

A note from SDA's Executive Director:

Dear community,

After 11 wonderful years of organizing, strategizing, planning, advocating, and fighting for justice with all of you, I have decided to leave Senior and Disability Action. We have accomplished so much together and the senior and disability movement in the Bay Area is getting stronger by the day. SDA is in a good place for new leadership to blossom and take the organization into its next chapter. My last day is June 16 (but don't worry, I might show up at City Hall for the end of budget season!) and we'll have time to celebrate and share stories before then.

Two other SDA staff are moving on to new opportunities in the next few months. Sarah Jarmon, who came on nearly 15 years ago to lead Senior and Disability Survival School and has since worked as SDA's Development Director, will be pursuing her passion for public health at San Francisco Department of Public Health. Peter Estes, who has transformed SDA's Peer Advocate program, is headed to NYU for graduate studies in urban planning. Both Peter and Sarah have been a beloved part of SDA and the community and will be dearly missed.

SDA has a talented and skilled group of staff, members, and allies who will keep the work going and growing. We are in the process of hiring a Transit Justice Organizer and a new Community Resource Organizer. SDA's housing, health care, masking, transit justice, Peer Advocate, Survival School, University, and East Bay programs will all continue to bring people together and lift up the voices and needs of seniors and people with disabilities.

Senior and Disability Action has always been about bringing together communities, and all of our successes have happened from community partnerships. I trust that the community will hold SDA during the transition. As SDA brings on new staff and makes adjustments, you all will be key in bringing senior and disabled people to the table, informing folks about policy happenings, sharing community organizing skills, and being there for each other.

What's next for me is yet to be determined, but I will certainly stay involved in disability and senior organizing to some extent, and I hope our paths will continue to cross. My

goal is that when I run into you after June, we will have time to catch up and I won't have to run off to the next meeting.

Warmly,
Jessica

A note from SDA's Board President:

The Board of Directors of Senior and Disability will very much miss working with Jessica, who has been a remarkable Executive Director over the past decade, taking us from a newly merged organization advocating for seniors and people with disabilities to a new level of advocacy and social justice. The Board honors Jessica's transition and is committed to building upon her and others' legacies. We have formed a Transition Team of board members and staff to examine where we are and where we need to go. The Transition Team will be working with a consultant to assess strengths and needs, consider an Interim Executive Director, and develop a process to hire the new Executive Director. We definitely have changes ahead, as our outstanding staff members Sarah Jarmon and Peter Estes are also moving along. Our programs will continue and expand with new leadership, grounded in the accomplishments Jessica and our staff have made over ten years, and as she said, moving SDA into a new chapter of advocacy. Thank you in advance for your support during this time of transition.

Betty Traynor
SDA Board President