and SCDD

SCDD has a 5 year state plan that guides their work across the state. The current State Plan focuses on these six topics:

1. Self-Advocacy
2. Employment
3. Housing
4. Health and Safety
5. Early Intervention and Education
6. Formal and Informal Community Supports

SSAN works on projects and discusses issues and concerns related to all of these topics.



# Overview of SSAN: Current Priorities

Process		
March 2019	June 2019	September 2019
Identified barriers to community participation	Identify critical gaps in access across the state	Established priorities

- ▶ Transportation
  - ▶ Collaborate with rideshare companies
  - ▶ Get involved with public transportation boards
  - ▶ Train organizations on the needs of people with disabilities
- ▶ Youth Engagement
  - ▶ Future of the movement
  - ▶ Youth approach to advocacy is different than traditional advocacy movement



# Learning from SSAN: Impact in California

- Increase Collaboration between California UCEDDs
- Talk about issues affecting people with disabilities in California
- Develop, share and distribute impact statements
- Networking and solving problems



# Learning from SSAN: Collaborating Across Networks

- The Regional Center Network
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Independent Living Centers

As a network, SSAN members share diverse perspectives on the challenges that face Californians with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



Updated July 1, 2003  
California's 21 Regional Centers



29 California Independent Living Centers



SCDD 12 Regions in California 12

# Learning from SSAN: Local Impact of SSAN

- Members participate in activities and boards at their local and/or agency level related to self—advocacy
- Collaborate with local State Council offices to share information and trainings:
  - Volunteering
  - Peer Support
  - Sharing information
  - Training
  - Outreach
  - Mentoring



# Learning from SSAN: Statewide Impact

- Collaboration with agency members
- SSAN and leadership development
- Workgroups to focus on issues in-between meetings
- Members report on activities we have done between meetings
- Share success and any barriers that keep them from participating in advocacy related activities and in their communities



# Lessons from Other Programs

What are some Self-Advocacy programs and/or networks in your state?



# Lessons for Other States and Territories

- A self-advocacy network helps individuals, communities, organizations and state agencies work together
- Self-advocates working together towards a common goal is better than working alone
- Self-advocacy network helps to share information and resources
- Advocates feel valued and have more understanding of issues and barriers
- As a network, SSAN has more impact than a single member or agency
- Members provide different perspectives on issues





# Strengthening Collaboration Across the AUCD Network

- How can a cross-disability network work in your state?
- What are some challenges?
- Who should be involved?



# Questions?



# Thank You!

Check out the [SSAN page](#) on the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities website for more information.

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