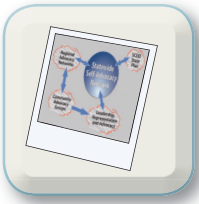


Building Advocacy Partnerships





Statewide Self-Advocacy Network



The Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (Network) will build an alliance of self-advocates that links California communities with statewide organizations to advance civic participation and advocacy by persons with disabilities. This booklet describes the significant role partner organizations and facilitators play in supporting the development of a vibrant statewide network of advocacy that activates interchange, practical learning and leadership across the state.

Table of Contents



Background..... 3-4



Purpose..... 5



Statewide Partnerships..... 6



Key Support..... 7-8



Network Member Role..... 9



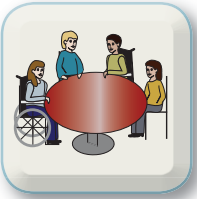
How It Works..... 10



Outcomes & Evaluation..... 11



Council Support..... 12



Background

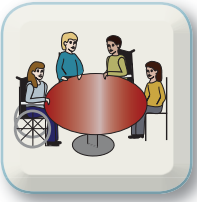


For too many decades, people with all kinds of disabilities have been on the fringes of life and not really fully included. Call it tokenism, if you must. We have only been included because it is the legally appropriate thing to do, or it's the feel good thing. I want not only our state, but the world, to do better than that.



The international Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities strengthens obligations that ensure persons with disabilities are included in society and supported to build their capacities. Human rights apply to all persons and carry a pledge of life and liberty.

The belief underlying self-advocacy is that informed decision-making and civic engagement promote rights that result in persons with disabilities enjoying real equality. More information and plain language materials are available at brcenter.org.



Background (cont.)

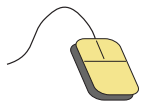


In 2011 the federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD) held a Self-Advocacy Summit in Los Angeles to generate recommendations for strengthening the self-advocacy movement across the country. California team, including self-advocates, recommended the following:

- Area board regions to accomplish self-advocacy outcomes in communities.
- Statewide coalition building, peer-led participation and leadership, and creating a statewide self-advocacy resource library.

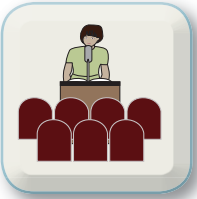
Suggestions also reflected national recommendations:

1. creating an ADD Consumer Advisory Committee or national task force



(<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/add/index.html>);

2. making websites user-friendly with self-advocacy information;
3. influencing public policy;
4. disability awareness; and
5. outreach to youth and underserved communities.



Purpose

For decades, local, regional and statewide self-advocacy organizations have worked to enhance quality of life and protect the rights of Californians with disabilities. By building on these existing structures, the Network will lessen fragmentation of effort and increase collective advocacy. It will join self-advocacy efforts across communities and move leadership by persons with disabilities to the forefront in California.

The Network assists individuals who rely on California's human service systems to direct efforts that lead to Californians with disabilities exercising fundamental freedoms. In so doing, the Network also functions as a means for accomplishing local, regional and statewide advocacy goals.

Network leadership will reach out to California communities through multi-year regional and state advocacy plans. By addressing local and statewide advocacy issues, the Network provides practical approaches that reflect varied interests of people they represent. Plans are outcome-driven with activities and accomplishments included in reports to the Council, California legislature and federal government.



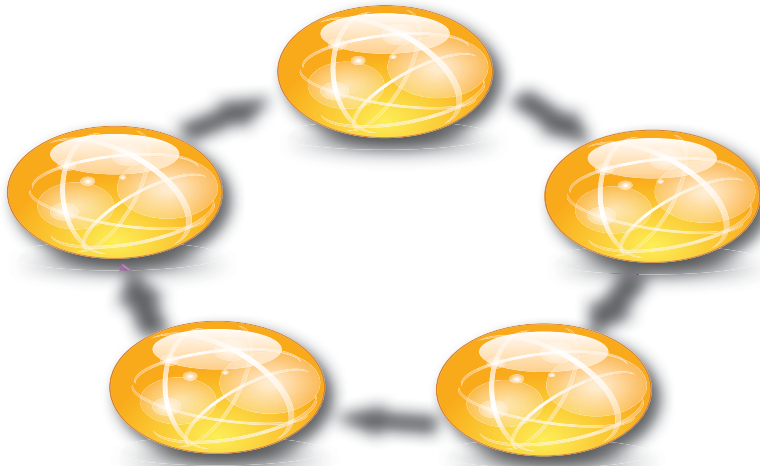


Statewide Partnerships

Accomplishing significant advocacy, be it personal, peer or policy outcomes, calls for reliance on partnerships. The responsibilities of Network members and the organizations they represent foster a collaboration of shared action in the face of challenges.

Invited Partners include:

- Association of Regional Center Agencies
- California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
- Department of Developmental Services
- Disability Rights California
- People First of California
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities/Area Boards
- University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities



With representation from across the state, the Network promotes advocacy linkages among community, regional and statewide leadership:

- One representative from each statewide organization.
- One representative from each of 13 area board regions.



Partner Organizations/Area Board Support

Meaningful support is key to building an effective Network so self-advocates may advance:

Personal Leadership
Peer Representation

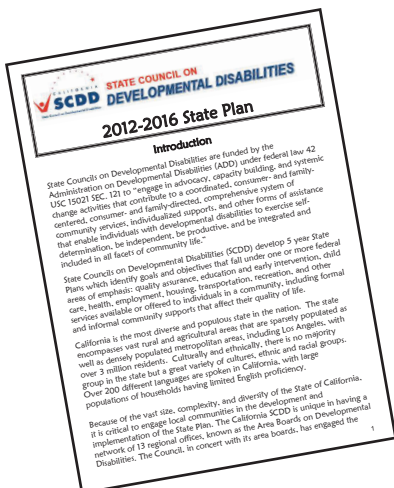
Civic Engagement
Advocacy

Partner Organization/Area Board Role

- Support Network member with Network responsibilities by providing:



- Facilitation Services
 - Transportation
 - Office access (telephone, computer, meeting space, etc.)
 - Technical support with collecting information on served/underserved communities
 - Contributions to Network progress reports
- Help create and carry out statewide or regional advocacy plans.



- Use partner organization/area board established strategic goals as foundation for Network advocacy plan.
 - Working with their organizations, Network members may coordinate activities within these plans and share outcomes.

Partner Organizations/Area Board Support

Facilitator Role



- Provide individualized assistance to Network member so he/she may carry out responsibilities.



- Details of facilitation support are agreed upon by the member and facilitator using Facilitation Purpose, Planning and Practice booklet. http://www.scddadvocacy.org/SCDD_Board_Training/publications.shtml

- Meet before, during and after Network meetings to help member utilize communication technologies, prepare for meetings, and follow-up.



Network Member Role

By steering the statewide Network, members promote teamwork and expand their expertise. They share strategies that promote meaningful change in their own lives to expand advocacy action in larger arenas.

Network Member Responsibilities

- Attend meetings and complete assignments.
- Collaborate to create Network statewide advocacy plan.
- Help create/supplement organization area board advocacy plans.
- Take part in advocacy activities with local, regional and statewide organizations.
- Collect information and contribute to Network reports.
- Utilize strategies and tools with network members and other advocates.

As a leader, it is important to understand firsthand the meaning of self-determination and how to exercise basic rights. To gain practical experience in leadership, Network members determine their own personal and professional advocacy goals and carry out plans. Leading by example means:

- Demonstrating personal change.
- Sharing learning experiences and teaching tools.
- Advocating for the rights of others, not only for oneself.
- Reaching out to others and respecting differences.



How It Works

Network Strategies

1. Statewide meetings to develop leadership and address advocacy plans identified by members.

The Network meets quarterly in Sacramento over two days for leadership training, sharing expertise, evaluating tools and reporting on progress with community advocacy activities.

- Training meeting day for learning, practice, and planning for application in communities.
 - Business meeting day to address Network operations, advance advocacy plans and assignments, and report on progress.
2. Member initiation of personal leadership goals that build a foundation for successful peer advocacy and leadership outcomes.
 3. Community building and outreach through local and statewide advocacy planning and implementation.
 4. Resource sharing through Network web pages on Council website where members and regions highlight useful tools and advocacy activities.
 5. Creation and use of accessible information formats, plain language multi-media tools.





Outcomes & Evaluation

Network

- Network establishes stable membership and operating rules, with regular participation by members in statewide advocacy arenas.
- Network demonstrates routine use of multi-media accessible formats for complex information, available to Network members, partner organizations and general community.

Network members expand:

- Personal leadership accomplishments
- Civic engagement
- Peer representation
- Advocacy activities
- Linkages among self and peer advocacy efforts across the state
- Advocacy with policymakers

Evaluation

1. Network member leadership progress reports.
2. Annual Network Summit to review progress, outcomes, effective strategies and areas for improvement.
3. Annual report to State Council, in booklet and video formats.



State Council Support

The Council supports quarterly Network meetings and provides:

- Travel related costs
- Meeting facilitation and leadership training
- Self-advocacy resource room
- Network web pages and additional online resources
- Network leadership materials for community use

Materials designed and used by the Network are provided in accessible formats. These are made available to Network members, facilitators and partner organizations, as well as to the general community through the State Council's advocacy resource room and website.

www.scdd.ca.gov



SCDD Advocacy Resource Room

1507 21st Street, Suite 200 Sacramento, CA 95814

Contact: Tammy Eudy (916) 322-8184