Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Human Rights Forum
California Department of Developmental Services
Consumer Advisory Committee
November 2009

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC) hosted a Human Rights Forum in November 2009 at their quarterly meeting. Katherine Guernsey, Education and Outreach Director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD) facilitated a discussion about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) treaty. CAC members understand the CRPD is an important civil rights treaty that guarantees people with disabilities the rights to dignity, inclusion and choice.

CAC Believes: Knowing your rights and applying them to your everyday life is important. Members of the CAC believe effective leadership is by personal example. The committee's motto is "*My Life, My Way*." Before we can live the lives we want, we must first understand our basic rights as human beings.

Using the CAC developed decision-making strategy *Think-Plan-Do*, members identified the key CRPD concepts and they are provided in this easy to read manual that follows the Human Rights Forum presentation video.

Human Rights are what people need to live with dignity and “enjoy” freedom.

All people have human rights.

Nobody has more human rights than anyone else.

Equality The right to be treated equally – not different than anyone else.

Safety The right to be safe from disasters, abuse and violence.

Privacy The right to privacy – no matter where you live.

THE RIGHT TO:

Think what you want.

Be included in the community.

Work in safe conditions.

Be paid a wa e you can live on.

UNIVERSAL	They belong to everyone.
INALIENABLE	Can not be taken away.
INDIVISIBLE	Cannot be divided from each other.
INTERRELATED	All human rights affect each other.

MEMBERS 192 States (Countries)

STARTED 1945 after World War II

PURPOSE International peace
Friendly relations among countries
Human rights for all

Treaties are agreements in writing between 2 or more countries.

Countries choose to join a treaty.

If a country joins a treaty – it is legally binding.

They must follow what a treaty says to do.

Treaty = Agreement = Convention

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
is a treaty about the human rights of people with disabilities.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
is a treaty that helps countries understand how to act to assure people with disabilities have important human rights.

There are over 650 million people with disabilities worldwide.

People with disabilities were sometimes treated as “invisible” in many countries.

Many people experience human rights violations.

Countries want to improve the quality of life for all their citizens.

Countries agreed that a human rights treaty specifically for people with disabilities was the best solution!

All disabilities	The treaty is for all people with disabilities.
Promotes	Respect for the choices and full inclusion of all persons with disabilities.
Requires	All countries to include people with disabilities and their organizations in decisions that affect their lives.
Reports	Each country reports their progress.

The Treaty was written by member countries of the United Nations

Many meetings were held at the UN headquarters in New York.

Meetings included many people with disabilities!

Meetings finished December 2006.

Step #1 "**SIGNATORY**"

President Obama ordered the treaty to be signed, July 2009.

This means:

United States agrees with the ideas in the treaty.

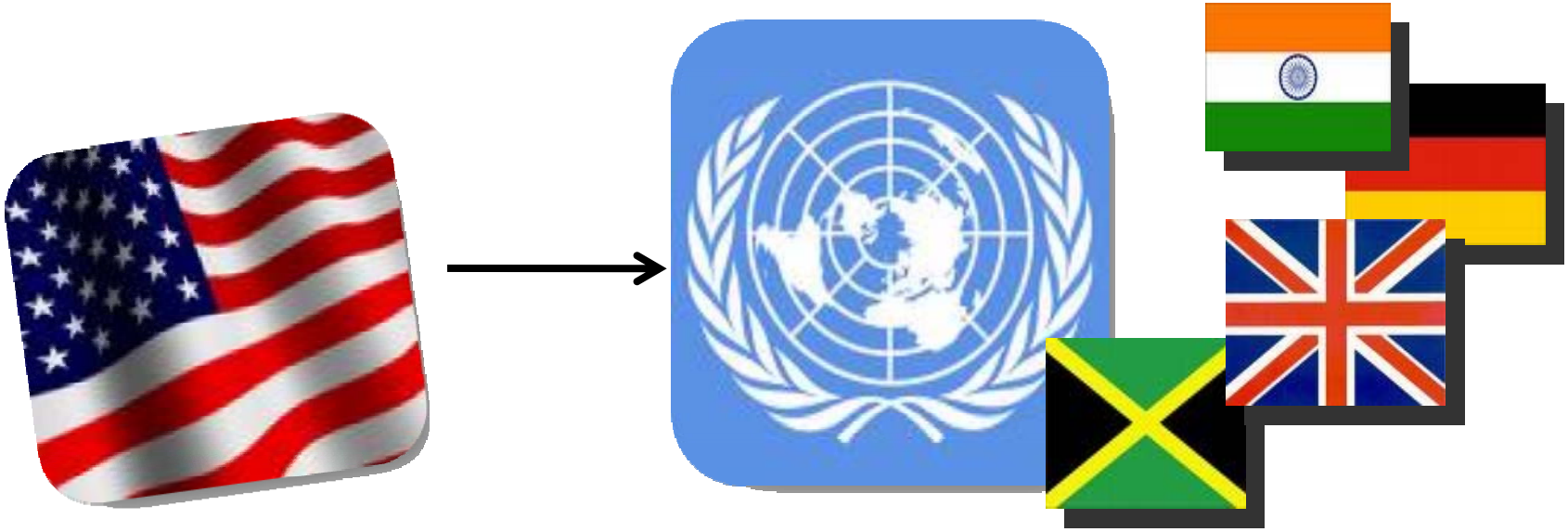
United States is interested in joining the treaty.

Step #2 "**RATIFICATION**"

UNITED STATES SENATE

To become law in the United States, the Senate votes to accept the treaty. There needs to be a two-thirds majority vote for approval.

Step #3 "**STATES PARTY**"



When the United States ratifies (approves) the treaty

it must follow what the treaty says to do.

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belgium
Brazil
Burkina Faso
Chile
China
Cook Islands
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Gabon
Germany
Guatemala
Great Britain/
Northern Ireland
Guinea
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Iran
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya
Laos
Lesotho
Malawi
Mali
Mexico
Mongolia
Morocco
Namibia
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Oman
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Rwanda
San Marino
Saudi Arabia
Serbia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Syria
Thailand
Tunisia
Turkmenistan
Turkey
Uganda
Uruguay
Vanuatu
Yemen

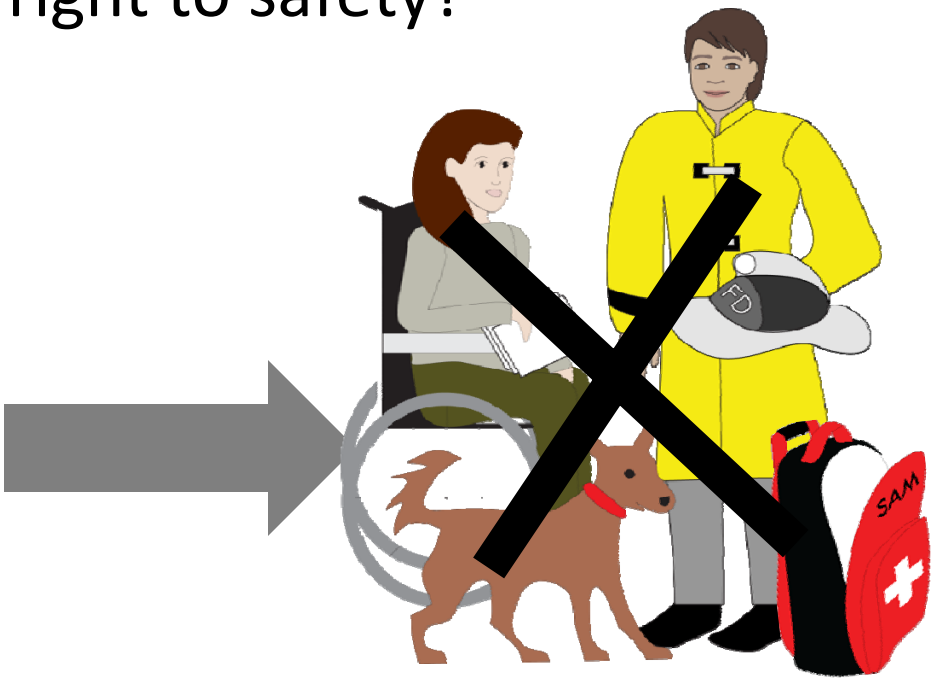
Emergencies and Disasters

Lives can be in jeopardy if people with disabilities do not plan and are not ready to take action quickly in a disaster.

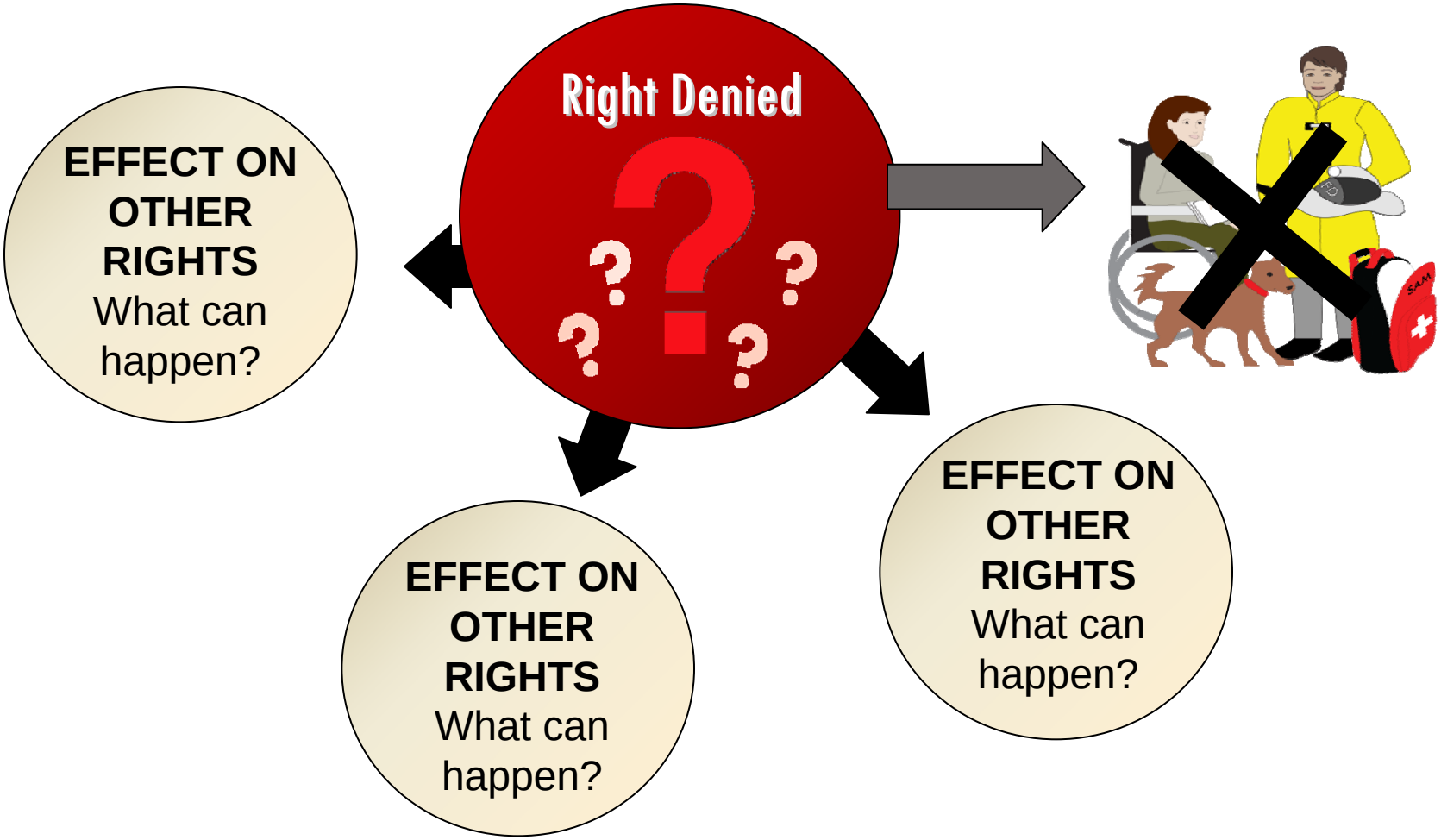
Examples:

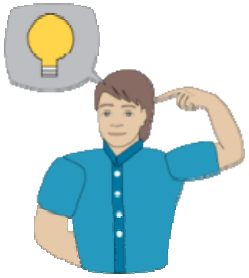
Natural disasters – floods, fires and earthquakes

What can happen if people with disabilities
<u>do not</u> have the right to safety?

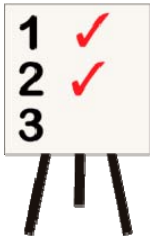


How are other rights affected?





THINK:
What can the treaty do for people with disabilities in the United States?



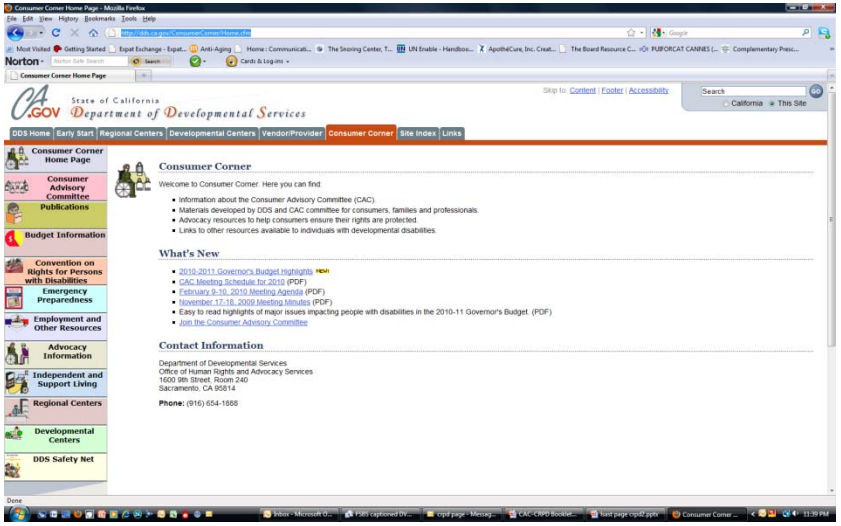
PLAN:
What are ways to tell people about the treaty?

DO:
Take Action – **Lead by example**.

Human Rights Forum

This booklet was produced for the California Department of Developmental Services Consumer Advisory Committee's quarterly meeting, November 2009. The CAC believes the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is an important human rights treaty that assures people with disabilities dignity, inclusion and choice.

California Department of Developmental Services
Consumer Advisory Committee, 2009
CAC advocacy publications and videos can be viewed at:
http://dds.ca.gov/ConsumerCorner/Home.cfm



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