

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 16, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Recorder: Sheila Keys

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (*=*Appointed By*): Chris Miller (RCRC*), Cryslyn Miranda (OCRA), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE: Sheila Keys (RCRC), Alex Ostell (RCRC), Patricia Kamlley (DDS), Maria Hernandez (RCRC), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Sherry Erickson (IF), Sonia Lopez (Translation), Kristy Tanguay (IF), Diana Perez (GTI-FMS), Mary Apprill (CBEM) Gabriel Baca Meza, Rosie Lasco (IF Training Academy)

Absent Committee Members: Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC*) Frank Van Curen (SCDD*) Bonnie Boek (First 5), Townley Saye (First 5)

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 (Chris Miller):
 - a. A Timekeeper was not selected at this meeting.
2. Review, Discussion and Approval of January, February, March and April 2025 Minutes (Pam):
 - a. Cryslyn noted that the April minutes #8 d. ii referenced a 'judgement', but it was actually a settlement, not a judgement.
 - b. Pam motioned to accept the minutes for January, February, March and April (corrected as noted) 2025. Chris seconded. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Update on April Action Items (Alex):
 - a. **ACTION: Sheila will continue to provide Pam with contact information for people willing to attend future board meetings. COMPLETED**
 - 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. COMPLETED**
 - c. **ACTION: Erin will reach out to William Feather. COMPLETED**

- d. **ACTION: Sheila and Alex will get IFS in touch with Rhiannon for that updated training and getting them into the group. COMPLETED**
 - e. **ACTION: Sheila and Alex will work with diversity coordinators to identify ways to reimburse IFs for travel. IN PROGRESS**
4. Participant and Family Sharing – What’s Working and What’s Not Working (Community):
- a. Gabriel shared that the low enrollment numbers at RCRC are disgraceful. SDP is the way of the future and people need to know about it. He recently participated in a rally to protest proposed cuts to Medicaid.
 - b. Kristy asked if information about SDP is being shared at the Interagency Transition Team (ITT) meetings and events. She is aware of a lack of understanding/awareness in the coastal ITT group. She is planning to present information about SDP to people using Match Disability services and their parents.
 - c. Erin added we all agree that more understanding is needed. We can all work together to educate people, their families, Service Coordinators, Independent Facilitators, and our local communities about SDP. But we also need to discuss the impact of systemic barriers at the State level.
 - d. Diana offered that GTI is willing to come present and help educate people about SDP.
 - e. Sheila mentioned the Statewide SDAC hosted by SCDD has a meeting in June and this committee could share concerns and feedback with Chris who is a member of the committee.
ACTION: Chris will contact the Statewide SDAC team to get the exact date of the June meeting. If he is unable to attend, Erin agreed to attend as his designee.
ACTION: Julie agreed to connect Pam with Kristina Lewis and Jane Bermudez who coordinate the ITT teams in Mendocino County.
5. State Council Report (Julie):
- a. Julie reported that while she is still committed to the success of SDP, the primary focus of her work at that of SCDD has been supporting people who use Medicaid to advocate by getting their stories out there to push back against proposed cuts. Her goal is to highlight the needs in rural communities. She is concerned that there seems to be a significant lack of awareness about what is at stake. She recommended people attend one of the meetings hosted by Aaron Carruthers to learn more. Pam asked if you had to attend to get the information.
ACTION: Julie will share the updated public facing power point slide deck with Pam when they are available.
ACTION: Alex and Julie will work together to find and/or develop plain language information about what is at risk to help people understand the urgent need to speak up to protect the services and supports they need.
 - b. Julie mentioned the recent information shared by DDS related to the May revise from the Governor, which includes possible cuts to SDP. Alex shared that the proposal was for “new guardrails that protect the sustainability of the Self-Determination Program.” Pam noted that this proposal, if put into place, reduces or eliminates people having control over their budgets, one of the core principles of SDP.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. Chris informed the committee that the Statewide SDAC team has been discussing the ongoing FMS difficulties and IF shortage. He will share the next meeting date with the SDAC team via email.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Pam for Robert):

- a. Sheila reported there was no board meeting since the last SDAC meeting, but there is a meeting tomorrow (5/17) morning.
- b. Pam reported that she was able to get 1 person (Debbie) to share their experience with the board tomorrow. Frank is not able to be there as he doesn't have a ride. Kristy is out of town and can't be there either. Debbie is connected to 2 SDP participants, so she has good information to share.

8. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in Their Community (Committee/Community):

- i. Erin shared that there are 3 monthly parent support meetings, and it would be helpful for people from RCRC and who know about SDP to join to share information and resources. The meetings are on the 1st Friday of each month, 5:30 – 7:30 via zoom, the 3rd Wednesday of each month 9am - 11am in person (Mendo Leap?) and the Last Saturday of each month is Neurodiversity Night @ Mendo Leap 4:30 – 7pm.

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

- a. Alex reports that there are several people who are very close to enrolling in SDP who will likely start August 1st due to difficulties with enrollment during fiscal year end (June/July). Sheila reported that 2 people in Mendocino County are also scheduled to start, likely August 1. She explained that the fiscal year end processes have led to delays in FMS providers being able to confirm funds are available until the end of July. Statewide this has resulted in employees and providers not getting paid on time. Most RCs no longer support new enrollment on 7/1 for this reason.

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

- a. Sheila and Alex informed the committee that they have seen a groundswell of people expressing interest and completing the State Council orientation. Several people have been contacting IFs and/or have started their planning.
- b. We have 20 FMS providers in our system.
 - 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.
 - iii. Sheila thanked the committee for approving scholarships for 6 people to

attend the IF Training Academy to learn to be an IF. 3 have completed their training, 2 more are in process and 1 plan to enroll upon returning from a trip. 2 of the people who completed the training also just completed Person Centered Thinking training. Both of those people are bi-lingual (Spanish) and 1 is also the parent of a participant in SDP.

11. DDS Directives (Sheila/Alex):

- a. Sheila reported that there was one new DDS Directive related to SDP which outlines additional requirements for entities applying to be FMS providers. It includes requirements that FMS providers have staff with accounting and human resources qualifications. It was asked if this would impact any providers currently applying to be FMSs for RCRC. Sheila clarified that there are no applications in progress now, so it is not an issue.

12. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Gabriel expressed his frustration that SDP is the best kept secret, by RCs and DDS. It is unacceptable that Service Coordinators either do not know about SDP or are choosing to withhold information about SDP and other resources. The current and proposed limitations from DDS and the legislature are very frustrating and concerning. More education and outreach is needed.
- b. Rosie Lasco from the IF Training Academy joined the meeting and shared that they have several resources available for people, including a planning workbook that is available for free or hard copies which can be purchased via their website. It is available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Russian. They also offer animated videos about SDP. The committee may want to buy some of the workbooks for people.
ACTION: Sheila will share the PDF via email with the people at the meeting today.
- c. Sheila shared that there are several other events happening in May and encouraged people to check the RCRC newsletter for more information.
ACTION: Sheila will email the RCRC newsletter to Diana P.
- d. Erin asked if RCRC still hosts resource fairs and if so, is SDP there. We discussed that those events have not happened in years. It likely ended during the pandemic and hasn't been recreated yet.

13. Add/Remove Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Committee):

- a. No changes

14. 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: Sheila and Alex will work with diversity coordinators to identify ways to reimburse IFs for travel.**
- c. **ACTION: Chris will contact the Statewide SDAC team to get the exact date of the June meeting. If he is unable to attend, Erin agreed to attend as his designee.**
- d. **ACTION: Julie agreed to connect Pam with Kristina Lewis and Jane Bermudez who coordinate the ITT teams in Mendocino County.**
- e. **ACTION: Julie will share the updated public facing power point slide deck with Pam when they are available.**

- f. **ACTION:** Alex and Julie will work together to find and/or develop plain language information about what is at risk to help people understand the urgent need to speak up to protect the services and supports they need.
- g. **ACTION:** Sheila will share the PDF via email with the people at the meeting today
- h. **ACTION:** Sheila will email the RCRC newsletter to Diana P.

15. Adjourn the meeting (Chris): Meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

The next meeting is set for June 20th, 2025.

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Prepared by: S. Keys (5/16/2025)

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