



2021 All In for Self-Determination! A Statewide Virtual Conference on California's Self-Determination Program

Presented by
Disability Voices United

Note: All times Pacific

DAY 1 – FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2021

- 8:30-9:00 am Gathering and Technical Assistance
- 9:00-9:30 am **Greetings from Our Lead Sponsors**
GT Independence, Holly Carmichael, COO
Public Partnerships, Mark Altieri, Sr. Director
Acumen Fiscal Agent, Elizabeth Kiefer, Regional Vice-President
- Opening Remarks**
Judy Mark, President, Disability Voices United
- 9:30-10 am **Greetings and Welcome**
Nancy Bargmann, Director
California Department of Developmental Services
- Introduced by Fernando Gomez, Vice President, Disability Voices United
- 10-10:45 am **Keynote**
Alison Barkoff, Acting Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging
Administration for Community Living
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- Introduced by Eden Rapp, Disability Voices United Board Member
- 10:45-11 am **Legislative Greeting**
Senator John Laird (D, Santa Cruz)
- 11:00-11:30 am Break and Expo
- 11:30 am-1 pm **Friday Breakout Sessions**

Beginner Track Sessions:

SDP Stories: Adults

A focus on the stories of SDP participants who are adults. Learn about the opportunities they have taken advantage of. Get ideas for your own SDP journey.

Panelists:

Melissa Crisp-Cooper, Self-Advocate, Co-chair, SD Local Advisory Committee, Regional Center of the East Bay

Enrique Duarte, Self-Advocate

Eden Rapp, Self-Advocate, Board member, Disability Voices United

Moderator: Christina Cannarella, Parent Advocate, Member, SD Local Advisory Committee, North LA County Regional Center and Founder/CVO, Mother Road Studios

Person-Centered Planning and Other Tips from the Pilot

The SDP has been tested in a pilot project for over 20 years. Hear from some of the experienced folks who know everything there is to know about self-determination.

Panelists:

Dustlyne Beavers, Founder and Person-Centered Services Provider, First Choice Solutions

Maria Marquez, Self-Advocate, Chair, Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee

Doug Pascover, Executive Director, Imagine Supported Living Services

Moderator: Rick Wood, Parent of Pilot Participant; Co-Chair, Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee; Founding Board Member, Disability Voices United

Person-Centered Planning: Spanish Session

Person-centered planning is the heart of the SDP. Learn how to create an authentic person-centered plan that helps to meet your hopes and dreams. A real PCP will be presented.

Jhonny and Ada Saavedra, Parents

Seth David Saavedra, Self-Advocate

Cindy Vazquez, Administrative Assistant, Integrated Community Collaborative

Moderator: Elizabeth Gomez, Parent and Founder/Director, Integrated Community Collaborative

Choosing the Right FMS For You

The Financial Management Service is the only required service that an SDP participant has. They pay your staff and for activities and items you want to purchase through your spending plan. This session will help you think about how to pick an FMS that works for you!

Panelists:

Mark Altieri, Sr. Director, Public Partnerships

Robert Bacsik, FMS Director, ARCC Center FMS

Jason Bergquist, Director of Participant Directed Services, Mains'l Services

Holly Carmichael, COO, GT Independence

Elizabeth Kiefer, Regional Vice-President, Acumen

Victor Lira, President, Aveanna Healthcare Support Services

Moderator: Alison Morantz, Parent and Director, Stanford I/DD Law and Policy Project (SIDLAPP)

Intermediate Track Sessions:

What Does Change in Circumstances and Unmet Need Really Mean?

The SDP allows a participant's budget to change because their needs or circumstances change. This session gets into detail about how to make the case if you have needs that aren't being met in the traditional system.

Panelists:

Elizabeth Diaz, Program Manager, Valley Mountain Regional Center

Katie Hornberger, Director, Office of Clients Rights Advocates, Disability Rights California

Taleen Khatchadourian, Client Coach & Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group LLC

Howard McBroom, Self-Advocate, Member, Lanterman Regional Center Self-Determination Committee

Rosie Sigala, Integradora/Parent Advocate, Integrated Community Collaborative

PRAGNYA

Moderator: Suzanne Bennett Francisco, Co-Director of Supported Decision-Making California Advocacy Project, Disability Voices United, President/CEO, Exceptional Rights Advocacy

Flexibility and Creativity: Opportunities to Use Traditional Service Providers in the SDP

Many service providers in the traditional system have years of experience and want to think outside the box with their clients. The SDP is a great way for service providers to serve clients in unique ways.

Panelists:

Eric Amundson, Co-Owner, Leaps n' Boundz

Rebecca Lienhard, CEO, Tierra del Sol Foundation

Ben Russell, Clinical Director, Positive Development

Scott Shepard, Director, Avenues SLS

Moderator: Linda Chan Rapp, Parent, SD Local Advisory Committee Chair, Harbor Regional Center

How the SDP is Tailor Made for a Pandemic

COVID-19 has caused trauma and significant changes for our community. Many participants have put their SDP on hold because there are few opportunities right now. But this session will show you how the flexibility of the SDP makes this the perfect time to go in.

Panelists:

Fernando Gomez, Parent, Co-Founder, Integrated Community Collaborative

Jim Knight, Deputy Director, Administration Division, Department of Developmental Services

Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, Parent, SD Local Advisory Committee, Kern Regional Center

Alma Morales, Direct of Client Relations, Aveanna Healthcare Support Services

Moderator: Carolyn Tellalian, Parent and Board Member, Disability Voices United

Advanced Track Sessions:

Housing Challenges and Opportunities in the SDP

While the SDP cannot pay for rent or food, there is still much that can be done to help identify affordable housing options, and ensure that you are supported there. These housing experts will walk you through the current housing market options and their gaps, and what you can do to create more opportunities for housing in the SDP.

Panelists:

Josh Butler, Executive Director, Lanterman Housing Alliance

Felicia Galitsky, Associate Director, Common

Leroy Moore, Co-Founder, Krip Hop Nation, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Moderator: Ann Hien Bui, Manager of Housing & Inclusion Services, The Kelsey, Board Member, Disability Voices United; and Nina Spiegelman, Parent, Program Director, Disability Voices United

Working It Out: Self-Employment and Micro-Enterprises in the SDP

Not everyone wants or is able to access traditional employment. The options for self-employment and creating a small business is a great way for people with disabilities to earn an income. These experts will show you how the SDP offers opportunities to hire people to help you meet your employment goals.

Panelists:

Jeffrey Baek, SDP Participant

Freddy Gonzaga Jr., Self-Advocate, Basketball Coach

Stephen Hinkle, Self-Advocate, Disability Rights Advocate, PhD Student in Disability Studies at Chapman University

Debra Jorgensen, Client Coach and Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group

Brittany Robinson, Client Coach and Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group

Katherine Sanders, Employment Specialist, San Andreas Regional Center

Moderator: Vivian Haun, Sibling, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California

Putting Communication into Your SDP Plan

This session focuses on the self-advocate who uses AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) and wants to use the SDP to increase their communication through devices, communication partners, and to explore communication systems.

Panelists:

Tami Barmache, Parent and Autism Community Advocate

Kyungshil Choi, Parent

Darlene Hanson, Speech and Language Pathologist, AAC Connections/Disability Voices United

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Nikita Wang, Self-Advocate

Moderator: Diana Pastora Carson, Sibling, Board Member, Disability Voices United

1-2 pm

Meetup sessions and Expo

Meetup Sessions:

- **Self-Advocates Dance Party!**
- **Independent Facilitators Network**
- **SDP for Beginners – Great resources for you!**



DAY 2 – SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021

- 9:00-9:30 am Expo and Technical Assistance
- 9:30-10 am **Greetings from Our Lead Sponsors**
Aveanna Healthcare Support Services, Victor Lira, President, Support Services
First Choice Solutions, Dustlyne Beavers, Founder and Person-Centered
Services Provider
Vanaman German LLP, Valerie Vanaman, Founder and Managing Partner
- Greetings from Self-Determination Law Sponsor**
Senator Bill Emmerson, Commissioner, Little Hoover Commission (retired)
- 10-11:30 am **Full Conference Panel**
**Breaking Down the Barriers: Getting Ready for the Statewide Rollout of the
Self-Determination Program**
- Sonni Charness, Independent Facilitator
Guidelight Group
 - Michi Gates, Executive Director
Kern Regional Center
 - Elizabeth Gomez, Parent and Founder/Director
Integrated Community Collaborative
 - Tim Jin, Self-Advocate and Board Member
Disability Voices United
 - Jim Knight, Deputy Director, Administration Division
Department of Developmental Services
 - Kate Murray, Principal
Applied Self-Direction
 - Rick Wood, Parent, Co-Chair
Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee
Founding Board Member, Disability Voices United
- 11:30 am-12 pm Break and Expo

12-1:30 pm

Breakout Sessions

Beginner Track Sessions:

The Basics on the Individual Budget and Unmet Needs: Spanish Session

The SDP allows a participant's budget to change because their needs or circumstances change. This session gets into detail about how to make the case if you have needs that aren't being met in the traditional system.

Panelists:

Susana Cisneros, Parent

Elizabeth Gomez, Parent and Founder/Director, Integrated Community Collaborative

Olivia Gonzales, Program Supervisor, Aveanna Support Services

Connie Legaspi, Parent of SDP Participants

Katie Ramirez, Founder and Executive Director, Ally Comprehensive Services

Moderator: Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, Parent and Board Member, Disability Voices United

The Basics on Developing Your Spending Plan: English Session

For beginners who are putting together their first spending plan. Learn about how to set up the plan and ensure that you are covering all of your costs.

Panelists:

Jason Bergquist, Director of Participant Directed Services, Mains'l Services

Eliza Dyer, Associate Clinical Social Worker, Parent, Independent Facilitator

Stephen Hinkle, Self-Advocate, Disability Rights Advocate, PhD Student in Disability Studies at Chapman University

Terrasel Jones, CA Director of State Services, GT Independence

Alison Morantz, Parent and Director, Stanford I/DD Law and Policy Project (SIDLAPP)

Moderator: Rosie Lasca, Parent, Project Leader, Autism Society of Los Angeles

Choosing the Right Independent Facilitator for You

The Independent Facilitator is one of the most important people to support a SDP participant. But it's important to find the right fit for you. Meet a range of IFs to get a sense of what is important to you.

Panelists:

Cindy Cox, Independent Facilitator and Team Member, First Choice Solutions

Taleen Khatchadourian, Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group

Kim Schreiber, CEO, NeuroNav

Kavita Sreedhar, Co-founder, PRAGNYA for Neurodiversity

Claudia Pina, Brighter Community Services

Chris Wecks, Abound Services

Moderator: Irene Litherland, Parent, Co-Chair, Self-Determination Committee, Regional Center of the East Bay

SDP Stories: Children

While children are spending much of their day in school, there is still plenty of time to do creative things with the SDP. And social and recreational programs are available in the SDP! Hear some examples at this session.

Panelists:

Lulu Cheong, Parent of SDP participant

Carla Lehmann, Parent, Independent Facilitator, Special X

Eric and Maryam Remias, Parents of SDP participant

Evelyn Rodriguez, Parent of SDP participant, Founder & Director, Latino Parents Mentors LLC

Moderator: Kim Sinclair, Parent and Executive Director, Autism Society of Los Angeles

Intermediate Track Sessions:

Special Focus: Transition Age Youth in the SDP

Moving from high school into college, paid work, volunteer work, or other activities is critical in everyone's life. Hear from experts who know that the SDP provides opportunities to ensure support in all of those areas.

Panelists:

Sonia Dickson, Co-Director, TranZitions Consulting

Sherry Johnson, Parent, SD Local Advisory Committee, SCLARC; LAUSD Community Advisory Committee Member; NAMI Youth Mental Health Advocate

Debra Jorgensen, Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group

Sandra McElwee, Parent, Chief Dream Facilitator, Empowered Person-Centered Plans

Matthew Schneider, SDP Participant

Nikita Wang, Self-Advocate

Moderator: Diane Bernstein, Parent of an SDP Participant; Independent Facilitator, Self Determination Coaching

Special Focus: The SDP in Rural Communities

SDP participants living in rural areas have special considerations, such as difficulty in finding staff and traditional services. Hear from SDP participants who have taken advantage of the flexibility of the SDP in rural areas.

Panelists:

Michael Bowers, Consultant, Independent Facilitator, & Plan Writer, First Choice Solutions

Sheila Keys, Community Resource Manager, Redwood Coast Regional Center

Moderator: Doug Pascover, Executive Director, Imagine Supported Living Services

Hand in Hand: Supported Decision-Making and Self-Determination

Learn more about supported decision-making, or SDM, which provides people with disabilities the ability to choose trusted people to help them make important choices in their lives. It allows people to avoid conservatorship and the courts, but have the support to be safe while maintaining their rights.

Panelists:

Suzanne Bennett Francisco, Co-Director of Supported Decision-Making California Advocacy Project, Disability Voices United, President/CEO, Exceptional Rights Advocacy

Kiely Francisco, Self-Advocate

Dr. Amy Hanreddy, Professor of Special Education, California State University Northridge

Jonathan Martinis, Senior Director for Law and Policy, Burton Blatt Institute, Syracuse University

Advanced Track Sessions:

Make It a Fair Hearing: Your Rights in the SDP

Just like in the traditional system, if there is a disagreement with your regional center, you have a right to go to fair hearing. But going to fair hearing can sometimes be intimidating. This session will break down how it works and provide resources for fair hearings.

Panelists:

Sally Campa, Parent advocate

Vivian Haun, Sibling, Senior Attorney, Disability Rights California

Rubi Saldana, Parent, Area Manager and Co-Founder, Integrated Community Collaborative

Valerie Vanaman, Founder and Managing Partner, Vanaman German

How to Find, Keep, and Manage Staff in the SDP

Finding good support staff is always challenging, but the SDP provides flexibility with salaries, hours, and benefits. Learn from those with experience on how the SDP can help you recruit and keep great staff.

Panelists:

Joe Donofrio, Executive Director, CHOICISS

Molly T. Kennedy, Self-Advocate, SDP Participant

Harvey Lapin, Longtime Parent Advocate, SD Local Advisory Committee Westside Regional Center

Lori Shepard, Director of Operations, Avenues SLS and Beyond Assessments

Rick Wood, Parent, Co-Chair, Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee; Founding Board Member, Disability Voices United

Moderator: Jon Francis, Independent Facilitator, Support Coordinator, Fx Determination Alliance

Taking a Pause: Ensuring Cultural Humility in the SDP

This session will explore the intersection of ableism, privilege, race, class, gender, and implicit bias as it is embedded into the culture that serves as barriers to accessing supports, services, and the SDP.

Panelists:

Diana Pastora Carson, Sibling, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Fernando Gomez, Parent, Co-Founder, Integrated Community Collaborative

Leroy Moore, Co-Founder, Krip Hop Nation, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Tim Jin, Self-Advocate, Board Member, Disability Voices United

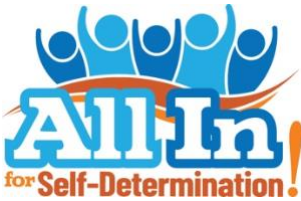
Moderator: Ann Hien Bui, Manager of Housing & Inclusion Services, The Kelsey, Board Member, Disability Voices United

1:30-2:30 pm

Meetup sessions and Expo

Meetup Session:

- **Parents with young children**
- **Self-Advocates**
- **Transition-Age Youth**
- **Regional Center SD Local Advisory Committees**
- **AAC Users**



DAY 3 – SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021

9:30-10:00 am Expo and technical assistance

10-11:30 am **Breakout Sessions**

Beginner Track Sessions:

The Basics on Developing Your Spending Plan: Spanish Session

For beginners who are putting together their first spending plan. Learn about how to set up the plan and ensure that you are covering all of your costs.

Panelists:

Olivia Gonzales, Program Supervisor, Aveanna Support Services

Carla Lehmann, Parent, Independent Facilitator, Special X

Vicky Perez, FMS Specialist, ARCC Center

Sabrina Kappe (Ramos), PCP/IF, NeuroNav

Cindy Vazquez, Administrative Assistant, Integrated Community Collaborative

Moderator: Elizabeth Gomez, Parent and Founder/Director, Integrated Community Collaborative

The Very Coolest Things We Have Done in the SDP

The best thing about the SDP is the chance to really think creatively about your future. This session features some great ideas to get your creative juices flowing!

Panelists:

Eden Rapp, Self-Advocate, SDP Participant, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Chris Wecks, Abound Services

Danny and Michelle K. Wolf, SDP Participant & Parent, Executive Director, JLA Special Needs Trust

Nassreen and Roberta Zarea, Self-Advocate & SDP Participant, and Parent

Moderator: Carolyn Tellalian, Parent and Board Member, Disability Voices United

Intermediate Track Sessions:

Role Play Flipped: Mock IPP in the SDP

This fun session takes you through a pretend IPP (Individual Program Plan) meeting with a regional center – but all of the roles are played by someone else! We have an IF playing the parent, the regional center staff playing the SDP participant, the parent playing the RC staff, and the self-advocate is the IF.

Panelists:

Zoey Giesberg, MSW, Self-Advocate and Community Outreach Associate/Direct Support Staff, Family Adult and Child Therapies – Playing the role of the Independent Facilitator

Kim Schreiber, CEO, NeuroNav – Playing the role of the parent

Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, Parent – Playing the role of the regional center staff

Cheryl Wenderoth, M.S. Assistant Director of Federal Programs, Tri-Counties Regional Center – Playing the role of the SDP Participant

Special Focus: Selected for the SDP but Need Help Transitioning In

Were you selected to be one of the early SDP participants and still haven't moved in yet? This session will give you help to get you started as soon as possible.

Panelists:

Adrian Jimenez, Lanterman Regional Center

Victor Lira, President, Aveanna Healthcare Support Services

Jan Opsvig, Parent, Independent Facilitator, Empowered Person-Centered Plans

Kishan Sreedhar, Parent, Co-Founder, PRAGNYA

Moderator: Rick Wood, Parent, Co-Chair, Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee;
Founding Board Member, Disability Voices United

Equity in the SDP: Will Racial and Ethnic Disparities be Eliminated or Perpetuated?

People of color receive far fewer services in the traditional regional center system. The SDP holds promise to reduce disparities and address unmet needs. But is that really happening?

Panelists:

Chris Arroyo, Regional Manager, State Council on Developmental Disabilities Los Angeles

Dora L. Contreras, Grandparent, Integradora, Integrated Community Collaborative; Valley Mountain Regional Center SD Workgroup

Fernando Gomez, Parent, Co-Founder, Integrated Community Collaborative

Sherry Johnson, Parent, SD Local Advisory Committee, SCLARC; LAUSD Community Advisory Committee Member; NAMI Youth Mental Health Advocate

Cathay Liu, Parent, Chinese Parents Organization

Anna Wang, Parent, Co-Founder and Vice President, Friend of Children with Special Needs

Dr. Jesse Weller, Psy.D., Chief of Program Services, North Los Angeles County Regional Center

Moderator: Alejandro Soschin, Consultant and Advocate

Special Focus: Adults Over 40 in the SDP

As we age, we have changing needs that can be more easily met with the flexibility of the SDP. Hear from SDP participants and professionals about how the SDP has helped them.

Panelists:

Tina Ewing-Wilson, SDP Pilot Participant

Stephen Hinkle, Self-Advocate, Disability Rights Advocate, PhD Student in Disability Studies at Chapman University

Molly T. Kennedy, Self-Advocate, SDP Participant

Howard McBroom, Self-Advocate, Member, Lanterman Regional Center Self-Determination Committee

Doug Pascover, Executive Director, Imagine Supported Living Services

Lori Shepard, Director of Operations, Beyond Assessments and Avenues SLS

Moderator: Deaka McClain, MPA, Self-Advocate, Board of Directors - Secretary, Disability Rights California

Advanced Track Sessions:

Year 2 in the SDP: Lessons Learned and Moving Forward

This session is targeted toward those SDP participants who have already transitioned in but are now preparing for their second year. How should you look back at your first PCP? How would you change things for the second year?

Panelists:

David Grady, Regional Manager, State Council on Developmental Disabilities, Central Coast

Taleen Khatchadourian, Parent, Client Coach & Independent Facilitator, Guidelight Group LLC

Tiffany Lang, Director of Business Development, GT Independence

Trudy Marsh, Director of Person-Centered Programs, Parents Helping Parents

Moderator: Suzanne Bennett Francisco, Co-Director of Supported Decision-Making California Advocacy Project, Disability Voices United, President/CEO, Exceptional Rights Advocacy

They Are In Charge: Shifting Your Perceptions of Your Family Member Through Self-Determination

It is sometimes hard for parents and family members to shift from making decisions for their loved one to following their lead. Be part of this critical discussion about how to let your family member be in charge of their own lives.

Panelists:

Maribel Ahumada, Co-Founder, Community Outreach Parent, & Integradora, ICC

Tami Barmache, Parent and Autism Community Advocate

Diana Pastora Carson, Sibling, Board Member, Disability Voices United

Jacque Dillard-Foss, CEO, STEP Agency

Harvey Lapin, Longtime Parent Advocate, SD Local Advisory Committee Westside Regional Center

Cendy Topete, Parent, Integradora, Integrated Community Collaborative

Moderator: Mari-Anne Kehler, Parent and Vice President, Autism Society of Los Angeles

11:30 am – 12 pm Break and Expo

12-1:30 pm

Final Full Conference Panel:

Leadership Dialogue:

Self-Determination as a Path Toward Disability Justice

- Andy Imparato, Executive Director, Disability Rights California
- Peter Mendoza, Director of Advocacy and Special Projects, Marin Center for Independent Living
- Leroy Moore, Co-Founder, Krip-Hop Nation
- Ari Ne'eman, PhD Candidate, Health Policy, Harvard University
- Eden Rapp, Board Member, Disability Voices United
- Sofia Vergara, Ed.D, Co-Founder, Bridges to Inclusion

1:30-1:40 pm

Wrap Up: Judy Mark, President, Disability Voices United