

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 18, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**

Recorder: Maria Hernandez

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (*=Appointed By): Clifford Black (OCRA), Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC*), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*), Frank Van Curen (SCDD*)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE: Sheila Keys (RCRC), Alex Chesstell (RCRC), Patricia Kamlley (DDS), Maria Hernandez (RCRC)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Sherry Erickson, Fabiola (Translation), Maribel Oliver, Joseph, Denise Gorny (SCDD), Bonnie Boek (First 5), Townley Saye (First 5)

Absent Committee Members: Chris Miller (RCRC*), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD)

Common Abbreviations:

CRA (Client Rights Advocate), **DDS** (Department of Developmental Services), **DVU** (Disability Voices United), **FMS** (Financial Management Services), **FRC** (Family Resource Center), **IF** (Independent Facilitator), **PDS** (Participant Directed Services), **PCM** (Participant Choice Manager), **PCT** (Person Centered Training), **RC** (Regional Center), **RCRC** (Redwood Coast Regional Center), **SC** (Service Coordinator), **SCDD** (State Council on Developmental Disabilities), **SDAC** (Self-Determination Advisory Committee), **SDP** (Self-Determination Program), **SSDAC** (Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee)

Minutes:

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call, and Select a Timekeeper (Sheila):**
 - a. A Timekeeper was not selected at this meeting.
2. **Review, Discussion and Approval of January, February, & March 2024 Minutes (Erin):**
 - a. Erin motioned to accept the minutes for January, February, & March after the changes are made. Pam seconded.
3. **Update on March Action Items (Alex):**
 - a. **ACTION: Robert will send an email to Sedona about assuring that the speakers who are presenting are getting their 5 minutes to speak at the board meeting.**
 - i. Completed.
 - b. **ACTION: Sheila, Robert and Pam will coordinate the schedule for people who will speak at the next Board Meeting. Pam will contact Kristy and Debbie to see if they have another person who is willing to come to the Fort Bragg meeting, or she will contact Willy to see if he is willing to come to the meeting instead.**
 - i. Sheila sent a google doc to Pam and added the contact information for the people who will be speaking at the May Board meeting.
 - ii. **ACTION: Pam will contact people for the May meeting, including Kristy and**

Debbie.

- c. **ACTION: We will wait until the next meeting to vote regarding Josh becoming an IF.**
 - i. The Committee will talk about Josh becoming an IF along with the other four candidates under topic number 9 during this meeting.
4. Participant and Family Sharing – What’s Working and What’s Not Working (Community):
 - a. Robert informed the committee and Sheila that he will need help finding a new Independent Facilitator when Jennifer Pittam retires.
 - b. Robert also informed the committee that he spoke with Jennifer and that he can attend the People First conference, as confirmed by the “We Care A lot” Foundation.
 - i. Chris forwarded Robert’s application, they also worked with the FMS provider to receive the funding for his trip to the People First conference in May.
5. State Council Report (Denise):
 - a. Denise reported that there is nothing to report other than Julie being available to assist with the orientation training if any agency or group would like have the training.
6. Co-Chair Update (Frank):
 - a. Frank had no updates during this meeting as there were no Statewide Meetings held between the last SDAC meeting and today’s SDAC meeting.
 - b. Sheila informed the committee that there is nothing posted regarding the June Statewide Meeting that determines whether the meeting will be held in Los Angeles.
 - c. Erin stated that the State Council has been sending out mass emails discussing ways the community can become involved in telling their stories.
 - i. There is a Zoom meeting coming up that will help community members tell their stories. The meeting will be on May 10th.
7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):
 - a. There hasn’t been a Board Meeting for Robert to report on.
 - b. Robert informed the team that he will not be present in the board of directors meeting in May. He also asked Pam since he will not be attending the Board of Directors meeting, for Pam to update him on things that he missed.
8. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in Their Community (Committee/Community):
 - a. Bonnie Boek from Raise & Shine spoke about the family support meetings that they host, including meetings for the CAC members.
 - i. The parent support meetings are held monthly for families that have children with disabilities. One is online and the other is in person.
 - ii. The trainings are also being provided at Mendo Leap. Mendo Leap has a space for children to play.
 - iii. The families get different training courses on IEPs or Speech Therapy, and they are also able to ask questions they need answered.
 - iv. Bonnie informed the committee that they also have Sib Shops, which are gatherings for siblings of children with disabilities. During the shops, the

children get to play and have light discussions about their experiences of having siblings with disabilities.

- b. Erin informed the committee that Mendo Leap has been a great space for the community to come together. The State Council has been present and talked about how they can support the community and how Self-Determination has been a part of that process.
- c. Bonnie also mentioned that there is a play group that is all inclusive, where providers can meet with clients and the community in general can go and play.
 - i. Erin mentioned that in the past, clients have meet with Behaviorists and doctors that have supported the community.
- d. Pam informed the committee that the community/families in Humboldt and Del Norte still need help with connecting with other people who are involved in Self-Determination. There are parents and families who are intimidated to talk to professionals.
 - i. Erin informed everyone that there is a group of advocates and lawyers who are working together to provide opportunities for families to learn. On May 9th and 10th, in Del Norte, there will be a roundtable of training for families.
 - ii. This is due to a judgement that came down in the area. This will help families get their needs met, as well as the opportunity to discuss Self-Determination.
- e. Clifford Black mentioned that it is based on the case that DREDF took against the Del Norte Unified School District.
 - i. For anyone who is interested in the case, they can go to the DREDF website to read more on it.
- f. Bonnie Boek said First 5 offers a Community Navigator Program where they help families navigate the regional center services and soon, they will be expanding to the Del Norte, Humboldt, and Lake Counties.
 - i. Townley Saye informed the committee that the funding is directly related to DDS. Mendocino county is currently the fiscal lead, and they are looking to expand. This depends on the positions that are allocated and the changes within the contract years. As the FTEs expand in the contract, the service across the region expands as well.
 - ii. This program will work its way into counties that already have an Early Start FRC or a family empowerment center, as this is an additional service that they are looking to align. Having a center that is already familiarized with the regional center and DDS will help the learning curve be not so steep.
- g. Denise mentioned that the State Administrator from the State Council, Aaron Carruthers, talked to the SCDD that the current US Administration is going after ACYF, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families as well as Head Start to stop the programs.
 - i. Administration on Children, Youth, and Families funds many programs and Head Start is important as it provides early learning services for children and families.
- h. Erin said that there are opportunities to travel to Chico and Sacramento to advocate on April 25th to talk to our congressmen about Medicare and Medicaid.
- i. Erin mentioned that it is important to build bridges as this will help spread the word regarding Self-Determination. There are field days where RCRC go out to the community and talk more about services and would like for SDP to be one of those topics.

- i. Alex mentioned that in Humboldt, there is a Transition Age Service Coordinator who goes out to Willow Creek twice a month for a full day on Fridays and just has office hours. She is located at Dream Quest, and you can make an appointment and meet with her. This is to help families who can't make it to the RCRC office to meet the Service Coordinator.
 - j. Erin mentioned that she and Sheila had a conversation regarding Purchase Orders because she mentioned that it is not how it used to be and they discussed the current process, where the purchases must match what is on the SDP page.
 - i. Pam suggested that we discuss how we can get this issue fixed as it is only discussed and nothing is being changed.
 - ii. Alex informed us that it is better to have the program be set up correctly so that when people who are enrolling and their start date comes up, there is not as many crises happening at the last minute.
 - k. Sherry asked if anyone has asked leaders inviting them to join the committee.
 - i. Sheila mentioned that there is a person who may be interested in joining the committee.
 - ii. There is also a participant in Lake County that has started their second year in self-determination, and he has expressed that he would like to speak to the board.
- 9. Start-Up Funding for IF/FMS Agencies, updates and Approvals/DDS Funding to Support Implementation of SDP (Sheila/Alex):
 - a. Rhiannon has 4 people who want to attend the IF academy training. The committee reviewed the Scholarship requests to become Independent Facilitators.
 - i. Josh Stithem being one of those people. Josh is from Sonoma County, but the others are local.
 - ii. Josh Stithem has experience working with disability services and is willing to travel to most parts of Mendocino County.
 - iii. Leticia Mora is the parent of a 20-year-old who is a client of RCRC. She is interested in mentorship opportunities and helping the Latino Community.
 - iv. Salvador Chris Vasquez has helped his cousin enroll to get services and has connections in the tribal community, has experience working with our special needs community.
 - v. Fabiola Oliman wants to become an independent facilitator and has experience as a mother of a 12-year-old who receives services. She speaks English and Spanish, she is bilingual and would like to help the community obtain services they are struggling with.
 - b. Erin mentioned that she wants to see people who are willing to travel when needed. She also asked Sheila to explain why RCRC no longer provides IF training.
 - i. Sheila informed her that we only did basic training, but IFs needed more in-depth training.
 - ii. Sherry informed the committee that with all the changes that happen in SDP, there should also be ongoing training offered as well to keep up to date.
 - iii. Sheila informed the committee that Rhiannon is starting a monthly meeting for the IFs. This will not cost anything as it was part of the contract.
 - c. Erin wants to make sure that the IFs are willing to go to marginalized communities.
 - i. Sheila and Alex informed the committee that the LAC money would be appropriate for some sort of mileage fund for IFs that are traveling to meet

with clients.

- d. Erin opened the floor for discussion about the Scholarship Requests.
 - i. Frank motioned that the committee have a discussion about the individuals who are requesting to become IFs.
 - ii. Sheila will be asking questions to the individuals who are requesting to be IFs for the committee.
 - 1. How many people are they comfortable in serving? How much time do you have?
 - 2. Are they willing to work in groups?
 - iii. At least two people on the list will be attending the Person-Centered Training.
- e. Fabiola spoke regarding her interest in becoming an IF. She would like to help get services started for individuals who need help getting services. It is important for her to get trust from the parents and kids with disabilities.
 - i. Alex and Erin spoke a little more about Fabiola and her experience. Alex mentioned that she is a wonderful advocate for clients and their interests. Erin mentioned that Fabiola attends all the parent support groups and talks with families.
 - ii. Pam motioned to approve the training for the new IFs. Erin seconded the motion.
 - iii. The committee approved all IFs to get the training.
- f. Pam suggested that we reach out to Rhiannon regarding the monthly meetings so that she could contact the IFs and inform them of the meetings.

10. RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Sheila/Alex/Committee):

- a. Sheila mentioned that she wanted to see whether the Family Resource Center representatives were regional center appointees or state council.
 - i. Sheila mentioned that it is a requirement from DDS that we have them, and we now do after trying for so many years. They should be added under the vacant family resource center section on the roster. If Cliff or Crystalline here that would count as one member.
- b. Alex mentioned that there is a parent who may be interested in being more involved in FDAC from Del Norte, but she is currently grieving the loss of her child and therefore he hesitates on bringing it up, but she might be still interested in supporting the program down the line.
ACTION: Erin will reach out to the Tribal community leaders in Del Norte County to see if they would be willing to attend SDAC meetings.
- c. Alex is having a teenager enrolling in SDP beginning May 1st.
- d. Sheila mentioned that the enrollments has stayed the same.

11. Update on SDP Participant Transition, Status of Independent Facilitators and FMSs, and Report on Self-Determination Conversations Meetings (Sheila/Alex):

- a. Sheila informed the committee that she has seen three certificates from Sate Council for people attending orientation. Two of them have started their planning.
- b. We have 16 FMS providers in our system with another coming on board within the next week.
 - i. Three of the last few FMS providers have received substantial amounts of

money through the state's grant process. DDS did RFPs and so the providers are getting additional cash flow to make it work well.

- ii. One of the FMS providers will be setting up an office at some point once there is enough people in Eureka, another will be in Lake County, and the third will have office hours and come to the area frequently, but we are still unsure if they will have an office.

12. DDS Directives (Sheila/Alex):

- a. There have not been any new directives since our last meeting. The one sent out today in the morning was regarding the updates for the co-employer rates information.
 - i. Part of the directive included that all the FMS providers who charge more than what they pay the person because they have payroll, workers comp, etc., should be reporting their additional expenses to their regional centers and it must be public and transparent.
- b. Alex mentioned that he is getting a few more people wanting to join SDP, roughly about a dozen, and that he also has some Service Coordinators come to him to ask for help regarding SDP.
- c. Alex and Sheila went to the intake meeting to discuss Self Determination.
 - i. They seemed to be interested in SDP and presenting to the people who come to the intake appointments.
 - ii. They talked about who may benefit from SDP, which was productive information. Alex handed the Intake team a pamphlet with more simplified information regarding SDP.
- d. Sherry mentioned that she has always been told that if a person needs a crown on their teeth, it should get pulled out instead because Medi-Cal would not cover a crown. A client went to Santa Rosa to get the procedure, and it was approved because all that was needed was pre-approval.
 - i. Erin mentioned that there are people in the community who have been told that a crown may cost \$10,000 and others that it would cost \$6,000. These are disparities that have recently come to Erin.
- e. Pam asked Alex if the Intake team is giving the SDP pamphlet at the end of the intake appointment?
 - i. Alex confirmed that they are and that they spoke further about having the SDP discussion at the conclusion of the appointment so that they are aware that their SCs are bringing it up at the IPP meetings.
- f. Pam thanked Alex and Sheila for all the work they have put into SDP and training SCs, despite all the staff turnovers.
 - i. Pam asked if there was any retention.
 - ii. Sheila said that it is improving in some areas.
- g. Fabiola mentioned that sometimes for people who are coming to the meetings, they are confused about what is going on. Fabiola takes the time to discuss with the families.

13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Sheila mentioned that there is a transition fair happening in Ukiah and Willits.
 - i. Raise & Shine will have a table at the Ukiah and Willits meeting.
 - ii. The first will be at Willits High School 10-11:30am on May 15th. The second will be at the Ukiah High School from 1:30-3:00 on the same day.
 - b. Pam thanked the First 5 Folks for doing everything they could to provide help.
 - c. Erin also mentioned that William Feather and the Community Transition Program is having an event with wiffle ball, croquet, cornhole, volleyball, horseshoes, BBQ on May 8th for their annual event on 1200 Hastings Rd in Ukiah.
 - d. Erin would like to work together with the resource centers in Humboldt, Del Norte, Covello, and Hoopa. She would like to know if anyone has connections with them.
 - i. Bonnie B will look into getting in contact with them.
14. Add/Remove Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Committee):
- a. We will keep on Agenda Item 8 as an ongoing discussion.
15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):
- a. **ACTION: Sheila will continue to provide Pam with contact information for people willing to attend future board meetings.**
 - b. **ACTION: Erin will reach out to the Tribal community leaders in Del Norte County to see if they would be willing to attend SDAC meetings.**
 - c. **ACTION: Erin will reach out to William Feather.**
 - d. **ACTION: Sheila and Alex will get IFS in touch with Rhiannon for that updated training and getting them into the group.**
 - e. **ACTION: Sheila and Alex will work with diversity coordinators to identify ways to reimburse IFs for travel.**
16. Adjourn the meeting (Erin): Meeting adjourned at 11:56am

The next meeting is set for May 16th, 2025.

SDAC Mtg Minutes_2025_04_18

Prepared by: M. Hernandez (5/6/2025)