



# Voices of SSAN

Newsletter of the Statewide  
Self-Advocacy Network  
Volume 7- December 2016

## 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 **Daniel Fouste**. I've been an Inland Empire person my entire life, except for three years I spent in Eugene, Oregon, but that's neither here nor there. I have a lot of

interests, including watching movies, swimming and basically being an Internet junkie (although I am working to lessen on that). I am in SSAN because I feel this would be a good experience for me and it would be something to put on my resume. I aspire to help other people realize they can be more independent, because unlike other people with Asperger syndrome, I've never had most of the problems other Aspies faced, like I've never had too much problem learning something new or listening to others. I'm on the SSAN Self-Determination workgroup because of those reasons. One last thing you should know about me, though: I'm *very* opinionated.



My name is **Teresa Moshier** and I represent the SCDD North State office. The North State is a very rural area and has 9 counties in it; Siskiyou, Modoc; Trinity, Shasta, Lassen, Tehama, Plumas, Glenn and Butte. The office is located in Chico, CA  
**(continued on page 4- Moshier)**

## SSAN Members

- Charles Adams, North Coast
- Robert Balderama, North Valley Hills
- Desiree Boykin, ARCA
- Lisa Cooley, Sacramento
- Chen Curtiss, North Bay
- Rebecca Donabed, Sequoia
- David Forderer, SCDD
- Julie Gaona, Los Angeles
- Ramon Hernandez, Central Coast
- Cheryl Hewitt, Silicon Valley Monterey Bay
- Teresa, North State
- Ted Jackson, CFILC
- Daniel Foust, San Bernardino
- Robert Levy, Orange
- Robert Levy, UC Davis MIND Institute
- Paul Mansell, San Diego Imperial
- Joe Meadours, PFCA
- Nicole Patterson, DDS
- Marinda Reed- DRC
- Kecia Weller, UCLA Tarjan Center
- Regina Woodliff, Bay Area

## County of Solano Department of Education presentation talk by Chen Curtiss



This was a great training for the Teachers and the Educators. They learned about Self-Advocacy when I presented about my “IEP meeting”. Another self-advocate- Jesse Campo, presented about “Living Life with Cerebral Palsy and Living Independently. Cindy Ruder presented about “The Changes of

Adult Services” and Robert Levy (SSAN member) presented about “Employment Services that Support Independence”. On August 15, 2016 there were 175 Teachers and Educators who attended and on August 16, 2016 there were 125 Teachers and Educators being a total of 300 who had attended for those two days. Robert Levy, me and Cindy Ruder stayed for the 2nd and final day and learned a lot when Patty Schetter and Amber Fitzgerald presented. It was great weather. It was sunny and not so hot outside for this 2 day training workshop conference in Fairfield.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **Achieving a Better Life Experience Act by Rebecca Donabed**

On September 8, 2016 Robert Balderama and I-Rebecca Donabed-had made a presentation about the ABLE (A Better Life Experience) Act. Basically, the ABLE Act allows people with disabilities that are on social security, a saving account to have \$100,000 without it affecting their benefits, but you can't spend the money on **(ABLE Act continued on page 3)**

## SSAN Partner Agencies

- Association of Regional Center Agencies (ARCA)
- California Foundation of Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
- Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
- Disability Rights California (DRC)
- People First of California (PFCA)
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD)
- University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) UC Davis MIND Institute
- UCEDD UCLA Tarjan Center
- UCEDD USC

## SSAN Officers

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

## Newsletter Editors

Robert Levy-chair  
Desiree Boykin-vice chair



## (ABLE Act from page 2)



whatever you want; it **ONLY** can be spend on qualifying disability expenses, such as, medical, educational, housing, legal and job related expenses.

It is in California, but not yet in full swing. The current standing is that the ABLE Act has formed a committee. The SCDD Chair April Lopez is on the committee. The committee hopes to have the Cal ABLE program running by the summer of 2017.

Cal ABLE is important because it gives you more money to help you live more comfortably. For more information you can visit the Statewide Self-Determination website at:

<http://www.scdd.ca.gov/ssdac/>

\*\*\*\*\*



**Supported Life Institute**

**Advocating Inclusive and Dynamic Communities**

## Supported Life conference 10/6/16-10/7/16 by Robert Levy

It was two nice days for the conference. There were many different exhibitors. There were Micro Enterprise businesses such as Bitas design, Faith Designs and some others. There were keynote speakers and session presentations. Sonya



Bingaman from SCDD/Sacramento Regional office and, Lisa Cooley, SSAN member, presented about "Self Determination: Is It Right for You?" Sonya also presented about "Emergency Preparedness"

and Carol Watilo presented about "Systems  
**(Continued on page 4- See SLI)**

**(Continued from page 1- Moshier)**



and it is a college town. California State University of Chico and Bidwell Mansion is here. We have one regional center called Far Northern Regional Center. There are a lot of mountains and some counties get snow. We have tons of lakes where you can take your boat or go swimming. I have a lot of meetings in Redding that is two hours away so it takes a lot of time and I have to travel a lot. Our area has very active People First groups; it is called Region 2. All 9 counties are active and

Region 2 plans their own meetings. This region is lucky because they get to plan their own conferences too; the members plan it, not the professionals.

\*\*\*\*\*



Our ANNUAL SSAN REPORT for 2015-2016 is COMPLETED!! CHECK IT OUT!  
SSAN members and agency partners worked really hard for and with people with intellectual/developmental disabilities across California!

\*\*\*\*\*

**(Continued from page 3 – SLI)**

Change: Competitive Employment”. Andrew Folies and I presented about “Our Journey of becoming Empowered Employees”. It was a great turn out there was about 400 or more people there.





## **SSAN Legislative Workgroup** **Report by David Forderer** **December 2016**



After several discussions around disability legislation that was making its way through the California legislature, the legislative workgroup has chosen to follow the legislation that SCDD is supporting and/or tracking. It was determined that following bills the Council had no interest in supporting was not in the best interest of the workgroup.

One of the bills the Council was not only tracking but supporting was SB 1072. It was signed in to law by Governor Brown in late September. The other bill the committee was interested in tracking was SB 324 "The Able Act"

Here is the news story regarding SB 1072:

### **Paul Lee** **School Bus Safety Law** **Signed by Governor Brown**

*Tragic Death of Whittier Student Inspired Bill*  
*Press Release from Senator Mendoza's Office*  
*September 28, 2016*



**Sacramento** – Today, at a Whittier press conference, Senator Tony Mendoza (D-Artesia) and the parents of Hun Joon "Paul" Lee announced that Governor Jerry Brown signed into law the "Paul Lee School Bus Safety Law" (SB 1072). See attached photos of Whittier press conference. SB 1072, named after a Whittier student who tragically passed away last year after being left unattended on school bus for many hours, would require school buses in California to be equipped with child-safety alarm systems. It would also require bus drivers, upon a renewal of their annual school bus driver safety certificate, to receive training in child-safety check procedures. The new law will go into effect beginning with the 2018–19 school year.

"I thank Governor Brown for signing SB 1072. The Paul Lee School Bus Safety Law will protect every child who rides a school bus to and from school every day," said Senator Tony Mendoza.

**(Continued on page 6)**

“SB 1072 will prevent future tragedies by requiring every school bus in the state to be equipped with a child-safety alarm system. No parent should fear that their child will not return home safely at the end of the day,” added Senator Mendoza.

"We are grateful today for Governor Brown's recognition that school bus safety is a vital issue and we thank him for signing SB 1072 to protect the most vulnerable of our students," said Eun Ha Lee on behalf of the Lee family.

"Although we tragically lost our son Paul last year after he was left behind on a school bus for 7-hours, we know that the signing of this bill is a warm hug from heaven that will enable all children who ride a school bus to arrive at their destination safely. Thank you Senator Mendoza for creating the "Paul Lee School Bus Safety Law" and for your tireless efforts in advocating for families who entrust school districts and bus companies with the safe transportation of their children," added Eun Ha Lee, Paul's Mother. **“The State Council on Developmental Disabilities was honored to sponsor SB 1072, and we applaud Senator Mendoza for all of his good work in getting this legislation passed. By signing this bill, Governor Brown has made California a safer place for kids riding school buses,”** said Dr. April Lopez, Chair of the Council.

A school bus child-safety alarm system generates an audible sound when the ignition of the vehicle is turned off. This alarm requires the bus driver to walk to the rear of the vehicle to silence the alarm, thereby detecting any remaining children or passengers on the school bus. Some states, including Arkansas and Wisconsin, already require school buses and childcare vehicles over a certain passenger size to be equipped with child-safety alarms.

“California has now joined other states that require child-safety alarm systems on school buses. The many thousands of children transported daily to and from school will now be protected,” said Senator Tony Mendoza.

“My hope is that Governor Brown’s signature provides some measure of consolation and closure for Paul’s family. I thank the Lee Family for their courage and fortitude during this process despite their heart-wrenching sadness. The tragic loss of their son has helped bring about meaningful change that will forever safeguard every child in California who rides a bus  
**(Continued on page 7)**

to and from school every day. Although we cannot give the Lees their beloved brother and son back, we can honor his memory and find solace in the fact that his passing will ensure that so many others will live,” added Mendoza.

Current law requires public and private school districts to create and follow a transportation safety plan containing procedures for school personnel to follow to ensure the safe transportation of pupils. The plans must include specific procedures on boarding and exiting a school bus at each pupil’s bus stop and at the final trip destination.

Additionally, to operate a school bus, a driver is required to obtain a California Special Driver Certificate from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), which entails classroom instruction, special training, and testing. Annual renewal of the certificate is required and involves 10 hours of renewal classroom instruction, or behind-the-wheel or in-service training. During the last several years in California, there have been several cases where children were left on school buses unattended and found hours later. Specifically, the new law required by SB 1072 will:

- Require all school buses to be equipped with an operational child-safety alarm system that prompts the driver to inspect all seats before leaving the bus. The system must be approved by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and hard-wired into the vehicle’s electrical system and activated when the ignition is turned on.
- Require drivers, upon a renewal of their annual school bus driver safety certificate, to receive training in child-safety check procedures.
- Add a reporting requirement to ensure that the Department of Motor Vehicles is notified of cases when a child is left on a bus unattended.
- Direct the CHP to promulgate rules to implement the new requirements and provide a list of child-safety alarms that are approved for use in school buses and a qualified technician or mechanic that can install the system.
- Grant school districts and school bus contractors a grace period of eight months after the date that the CHP issues the rules to install a child-safety alarm system.



**SEE PAGE 8 for a list of ALL the bills SCDD  
Chose to Support!**



The following is a list of ALL the bills that the SCDD chose to support (AB means Assembly Bill and SB means Senate Bill)

**AB 74** Child care facilities: regulatory visits

**AB 449** Income taxation: savings plans: Qualified ABLE Program

**AB 488** Employment discrimination

**AB 563** Developmental services

**AB 564** Regional centers: parental fees

**AB 643** Emergency services: Silver Alerts

**AB 648** Health care access demonstration project grants: Virtual Dental Home Grant Program

**AB 662** Public accommodation: disabled adults: changing facilities

**AB 763** Medi-Cal: program for aged and disabled persons

**AB 796** Health care coverage: autism and pervasive developmental disorders

**AB 881** Pupils: grounds for suspension and expulsion: bullying

**AB 918** Seclusion and restraint: developmental services: health facilities

**AB 987** Employment discrimination: unlawful employment practice

**AB 1218** Public contracts: disabled veteran business enterprise

**AB 1261** Community-based adult services: adult day health care centers

**AB 1369** Special education: dyslexia

**AB 1553** Savings plans: qualified ABLE program

**AB 2212** Pupils: suspensions and expulsions: bullying: electronic acts: video

**AB 2785** Special education: English learners: manual

**AB 2809** Developmental services: regional centers

**SB 11** Peace officer training: mental health

**SB 29** Peace officer training: mental health

**SB 190** Health care coverage: acquired brain injury

**SB 324** Income taxation: savings plans: Qualified ABLE Program

**SB 490** Regional centers: audits

**SB 492** Coordinated Care Initiative: consumer educational and informational guide.

**SB 589** Voting: voter registration: individuals with disabilities who are conserved

**(Continued on page 9)**



**SB 644** Limited Examination and Appointment Program: persons with developmental disabilities

**SB 1024** Developmental services: supported employment

**SB 1072** School bus safety: child safety alert system

**SB 1221** Firefighters: interaction with persons with mental disabilities

**SB 1252** Health care costs: patient notification

**SR 98** California's community-based developmental services system: 50th anniversary

For more information about these bills please visit this website:

<http://ctweb.capitoltrack.com/public/publish.aspx?session=15&id=c6ce37f5-07cd-427e-9f14-81c7df0dedd5>

\*\*\*\*\*



## SAVE the DATES

**CHOICES Institute** 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be held April 7, 2017 in Stockton- call 209-473-6950 for more info!

**Supported Life Institute** already has the date for the 22nd Annual Self Advocacy Conference- it will be held on May 5 & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**CAPITOL ACTION DAY** – will be held in Sacramento June 13, 2016.

\*\*\*\*\*



### **The Warmline Transition Fair 9/21/16 by Robert Levy**

Amanda Parker presented about “Transitioning Life while going to college and Getting Involved with Self Advocacy”, Zachary Miller presented about “Transitioning life how he got involved with Self Advocacy work”, Andrew Folies presented about “Transitioning Life how he got into Integrated Competitive Supported Employment and working on his other goals” and Robert Levy “Transitioning Life how he got into Integrated Competitive Supported Employment and getting involved with Self Advocacy work”. There were different exhibitors such as the UCD MIND Institute UC/CEDD and much more. It was a good event with a lot of information.



50 years of supporting people with developmental disabilities in the community

## **The Lanterman Act 50th Anniversary Celebration by Robert Levy**

Many regional centers held celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lanterman Act. The Lanterman Act is a California Law and because of this law- many people with intellectual/developmental disabilities have the service and supports they need to live the life they want.

Here are reports from two regional centers:

### **Valley Mountain Regional Center- September 28, 2016**

Over 400 people attended the event on the grounds that VMRC's office is now but was the where the Stockton Development Center used to be. They had displays of artwork and had comments by people who shared what the Lanterman Act meant to them. They had speakers from the regional center, self-advocates and Senator Cathleen Galgiani presented VMRC with a plaque to celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary.

### **Alta Regional Center- October 15, 2016**

There were about 600 or more people who attended. It was held at the ALTA Regional Center Sacramento location. It was a nice day. There were a bunch of exhibitors such as PEC , SCDD, Lending works , some Micro Enterprise businesses such Bitas Design, Dave Z Chipole Salsa , Sparkling Jewels , and Buttons and Bears Oh my!. Staff and clients from PEC came out to celebrate the anniversary. Thank you to all who came out!

.....



### **WIOA- Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act- by Paul Mansell**

There is information about WIOA from the *Institute Brief* from the Institute for Community Inclusion- University of Massachusetts- that can be found at [www.communityinclusion.org/pdf.IB31\\_f.pdf](http://www.communityinclusion.org/pdf.IB31_f.pdf)

## UPDATES by Cheryl Hewitt



### **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SSAN and SCDD**

---

*The State Council on Developmental Disabilities presented SSAN with their responses to our MOU, which we have been developing for SSAN. The MOU was presented to SSAN members and SSAN discussed any changes needed. SCDD presented the information at the SSAN December 8-9, 2016 meeting. The SSAN approved the version of the MOU.*

---

### **Two SCDD Regional Offices Merge**

---

*SCDD decided to merge the Central Coast and Silicone Valley Monterey Bay offices. This was done after public hearings which were held thorough out the two regions. This went into effect on July 1, 2016. Now there are two representatives for SSAN, from the newly combined Central Coast office –they are Cheryl Hewitt and Ramon Hernandez.*

---



Picture of the panelist presenters from the Warm Line article on page 9.

Pictured from left to right is Andrew Folies, Cindy Ruder, Amanda Parker, Zachary Miller and Robert Levy.

Picture from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lanterman Act article on page 10. Pictured left to right is Robert Levy, Andrew Folies and Amanda Pelaccio







**Introducing the new  
SCDD Self Advocacy Coordinator  
Riana Hardin**



My name is Riana Hardin and I am the Self-Advocacy Coordinator with the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. As a part of my role, I have the privilege of helping to coordinate SSAN activities and assisting self-advocates in developing the skills to grow SSAN. I started working with the State Council in August and have already been able to participate in two quarterly meetings. I am impressed with SSAN's interest in educating people about the ABLE Act, employment, voting access and emergency preparedness. I have a B.A. in Communications from CSU Monterey Bay and a M.A. in Peace and Justice Studies from the University of San Diego. I hope to use my position to be an effective advocate for others. It is my belief that every person has the ability to make positive change in their communities. I hope to be able to support SSAN as it strives to be a force for good.

# Happy Holidays from the Statewide Self Advocacy Network

