

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 19, 2025  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**

Recorder: Jennifer Blum

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

**Present:**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (\*=*Appointed By*): Chris Miller (RCRC\*), Clifford Black (OCRA), Erin Moynahan (SCDD\*) Frank Van Curen (RCRC\*), Bonnie Boek (First 5), Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC\*) Pam Jensen (SCDD\*),

**REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE:** Sheila Keys (RCRC), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD)

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** Rhiannon Morsch, Mariana Molina Nava (Translation), Kayley Proenza (Disability Voices United), Leticia Mendoza, Rosie Lasca (Independent Facilitator Training Academy), Jessica Mercado (Public Partnerships LLC, FMS)

**Absent Committee Members:** Townley Saye (First 5)

**Absent Representatives:** Jaclyn Balanay (DDS), Alma Ingraham, (RCRC Diversity Specialist), Alex Ostell (RCRC)

**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), **OCRA** Office of Client's Rights Advocacy, **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), **IFTA** Independent Facilitator Training Academy

**Minutes:**

1. **Welcome, Introductions, Roll Call, and Select a Timekeeper (Frank):**
  - a. Clifford was selected as the timekeeper.
2. **Review, Discussion and Approval of August 2025 Minutes:**
  - a. Chris motioned to accept the minutes August 2025. Erin seconded and Robert thirded. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Update on August Action Items (Alex/Sheila):**
  - a. **ACTION: Sheila will reach out to Disability Voices today and let people know that people from Redwood Coast can sign up.** -Completed.
  - b. **ACTION: Sheila will ask Rosie Lasco about updates to the Workbook and bring back information.** -In Progress.

- c. **ACTION: Sheila will work with families interested in attending the disability voice conference regarding reimbursement for travel costs. -Completed.**

Rhiannon Morsch presented an update on the progress of the IF mentoring contract

- Rhiannon is currently mentoring 12 independent facilitators.
- 6 are currently vendors of RCRC and working with clients. 5 are in the vendorization process. 1 is in the initial training process.
- 2 mentees are bilingual and will offer IF services in Spanish.
- Leticia asked how many Independent Facilitators RCRC has. Sheila reported we have about 20 Independent Facilitators available for participants or people interested in self-determination.
- Sheila said 2 new people have contacted her to request scholarships to attend the Independent Facilitator Training Academy.

4. Participant and Family Sharing – What’s Working and What’s Not Working (Community):

- a. Leticia shared that there are a lot of kids with no services, she was told that we don’t have vendors. She wondered why we don’t have vendors and found that the process to be a vendor is complicated and long. She also shared that providers don’t get paid on time. She states lot of kids in the community do not have their services because the providers are not getting paid. Sheila responded to Leticia that payment delays are occurring both for people in self-determination, and regular services and the implementation of rate reform has contributed to some of the delays in processing by the fiscal department.
- b. Robert Miland Taylor states better coordination is needed with self-determination; providers need to get paid in a timelier manner as they are working hard for their clients. Sheila agreed and said that due to the volume of work the fiscal department has she doesn’t see it improving until the end of this year/beginning of next year. One suggestion she offered was to work with our Independent Facilitators and our Financial Management Services to develop spending plans we don’t have to change as frequently. If items are listed in a general way, it reduces the number of changes that have to be processed in e-billing, if the total amounts in each service category don’t change.

5. State Council Report: (Julie)

- a. Julie received an email about the last SSDAC meeting. They have produced several new resources, a new member orientation resource, service coordinator training letter and report, best practices platform updates, and recommendation tracking. They have provided orientations for 10,424 participants statewide for self-determination. They have orientations available in lots of languages.
- b. The state counsel operates using a 5-year state plan. The state plan for the next 5 years is now being developed. Julie said the most important part is happening now which is gathering input, thoughts, ideas from those receiving services, families, community members and that now is the time to give feedback, so our rural areas is included.

- c. Aaron Carruthers, the Executive Director, is attending ILC Expo at Sequoia Conference Center. They will have a room set aside for an hour to talk about what the state council does and just to meet him.
  - d. Medicaid Watch- Julie asked if we knew of any issues related to MEDI-CAL, IHSS, RC Services being cut to put them in the chat. Julie stated that the bulk of the Medicaid cuts seem like they will hit after mid-term elections next Fall.
- 6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):
  - a. Future goals for SDAC. Brainstorm goals that we want to provide to the statewide committee to work on, submit to Chris.
- 7. RCRC Board Meeting:
  - a. Sept 13<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting-Independent Facilitator Monica Star went, encouraged people to do self-determination.
  - b. November 12th last board of directors meeting of the year.
  - c. October 21 & 22 person-centered training at Ukiah Community Center from 09:00-4:30pm for vendors, RC staff, community members and several IF's. Person Centered Thinking training will be provided in Lake County next spring,
  - d. Kayley, from Disability Voices United, informed us that she will share the recording of the event in Oakland by the meeting in October.
  - e. Sheila informed us that the committee was able to send 20 people to the DVU conference.
- 8. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in Their Community (Committee/Community): (Bonnie &Erin)
  - a. Parent Support Group online on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month and in person on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Both are going great.
  - b. September 27<sup>th</sup> Neurodiversity Night at Mendo Leap for any parents that would like to attend that.
  - c. Ongoing, all-inclusive playgroups every Tuesday 09:30-11:00am- busy now that summer is over.
  - d. Parent group will be a great opportunity to learn more about self-determination. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.
  - e. October 9<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting 03:30-5pm. 4 meetings left this year at the Raise and Shine Community Room.
  - f. Leticia thanked Erin and Bonnie for all they do.
- 9. Building My Future Workbook (Committee): (Sheila & Rosie)

- a. Workbooks purchased in English and Spanish, 50 of each language, for self-determination, the new IPP template is part of workbook to prepare for IPP and PCP.
- b. The IFTA's new curriculum includes information about the new IF standards. IF curriculum in Spanish is coming in 2026. Training currently has Spanish subtitles. Rosie will do a meeting with a group for Spanish speakers to make sure that they understand all the content.

10. Start-Up Funding for IF/FMS Agencies, Updates and Approvals/DDS Funding to Support Implementation of SDP (Sheila):

- a. Shannan Barnes and Roshon Ashford are applying to committee for scholarship funds from DDS transition funds to participate in training by the Independent Facilitator Training Academy.
- b. Chris voted for it, Frank seconded the motion, Robert, Bonnie, Chris, Erin, Pam, Clifford unanimously voted for both scholarship requests to be approved.
- c. Sheila shared that we have 55 people in self-determination. We have 22 different financial management services who speak multiple different languages. We also have 3 IFs who speak Spanish and they might be able to find others. Sheila feels more confident that we have good infrastructure to support people of any culture, ethnicity, to get started.

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

- a. Participant enrollment is about the same, 2 people voluntarily exiting, 2 more that are moving, 5-6 more people joining in the next month or two.
- b. 22 FMS are available at this time.
- c. Alex and Sheila want to be alerted to any issues with FMS providers, including not paying people in a timely manner..
- d. People can and will switch FMS providers if the one they are working with isn't paying in a timely manner.
- e. Alex and Sheila are doing more individualized Service Coordinator training, have started a new mandatory self-determination roundtable monthly meeting for coordinators supporting clients with self-determination.
- f. Sheila and Alex are reviewing all new spending plans to verify accuracy and that they meet the new guidelines from DDS.
- g. Alex and Sheila are making sure that cuts to services aren't made before needed.

12. DDS Directives:

- a. There were no new DDS Directives this month.

13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Leticia asked if there was a replacement Executive Director. Sheila shared that the interim Executive Director is Jonathan Padilla and the Board of Directors has formed a hiring Committee to hire the best possible person.
- b. Robert shared that at the Board of Directors meeting they got the newest booklet “RCRC service options for individuals with IDD”. Talks about what regional centers do, and services available in plain language.
- c. Leticia asked Sheila if they could hire another person in the billing department. Sheila shared that 2 people have been hired to fill the vacant positions. Sheila said because of rate reform things are back logged.

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

- a. None

15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. **ACTION: Bring future goals and discussion to Chris to share with the statewide advisory committee by the next co-chair report in October.**
- b. **ACTION: Sheila will work with Rosie (IFTA) to purchase 100 booklets- 50 English and 50 Spanish and have them distributed in the RCRC offices.**
- c. **ACTION: Sheila will connect Rosie (IFTA) with the 2 individuals approved for scholarships to attend the IF Academy training.**

16. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

**The next meeting is set for October 17, 2025.**

*SDAC Mtg Minutes\_2025\_09\_19*

*Prepared by: J. Blum (9/19/2025)*