

# SSAN

Statewide Self-Advocacy Network

NEWSLETTER NO. 1 SUMMER 2012



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State Council on  
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](http://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.

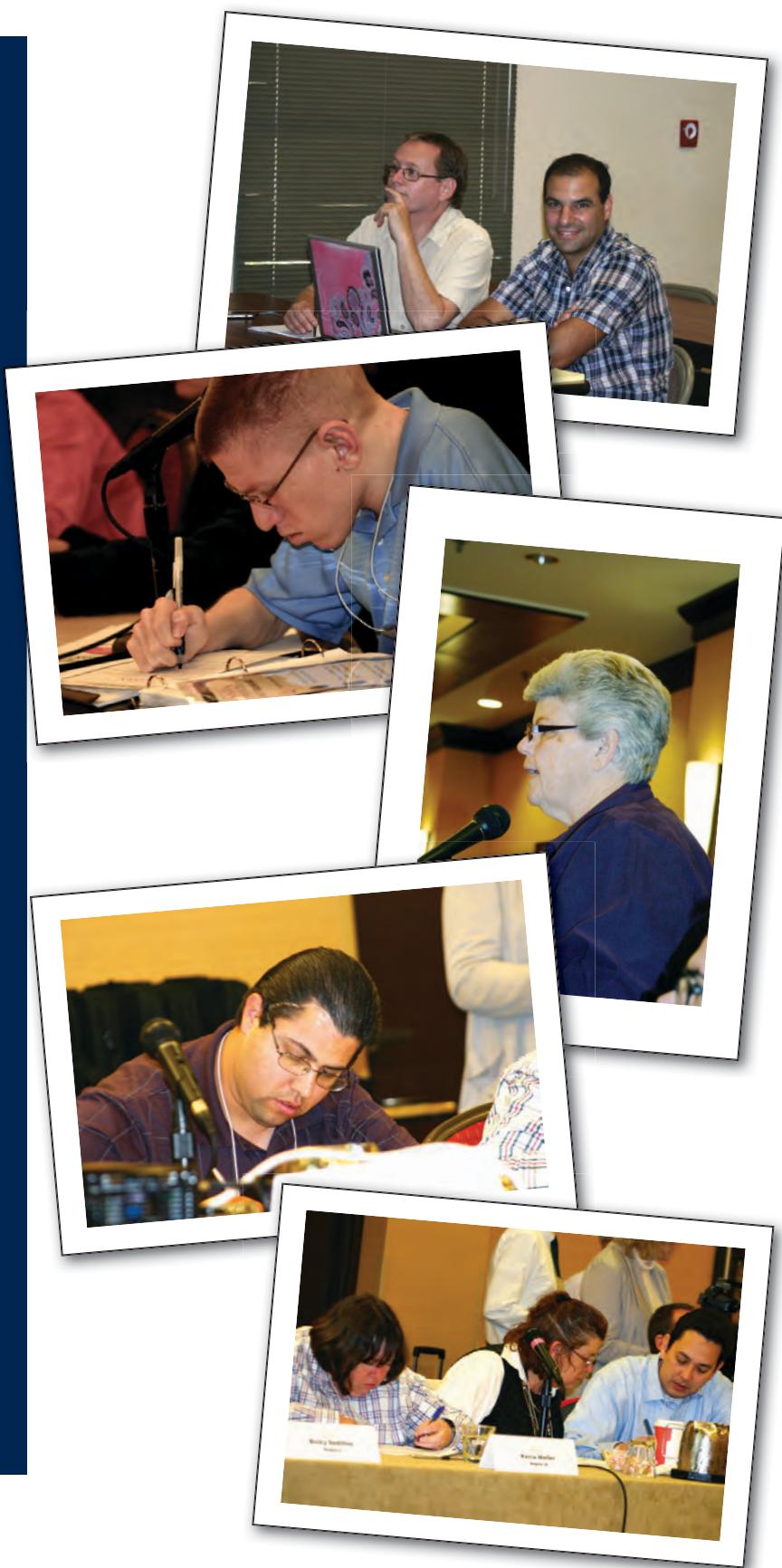
# Outcomes

## *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



## Network Partners

### California State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Council)



The Council works to improve access to quality services and supports for individuals with developmental disabilities. It builds statewide partnerships, educates policymakers, and advocates to break down barriers to full inclusion. California's area boards help develop and carry out the Council's plan.

#### Council's #1 State Goal:

Individuals with developmental disabilities have the information, skills, opportunities and support to advocate for their rights and services and to achieve self determination, independence, productivity, integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.

#### 13 Area Boards



### University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

UCLA Tarjan Center,  
UC Davis – MIND Institute,  
USC Children's Hospital



### Disability Rights California



### Association of Regional Centers



### California Department of Developmental Services



### California Foundation of Independent Living Centers



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

The image displays two screenshots of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) website. The top screenshot shows the main homepage with sections for the State Budget, Statewide Grant Trends, and Community Develop Grants. It also features a map of California and a 'SSAN' logo. The bottom screenshot shows a page titled 'Advocacy Resources' with a video player for an 'INTRODUCTION TO THE SCDD VIDEO'. Below the video are several links: 'SCDD Self-Advocates Advisory Committee', 'Statewide Self-Advocacy NETWORK', 'Advocacy Websites and Resources', 'MEETING DOCUMENTS', 'NETWORK OVERVIEW', 'COMMITTEE RESOURCES', 'NETWORK RESOURCES', 'BOARDS FOR ALL', 'WORK IS FOR ALL', and 'RESOURCES'. At the bottom of the page, there is a red banner with the text 'www.scddadvocacy.org'.

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



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