

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, February 20, 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\*), Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC\*) Pam Jensen (SCDD\*), Townley Saye (First 5), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5), Erin Moynahan (SCDD\*), Clifford Black (OCRA)

**REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE:**, Alex Ostell (RCRC), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD),

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS:** Leticia Mendoza, Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Kayley Proenza (DVU), Community Liaison for PPL, Jeannette Castro, Valerio Baca, Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Lucero Lopez, Fabiola Oliman, Rubi Saldana, Rocio Oliver

**Absent Committee Members:** Frank Van Curen (RCRC\*)

**Absent Representatives:** Jaclyn Balanay (DDS), Sheila Keys (RCRC), Alma Ingraham, (RCRC Diversity Specialist)

**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 (Chris/Alex):
  - a. Chris was selected as the timekeeper.
2. Review, Discussion and Approval of January 2026 Minutes:
  - a. Erin motioned to accept the minutes from January 2026. Chris seconded the minutes. Minutes were approved.
3. Update on January Action Items (Alex):
  - a. Alex shared that RCRC received the invoice to purchase the additional workbooks and that it was going to be paid as soon as she is back from vacation and workbooks

would be on their way soon.

- b. Jennifer updated the agenda and Pam confirmed that it had been updated.
4. Participant and Family Sharing – What’s Working and What’s Not Working (Community):
  - a. Frank shared that the applications for the People First Conference have already been mailed. He will be working with his Independent Facilitator to submit his application to attend the conference in Anderson, CA in May.
5. State Council Report: (Julie)
  - a. There will be voter training on April 6, 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup>. April 6<sup>th</sup> will be in Lakeport. April 7<sup>th</sup> will be in Ukiah location to be determined. April 8<sup>th</sup> will be in Eureka at Jefferson Community Center. April 9<sup>th</sup> will be in Crescent City and location to be determined. They are hoping for a great turnout since the mid-term elections are coming up. Julie feels it is very important for people to understand their right to vote and how to vote. Alma from RCRC has a program that is paying for Spanish and ASL interpretation. RISE is helping with the cost of facility rentals. Tri-Counties ILC is also a partner in this project.
6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):
  - a. Chris shared that he went to the Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee meeting where people came to talk about their self-determination successes. It was a 3-hour meeting discussing success in self-determination and how much impact it has had for people with their services and the ability to do more in their communities. The commentary and feedback is being gathered to be put into a report that will go to DDS to display how wonderful SDP is and to encourage future funding. Chris appreciated that they did this because from what he understands the legislature is trying to cut or eliminate startup funding for self-determination which really has people upset.
  - b. Alex shared that SDP funding is still there, it is just changing. DDS sent out a directive in February that explains that funding goes to the regional center and not directly to the committee. Our regional center will continue to collaborate and consult with the local advisory committee on what the money is spent on.
  - c. Kayley Proenza from Disability Voices United shared that what Alex and Chris are talking about is different. Chris is talking about the trailer bill language for the State Budget that speaks of taking away LVAC implementation funding.  
<https://trailerbill.dof.ca.gov/public/trailerBill/pdf/1355>  
There is also a presentation <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2026/02/5.-TBL-Presentation.pdf>  
Sample letters to legislators <https://scdd.ca.gov/ssdac/>
7. RCRC Board Meeting:
  - a. Robert asked Alex to inform Sheila that he needs a report from the local self-

determination advisory committee that he can present to the Board of Directors on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 6-7pm on Zoom.

- b. Robert and Alex shared that there will be a person-centered training in Lake County at the Office of Education in Lakeport on March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4:30pm. The training is open to regional center staff, vendors, interested community members, and free to attend they just need to send Alex an email to sign up.
  - c. Robert is working with Pam to get guest speakers to talk about self-determination at the next Board of Directors Meeting on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Robert and Pam shared it is usually 2 people who speak for about 10 minutes each. Erin volunteered to talk and said she will get together with her parent support group to find a parent to present at the board meeting as well.
  - d. Robert thanked Alex and Monica for their excellent presentation at their client advisory committee on February 18<sup>th</sup> where they discussed what self-determination is about as well as what independent facilitators do. Robert added that Lety did an excellent presentation explaining how it is being a parent with a child in self-determination.
8. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in Their Community (Committee/Community): (Erin)
- a. Erin shared that she thinks that it is great that the community is working together, entities are starting to work together to provide resources. There is a network of resources that are referring back and forth to one another and answering different questions and helping in different ways. Putting ourselves out there and joining community events and doing outreach. Her goal this year is to do more of that with self-determination and continue to work on partnerships that will support the individuals we work with.
  - b. Julie shared that at Alma's request with encouragement from Lety, the State Council is meeting with the Spanish speaking parent support group in Ukiah on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Alma will be sending a flyer out if she hasn't already. Julie gave a shout out to Lety about getting the word out to the Spanish speaking families and groups. Alex and/or Sheila will be there to answer specific questions related to the way RCRC works with self-determination. Julie says that getting the word out is starting to work and she is starting to see the change with more Spanish speaking families coming through the process.
  - c. Erin shared that Rise and Shine is working with her to spread the word with local tribes so that our native population comes in as well. Erin says she has about 20 resources that are working together and understand when and how to refer to one another.
  - d. Bonnie shared that at Rise and Shine they try to promote their parent groups and various activities they do on their social media. They also post other community events so if you know of anything happening please send them the information and they will post it on their social media. All their materials are in English and Spanish and all their staff are bilingual.

9. Barriers to enrollment for new participants (Committee):

- a. Erin sees and hears in her groups that the biggest barrier is time, it takes a lot of time to get things done. Erin shared that she feels it is taking longer than it used to when enrolling people into the program. Alex shared there are several reasons for that and that they are interconnected. Several things have changed over the last year between DDS requirements for budgets and spending plans, the level of review that plans need, and the justification that needs to come for budgets and how the IPP also has to be connected more specifically to the spending plan, and just the processing time of entering authorizations for an SDP plan to work through all the different systems so that the FMS can see those authorizations for e-billing. So overall there are more people and more steps. Service coordinators are reaching out to Alex and Sheila more frequently with questions and about self-determination. Alex shared we currently have 11 people in the process of SDP.
- b. Townley asked Alex if the barriers have been communicated to the DDS team. Should there be a meeting scheduled between DDS and advocates/community members to discuss the disconnect? She used to work at DDS and knows they are more receptive to that than through the regional center system. Alex shared that in their statewide meetings with DDS it has been communicated that it is slowing things down.
- c. Lety shared that she understands what Alex is explaining that it is more complicated because of the new regulations and DDS. What worries her is if we are working to get more people into self-determination, how are we going to solve this problem? When they decide to join but then find these barriers it is easy to lose motivation when they don't hear back after emailing or calling multiple times. What does the team need to make improvements?
- d. Pam shared that she agrees with Lety. What can we do to fix the reason things are taking longer? Pam says we have less people in self-determination than we did when this project started. She doesn't feel we are getting people enrolled. She would like the advisory committee to come up with a plan to make some improvements. Last year they needed more facilitators, they got more facilitators, but people still aren't enrolled. Alex shared that since January the number of people they have in the enrollment process is about the same number of people they enrolled all last year.
- e. Alex shared that it seems like there is a lot more interest and engagement from the community in self-determination. Alex shared that there are lots of service coordinators learning the process for the first time. Out of 8 service coordinators Alex is working with, 7 of them are doing it for the first time. Alex stated that they discuss it with client services and the directors at their management team meeting

every month. The service coordinators are doing a monthly SDP roundtable for service coordinators who have clients in SDP.

- f. Alex and Sheila are looking to make videos for service coordinators and families to watch about the process. The service coordinators suggested flow charts about the process. Erin asked if there was anything the committee could do to help. Alex mentioned getting frequently asked questions from families would be a huge help to be able to make a more useful resource for families. Bonnie asked if someone is not getting a response from their service coordinator, who is the next person they can reach out to. Alex said they can reach out to the manager from the service coordinator and to Alex and Sheila to be a resource for families who are not getting responses.
10. Start-Up Funding for IF/FMS Agencies, Updates and Approvals/DDS Funding to Support Implementation of SDP (Alex):
    - a. Order in for more workbooks.
    - b. RCRC has a new Independent Facilitator who is going through the vendorization process with North Bay. He is going to be a courtesy vendor with RCRC. There is another person who wants to become an Independent Facilitator in Humboldt. She would be in the Hoopa and Willow Creek area, which would be great as there are 4 people from that area that are currently going through the sign-up process.
  11. RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Alex):
    - a. Sheila and Alex have been working on helping people move away from frustrating FMS Services. It is helping with payment issues for people who are enrolled.
    - b. Service Coordinators are being internally supported more with monthly roundtables.
    - c. There are 12 people who are in the active enrollment process and almost all of them are working with an independent facilitator. More interest from the children's unit, parents contacting us as well as people in harder to serve areas with fewer resources reaching out. 1 person transferred from another regional center but at the same time another person is transferring out. Increasing enrollments from people in Spanish speaking communities and our native communities.
  12. DDS Directives:
    - a. February 6<sup>th</sup> Directive after implementation funding. We received \$53,052 for this upcoming year for implementation funds.
  13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):
    - a. Chris shared that he changed his FMS provider from GT to STRO in January and he can't say enough positive things about them. They respond to him and his support person. Chris is very happy with the change, and the transition has been great.

- b. Bonnie shared that Erin covers self-determination information in the parent support group. There are 2 Hybrid meetings that happen each month. The 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month from 05:30-07:30 pm and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 9:00-11:00 am. Alex shared that the only video that he can think of is the state council video on self-determination.
  - c. DDS is redoing their SDP orientation. It will be 2 sessions that are 2 hours each and both will need to be completed by service coordinators to receive their certificates. Training is only through state counsel. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
  - d. Erin asked people to email her any topics they would like her to address in the board meeting.
  - e. Jeannette from PPL shared that they are accepting new enrollments and do not have a budget cap. They offer bill payer and sole employer. Contact: Jeanette Castro, Community Liaison [JeaCastro@pplfirst.com](mailto:JeaCastro@pplfirst.com)
  - f. Bonnie shared that they have a selective eaters workshop online on February 26<sup>th</sup> from 05:30-07:30 pm or in person a few days later at MendoLeap from 05:00-07:00 pm
14. Add/Remove Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Committee):
- a. None
15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):
- a. **ACTION: Erin will go to the March 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting and ask a parent to go with her to talk about why SDP is so important for our community. Erin plans to share things that make SDP great as well as get some solutions for items we feel could be improved.**
  - b. **ACTION: Erin will also work on FAQ's for Alex and send it over to him before March's meeting.**
16. Adjourn the meeting:
- a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31am.

**The next meeting is set for March 20, 2026.**

*SDAC Mtg Minutes\_2026\_02\_20*

*Prepared by: J. Blum (02/20/2026)*