

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Friday, March 20, 2026  
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon**

Recorder: Jennifer Blum

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

**Present:**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** (*\*=Appointed By*): Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC\*), Pam Jensen (SCDD\*), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5), Frank Van Curen (RCRC\*), Crysalynd Miranda (OCRA)

**REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE**: Denise (SCDD), Sheila Keys (RCRC), Jerry Freitas

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**: Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Lucero Lopez, Mariah, Sherry, Kristianna Moralls (Self Determination Institute), Maribel Oliver, Marlen, Olaf Luevano (Ritz FMS), Gabriel Baca Meza, Carmen Baca, Kim Sandoval

**Absent Committee Members**: Chris Miller (RCRC\*), Erin Moynahan (SCDD\*), Clifford Black (OCRA), 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 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 (Sheila):
  - a. Crysalynd was selected as the timekeeper.
  
2. Review, Discussion and Approval of February 2026 Minutes:
  - a. Crysalynd motioned to accept the minutes from February 2026. Frank seconded the minutes. Minutes were not approved.

3. Update on February Action Items (Sheila):

- 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.

UPDATE: Erin did attend the March 11<sup>th</sup> board meeting with a parent to talk about self-determination, but they did not get a chance to speak. She was invited to do so at the May board meeting but has a prior commitment and cannot do so. Sheila is hoping she can be rescheduled for July to speak. Sheila is hoping that we can find two participants or family members to go in person in May to the board meeting in Lake County or join via Zoom. If anyone is going to share a PowerPoint or any materials that information needs to be shared with Sedona ahead of time so it can be publicly posted. Sedona's email is [sboswer@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:sboswer@redwoodcoastrc.org) -In Progress

- b. ACTION: Erin will also work on FAQ's for Alex and send it over to him before March's meeting. -In Progress

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

- a. Robert shared that he has a meeting with his Independent Facilitator Monica Star to complete his SDP plan by June. Monica is working on the details for Robert to attend the People First Conference in Anderson, CA.
- b. Maribel Oliver said her Independent Facilitator has not been paid since October. She has sent emails and received no responses. She would also like the service coordinators to be trained in self-determination so the process can be quicker.
- c. Carmen Baca shared she has two children who are clients of the regional center. She agrees with the comments from Maribel Oliver. She shared it is cumbersome and challenging to join SDP not only at RCRC but other regional centers as well.
- d. Kristianna Moralls is with Self Determination Institute which is a non-Profit and they have a free monthly meeting to introduce people to financial management services and providers. Meet happens every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday on Zoom from 12:00-01:00pm. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/sdplunch>
- e. Olaf Luevano works with Ritz FMS. They offer employer, bill pay and co-employer. He said they are vendored with RCRC. They have lots of employees that speak Spanish, so they are able to serve families that speak Spanish. His contact information is **Olaf Luevano** (Hablo Espanol) Direct Phone: 626-709-3723 Schedule a Meeting- <https://calendly.com/oluevano-ritzfms/30min> [www.RitzFMS.com](http://www.RitzFMS.com)

5. State Council Report: (Denise)

- a. Denise shared information from Julie that there will be a new self-determination workshop launched in May. The date will be sent out soon.
- b. Sheila shared information about the voting events that Julie has been coordinating. April 6<sup>th</sup> at the Nice event center and April 8<sup>th</sup> at The Space in Ukiah. Paul Spencer,

attorney from DRC's Voting Rights Practice Group is going to come and talk about people voting.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. No updates this month.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):

- a. RCRC has 61 participants in the self-determination program. 2 additional participants with a pending start date of next month. An additional 22 participants starting the process.
- b. Person-Centered Training is offered once a quarter. Robert attended the one in Lake County on March 9 and 10. He said it was excellent and had good attendance.
- c. He is still trying to work on getting guest speakers to talk about self-determination at the next board of directors meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> which will be at Konocti Harbor Resort in Kelseyville. If someone wants to share, they can also do so by Zoom.

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

- a. Hybrid monthly parent support meetings led by Erin on the First Monday of the month from 05:30-07:30pm. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday is 09:00-11:00am
- b. Sib Shop for siblings of children with disabilities coming up in May, date coming out soon.
- c. Erin is speaking at the upcoming Neurodiversity night at Mendo Leap on the last Saturday of March.
- d. Community Advisory Committee that will be at Raise and Shine which is for parents to chat and connect.
- e. Bonnie shared there is a selective eater's group. Bonnie's contact information is [bonnie@first5mendo.org](mailto:bonnie@first5mendo.org)
- f. Lucero Lopez said they should contract with an organization to provide information and training to help families on self-determination. He feels this would help a lot of people out and help families navigate the self-determination and how it works. These training courses could be through zoom meetings.
- g. Maribel Oliver shared that the committee should consider allocating resources to hire a specialized organization that can provide training and information to families on self-determination. These sessions could be conducted via the Zoom platform and be open to the public. Implementing this type of initiative would allow a greater number of families to benefit by gaining access to tools and knowledge that strengthen their ability to make informed decisions and promote self-determination.

- h. Maribel Oliver, shared IMJA PRO SERVICES offers excellent self-determination training, and you can contact them at 951-765-2329. Families would benefit from this training.
9. Barriers to enrollment for new participants (Committee):
- a. Talked about during previous topics
  - b. Mariah & Sherry asked if the barrier is specific for people who speak Spanish or also for others. Sheila shared that she thinks it is universal.
  - c. Pamela Jensen doesn't understand what the barriers are, she wants a better understanding of the barriers so we can address them. She would love to see the enrollment increase.
10. Start-Up Funding for IF/FMS Agencies, Updates and Approvals/DDS Funding to Support Implementation of SDP (Sheila):
- a. Life Leap- Contract as of March 3 Spanish Independent Facilitators. Supporting IF's to get started and as they start working with people to help them learn how to do good spending plans and navigate a variety of things. Her contract ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>. New contract would be using 24-25 funding which we have until March 2027 to spend.  
Sheila suggests not adding more hours, she uses about 35 hours a month.  
Committee needs to vote if they would like to continue her service. Frank motioned the vote, seconded the motion. If her contract is renewed for 35 hours a month using the 24-25 funds, it would leave \$7,350. If her contract is renewed for 30 hours a month it would leave \$12,750. Sheila shared that we did \$52,000 in funds for 25-26.  
Frank motioned to renew the contract for 30 hours per month for the next year. Bonnie seconded the motion. The contract was approved.
  - b. No new FMS's. We have 22 currently. Sheila hasn't heard anything negative about FMS.
11. RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Sheila):
- a. Sheila shared that we are still looking for somebody from Del Norte County to join the advisory committee. Several people are enrolling in Del Norte County so they hope they can find somebody who is interested in joining and representing that community.
  - b. We have 60 people enrolled, but by May 1<sup>st</sup> we will have 64 people, possibly 66 people.
  - c. 27 people who have completed orientation and expressed a desire to move forward with enrollment. 5 of the people are in Spanish speaking families.

- d. Gabriel Meza asked if service coordinators talk about SDP during meetings with clients. Sheila shared that it is a requirement for them to talk about SDP during every IPP meeting. Sheila and Alex provide training as well as a flyer the SDAC group helped put together a little over a year ago.
- e. Alex and Sheila are still holding monthly roundtables for service coordinators to help provide guidance, side by side hands-on training with service coordinators as they support people to get through the process. Providing some targeted training over the next several months for service coordinators based on things they have requested help with such as enrollment for the first time, plan transition from 1 year to the next year, and how to make mid-year changes when somebody's budget or spending plan changes in the middle of the year.

12. DDS Directives (Sheila):

- a. Sheila shared the March 18<sup>th</sup> D-2026-Case Management-002 directive. The state receives money from the federal government and regional systems are a part of how that happens with the Medicaid waiver. In order for the state to continue to maximize the funding coming in from the federal government for people served by regional centers, they have directed regional centers to make sure that they are doing everything possible so that people in self-determination who are eligible for Medicaid waivers, are actually on Medicaid waiver, and so it's really a funding mechanism to help the state. Might need to add more specific information to people's IPP's to show why they would be eligible for that waiver, and that has to do with what they have difficulty doing because of their disability. Showing that we are using self-determination funds to pay for services that help offset that issue. New IPP with the updated language to illustrate their support needs.

13. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Sheila shared that we have workbooks available in Spanish and English. She provided her email address, [skeys@redwoodcoastrc.org](mailto:skeys@redwoodcoastrc.org), to request a workbook.
- b. Crystalyn Miranda shared that the regional center is having their POS data meeting on March 27<sup>th</sup> 12:00-01:00pm in English with Spanish and ASL interpretation. It is an annual public meeting across California where they share where funding is going to purchase services for clients. The public can give comments, suggestions, or share their experiences.
- c. Maribel Oliver stated lots of people don't know about the workbook. Sheila said that service coordinators could share information about the workbooks during the IPP meetings. Then after their orientation if they want to move forward with SDP we are happy to offer it to them.
- d. Sheila shared that State Council and Disability Rights have put together voting rights events in all four of our counties. Lake County event, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm at the Nice Event Center in Nice. April 7<sup>th</sup> at Space from 10:30-12:30pm in Ukiah. Open to everybody who's interested in learning about their rights to vote. Paul Spencer,

who is an attorney from disability rights voting practice group will be at the events. Event in Del Norte is canceled.

- e. Several people provided their email addresses to be added to the self-determination advisory committee email list. Jennifer posted in the chat were to go on the regional center's website to sign up for the newsletter. Sheila shared checking Redwood Coast Regional Center's website, Facebook, and other social media is another good way to learn about things.
- f. Kim Sandoval asked if there is an IF Roundtable. Sheila shared that Rhiannon who's been supporting some of our IF's had been doing one. Sherry confirmed that it is still happening. Sheila shared that Alex and her are going to be doing an IF meeting from time to time to discuss things happening.
- g. Gabriel Baca Meza shared that there will be a third protest nationwide, part of the No Kings series. There was on June 14<sup>th</sup>, then on October 18<sup>th</sup>, and this upcoming one will be on March 28<sup>th</sup>. The event in Ukiah will be on Saturday March 28<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 pm at the courthouse. To find an event near you, please visit [www.nokings.org](http://www.nokings.org). Gabriel shared that he believes it is important for individuals with disabilities or clients and their loved ones to participate in protests if they want to, because that is an expression of our First Amendment rights. He thinks that too often individuals with disabilities are kind of seen as not being able to think about political issues, or not having thoughts about them, and that dehumanizes our loved ones and diminishes the incredible achievements made by individuals with disabilities, and a different way of looking at the world and addressing the problems we all face.

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

- a. Add to agenda- Conversion about agencies that can provide training to families on SDP.

15. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. **ACTION: List of organizations that provide SDP training for our meeting next month.**
- b. **ACTION: Pam, Robert, and Sheila are looking for members who want to share their experiences in SDP at the May board meeting.**

16. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am.

**The next meeting is set for April 17, 2026.**

*SDAC Mtg Minutes\_2026\_03\_20*

*Prepared by: J. Blum (03/20/2026)*