

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 16, 2026
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

Recorder: Jennifer Blum

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (*=*Appointed By*): Chris Miller (RCRC*), Crisalyn Miranda (OCRA), Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC*) Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Townley Saye (First 5), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-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), Monica Star (IF) Kayley Proenza (DVU), Jeannette Castro, Gabriel Baca Meza, Valerio Baca, Elizabeth Hassler, Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Diana Perez, Natividad, Angelica, Lucero Lopez, Fabiola Oliman

Absent Committee Members: Erin Moynahan (SCDD*)

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 Clients' 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 November 2025 Minutes:
 - a. Frank motioned to accept the minutes from November 2025. Robert seconded the minutes. Minutes were approved.

3. Update on November Action Items (Alex/Sheila):
 - a. None

4. Participant and Family Sharing – What’s Working and What’s Not Working (Community):
 - a. Valerio asked about updates to self-determination program.
 - b. Letica Mendoza shared she has been in self-determination program for about 6 months. Her experience in the program has been great. The challenge she experienced was with her FMS however she was able to change FMS. She would love to see a workshop about what self-determination is in Spanish. Alex shared that they have been doing SDP Roundtable monthly meetings with the service coordinators. They are developing training and tools to avoid conflicting information. Alma reached out to Alex and Sheila to assist in a self-determination Q&A in Spanish.
 - c. Pam shared that service coordinators need to be better informed about self-determination, the process, and have clarity on the program to better assist the clients. Claudia Gomez is prioritizing self-determination from the director’s level down which has been of great assistance.

5. State Council Report: (Julie)
 - a. Christofer Arroyo is offering a training on January 20th from 10-11am on Zoom. It will provide information about the proposed budget and the impact on people with disabilities. <https://www.undivided.io/event-californias-budget-explained/>
 - b. April 6-9th voter training, starting April 6th Disability Rights California Voter training - April 6 - Lake, April 7 - Ukiah, April 8 - Eureka, April 9 - Crescent City
 - c. Medicaid watch- to see the trends, share personal stories with legislators. Clinical impacted in rural areas. https://scdd.sjc1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bOUlyKKqWCiKgse

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):
 - a. Chris shared that they are having the self-determination Statewide SDAC meeting next week via zoom for however it is not open to the public. He will provide an update in February.

7. RCRC Board Meeting:
 - a. Robert reported that there are now 59 participants enrolled in SDP and that in November 2025, DDS issued guidance regarding the Self-Determination Program related to AB 143 chapter 12.

8. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in Their Community (Committee/Community): (Erin)
 - a. Townley 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 to assist parents to get their children to try new foods.

Neurodiversity January 31st. The next Sib Shop is on February 7th.

- b. CAC Meeting is February 12th, and a parent support group on 01/27. Mendo Leap has community based sensory opportunities on 01/27 and supporting your selective eater 02/28.
9. Building My Future Workbook (Committee): (Sheila & Rosie)
- a. 20 workbooks in English and 5 in Spanish have been distributed.
 - b. Pam voted for more RCRC to buy 100 more workbooks 50 English, 50 Spanish, Robert seconded the motion. Motion passed
10. Start-Up Funding for IF/FMS Agencies, Updates and Approvals/DDS Funding to Support Implementation of SDP (Sheila):
- a. \$25,000 to spend from 2023/24. We have 14 IFs now. There are IFs who are able to meet with people in person in all 4 counties. 2 who speak Spanish in Lake and Mendocino counties.
 - b. Sheila reports that there is approximately \$12,000-\$15,000 still available from the FY 23-24 Implementation funds from DDS.
 - c. FY 24-25 \$47,000 still available, we sent 5 people to IF training, workbooks, Disability Voices United Conference. Those funds need to be expended by 3/31/2027.
 - d. The committee agreed that \$3,000 will be set aside for the next DVU conference.
 - e. Elizabeth brought the idea of doing a panel to share experiences with SDP locally
 - f. Carmen Baca asked about using FMSs to pay for IF services so that the IFs do not have to be vendored by RCRC. Sheila shared that we now have FMS providers who can pay IFs that are not vendors of RCRC. Most of the IFs are vendors of RCRC.
 - g. Sheila and Alex are working with Alma to create a training at the end of February for Spanish speaking families.
11. RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Sheila):
- a. Sheila shared that RCRC now has 59 people enrolled, with one more scheduled to enroll on February 1st. There are several more who have completed orientation and are beginning to work on transition into SDP. There is an increased awareness and interest from families with children and the Spanish speaking community.
 - b. Alex shared that there are at least 6 people in Humboldt and Del Norte who are in the enrollment process without start dates yet but are making progress towards starting. Interest is growing from people from inland Humboldt as word of mouth gets around, likewise with interest from parents of children in all four counties.
 - c. Service Coordinators are appreciative of the SDP Roundtables. Alex will be updating documents.
12. DDS Directives:
- a. November 25th Directive came out about the process for adding identified needs to the budgets for people in or working to enroll in SDP. The IPP team can still add additional needs. Budget can be increased or decreased based on changes in needs,

circumstances or resources, even mid-year. The directive added the requirement that RCs now have to certify that all SDP spending plans only include SD waiver eligible services and are not available via generic or natural supports.

13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. March 2nd and 3rd Robert attending Legislative Day in Sacramento.
- b. Governor stated there is an 18-billion-dollar deficit, last year it was 12-billion-dollar deficit. Asking individuals to speak up.

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

- a. Pam would like to remove building my future workbook, and add what are the barriers to enrollment for adding participants.

15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. **ACTION: Sheila will purchase additional workbooks.**
- b. **ACTION: Jennifer will update the agenda.**

16. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58am.

The next meeting is set for February 20, 2026.

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Prepared by: J. Blum (01/16/2026)