

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 21, 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*)), Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC*) Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Townley Saye (First 5), Monica Troxler – Rise & Shine stand-in for Bonnie from First 5

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE: Sheila Keys (RCRC), Alex Ostell (RCRC), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD), Alma Ingraham, (RCRC Diversity Specialist)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Leticia Mendoza, Rosie Lasca (Independent Facilitator Training Academy), Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Marina Bleich, Maribel Oliver, Sherry Erickson (IF)

Absent Committee Members: Bonnie Boek (First 5)

Absent Representatives: Jaclyn Balanay (DDS)

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. Chris was selected as the timekeeper.
2. **Review, Discussion and Approval of September 2025 Minutes:**
 - a. Erin motioned to accept the minutes from September 2025. Robert seconded the minutes. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. **Update on September Action Items (Alex/Sheila):**
 - a. **ACTION: Bring future goals and discussion to Chris to share with the statewide advisory committee by the next co-chair report in October.** -Completed.

- 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.** -Completed.
- c. **ACTION: Sheila will connect Rosie (IFTA) with the 2 individuals approved for scholarships to attend the IF Academy training.** -Completed.

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

- a. Robert Miland Taylor is working with Monica Star his Independent Facilitator. They are trying to renew their contract with Redwood Taxi for another year.
- b. Chris Miller shared that GT Independence, his FMS, hasn't paid his one vendor and service he has since July. Chris is switching FMS providers in January to STRO which is a local company.
- c. Leticia Mendoza shared that she has issues with her FMS. She feels FMS provider isn't following the process. 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 responded by saying if an FMS isn't responding to reach out to Alex, her, and/or Chris to try to facilitate their response to be timelier. Sheila suggested that when selecting an FMS to call, see if you get a live person, if you get a call back, and see how responsive they are. Some are quicker replying to email but if you are someone who wants to talk on the phone that would be something to consider when making a choice considering your needs. 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. Everyone with permanent status is available for self-determination. Sheila stated that if anyone hears or knows of someone that has been told this to please have them reach out to Alex or herself. Erin Moynahan shared that they were able to talk to the service coordinators supervisor and rectify the situation.
- d. Marina Bleich asked about Self-Determination. Her child is a client of the regional center, and her IF is Christopher Alessi. She asked about services needed, shared confusion with service coordinator and added services to IPP. Alex and Sheila clarified that the need has to be added to IPP even if the service is provided by someone not vendorized with us.
- e. Maribel Oliver her child, is a client of the regional center. She feels the service coordinators need a lot of training to be able to help their clients. It appears they do not have enough information. She is concerned about invoices from her IF that are not vendorized because her IF has not received their payment. She suggests more training and even training families to offer coaching to other families. Sheila assured Maribel that she is very close to getting her IF paid and that there was a delay due to getting other regional centers to share information.
- f. Sherry Erickson clarified that vendors or providers do not have to be vendorized with a regional center on the self-determination program.

5. State Council Report: (Julie)

- a. State Council has renewed the contract with DDS to continue doing the determinations. They are working on updating the materials to reflect the various changes that have happened.
- b. In the past the two ombuds office (ombuds for self-determination and ombuds for regular regional center services) for DDS have been separate but they are being combined into one office. She is hoping that it will not affect self-determination.
- c. Leticia Mendoza asked Julie about offering a training from the state counsel in Spanish on self-determination. Julie said that the orientation is done in Spanish often but there are also lots of other languages available as well periodically.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. Chris shared that the statewide committee is working on improving the process and getting FMS's to work better. They continue to work on the best practices platform and are working on another workgroup meeting in December. They want to have a town hall meeting with more focus on certain subjects.

7. RCRC Board Meeting:

- a. Trying to get the director from the First 5 of Lake County to become a new board member in January. They need to find out if there is a conflict of interest on the vendor's side first.
- b. In 2026 Robert says something that needs improvement on is getting more participants to share with the board of directors what they have done in self-determination and their experiences in our four counties.

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

- a. Erin says it's important to talk about it in our circles and in our groups. They continue to talk about it in their parents' groups. Erin suggests doing an outreach day.
- b. Training for service coordinators is needed as it is difficult to understand and is tricky to manage on your own.

9. Building My Future Workbook (Committee): (Sheila & Rosie)

- a. We received workbooks, both in English and Spanish. We handed out a bunch of them. The workbooks are for people in orientation as well as people who are interested in self-determination. Purchasing more workbooks will be added to the January agenda.
- b. Alex is taking a bunch of them to Hoopa with him the weekend after Thanksgiving for outreach he is doing there.

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

- a. Sheila shared that we have a good amount of 2025 funding needs to be spent by March 2026. Alex and Sheila will bring the updated numbers to January's meeting.
- b. Alex said we hear late January-March about SDP funds for 2026.
- c. Leticia asked about using funds to train the service coordinators more about SDP.
- d. Erin suggested an IF come train the service coordinators. Erin thought that video that service coordinators could watch as they have time would be beneficial. Sheila agreed that the most important part of SDP is the principals/getting a foundation as the mechanics are tricky and difficult.

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

- a. Sheila shared as of December 1st RCRC has 62 people enrolled in SDP.
- b. We have several FMS providers who offer multiple languages including Spanish. There are also 3-4 IF's that speak Spanish as well.
- c. A parent group asked Alex to come out and talk with them in Hoopa. There has been a large amount of interest in SDP in this area recently. Erin volunteered to join to help when doing outreach.
- d. 14 IF providers that are up, running, and providing services. IF Academy and providing scholarships has greatly helped with this. Gilbert Rangel, Leticia Mendoza, and Rojan Brown would like a scholarship to attend IF Academy training.
- e. 2026 meeting schedule- Erin moved to accept, Robert seconded the motion. 2026 meeting schedule has been approved. Robert made the motion to vote to approve all three scholarships to be approved, and Pam seconded the motion. All three scholarships were approved and awarded.
- f. Sheila shared the directors agreed that the service coordinators but attend the Service Coordinator Roundtable. Sheila shared that it has been going well, people are asking good questions. They are asking them to share what is confusing, what went well, so everyone can learn from it. Alex added it helps him to understand which service coordinators understand better so if a service coordinator is struggling, they can pair them with someone in their unit who does understand.
- g. Frank asked about having the December 2025 meeting or canceling it. Erin made the motion; Robert seconded the motion. The motion to cancel December's meeting was approved.

12. DDS Directives:

- a. November 6th, we received the directive from DDS. By the end of February 2026, we have to do our first report to DDS.

- b. Anyone who has a budget increase of \$20,000 or more either in traditional services or while they were in self-determination and their plan changed from one year to the next year, or middle of the year will need to report.
- c. Identify all budgets that have gone up \$20,000 or more. Will need to randomly select pull 4 participants who are ages 0-21 years old. 3 participants over 21 must be randomly selected and reported on. Reports must be submitted by the end of February. A copy of the certified budget calculation, a copy of the signed spending plan, and a copy of the IPP will be submitted through a portal. Reporting will be yearly.
- d. Alex shared that SDP funds come from purchase of service from traditional services it is just going through FMS. Alex thinks the reason for this report is because across the state there have been numerous incidents of some budgets becoming very inflated. DDS is trying to see what the actual reason is. Where there needs not being met, is there some other exploitation or misuse of funds? How is the money being used and why?
- e. Sheila added that DDS is trying to figure out what it would cost if we had the service clients needed, where we needed it. RCRC includes in their plan last year's budget was (this amount), this year's budget is (this amount), and here is why the difference in the budget.

13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. People First are working with the Lakeport and Clear Lake regional centers to donate food to senior centers until January of 2026.
- b. Rosie shared links in the chat, she shared that they have lots of videos in Spanish and in multiple languages. She also did a whole series on SDP-101 training in Spanish in the past and could offer it to us virtually or in person.
- c. Townley-MendoLeap- shared they have had a lot of success with their Sib (siblings who have a sibling with a disability) Shops- they are going to offer a support group for younger ages and one for older ages. They have been working with MendoLeap to do a tactile food tasting helping parents get their children to try new foods.

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

- a. None

15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. **ACTION: none**

16. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:03pm.

The next meeting is set for January 16, 2026.