

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 17, 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*), Chris Miller (RCRC*), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5), Clifford Black (OCRA), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE: Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD), Sheila Keys (RCRC), Alex Ostell (RCRC), Jaclyn Balanay (DDS)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Caili Wilk, Tania Chavez, Bianca Magallon-Flores (PPL FMS), Usuario, Antonia Hernandez, Monica Star, Oscar Mercado, Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Maribel Oliver, Valerio, Rosa Nandez, Angelica, Susana Garcia, Veronica, Gabriel Baca Meza, Lety Mendoza

Absent Committee Members: Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Townley Saye (First 5), Crysalynd Miranda (OCRA)

Absent Representatives: Alma Ingram (RCRC Diversity Specialist), Denise (SCDD), Jerry Freitas (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 (Chris):
 - a. Chris was selected as the timekeeper.
2. Review, Discussion and Approval of February & March 2026 Minutes:
 - a. Pamela motioned to accept the minutes from March 2026. Clifford seconded the minutes. Minutes from March were approved. Pamela motioned to accept the minutes from February 2026. Chris seconded the minutes. Minutes from February were approved.

3. Update on March Action Items (Sheila):

- a. ACTION: List of organizations that provide SDP training for our meeting next month.
UPDATE: Sheila doesn't have a big list of people that provide training around self-determination. They will talk about this more on agenda item 10. -In Progress
- b. ACTION: Pam, Robert, and Sheila are looking for members who want to share their experiences in SDP at the May board meeting.
UPDATE: Sheila shared that one person has agreed to go to the May board meeting. Pamela emailed Sedona about someone coming to the May board meeting so the person can be added to the agenda. -Completed
- c. ACTION: Erin will also work on FAQs for Alex and send it over to him before May's meeting. -In Progress

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

- a. Gabriel shared that he attended the meeting on Wednesday with the committee or subcommittee on Human Services. DVU was presenting proposals and trailer bill language for changes to the regional center system. Many of the proposals and language put forward by DDS were not accepted by the committee chair. Dr. Corey Jackson was not convinced that many of the proposed changes would benefit clients and families.
- b. Maribel shared that she feels RCRC lacks information on self-determination and in last month's meeting the community formally requested to contract DVU so that we could receive training on a monthly basis.
- c. Carmen shared that she is the mother of two clients at the regional center. She was also asking for the DVU training.

5. State Council Report: (Julie)

- a. Revised orientation is up and running. It is now in 2 parts. The first part is 2 hours long and is about how the regional center works. The second part is 2 hours long and is about SDP. The training was created by the State Council and DDS. Statewide SD meeting is May 5th. Julie shared that the meeting is helpful to understand the broader trends and what people are doing about those things because some of the issues we face are also seen across the board.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. May 1st Quarterly small meeting with DDS about self-determination to discuss what is working, what is not, and talking about concerns. Chris was interviewed to be a part of the meetings. He was selected to be a part of these meetings. Chris asked everyone if they have something they want to share, he would love to hear from them so he can bring their concerns to the planning meeting. Chris can be reached at cmiller@hcarcenter.org. He thinks it will be beneficial for people to talk directly with DDS. The committee is discussing how to move forward without implementation funds next year. As he receives more information on that he will

bring it to this meeting to share.

- b. New co-chair elections happen in August so they are starting to talk about individuals who might be interested in chairing the statewide committee.
- c. Next Statewide committee meeting is on May 5th. They asked Chris if there might be an IF who would like to come to the May 5th meeting and do a presentation. Sheila asked if they wanted someone who went through the IF training academy or someone who participated in the mentoring contract with Rhiannon and her company Life Leap as that would be a smaller list of people. Sheila asked Chris to let her know what they are looking for so she can send an email to all our IFs that fit that category and criteria to find out who would be willing and have availability on the 5th.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):

- a. Pam and Robert shared that they would have a guest speaker at the Konocti meeting on May 16th. Her name is Mariah and she will be attending in person to share her experience in SDP with the board.
- b. Erin will bring her presentation to the board meeting in July. Any information for the board meeting needs to be sent to Sedona ahead of time so it can be publicly posted before the meeting. Her email is sboswer@redwoodcoastrc.org

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

- a. Erin thinks we are supporting community partners who are trying to support them through the process. She thinks putting ourselves out there to ensure that people understand that we are here to help. Doing some outreach for companies that are doing this work to attend our meetings and talk to us when they need help.
- b. Chris shared that he is available for anybody to reach out to him. He thinks it would be great if we could grow and continue to be a resource and make some improvements in some areas to be even better.
- c. Erin asked if we have a list of community supports that support the Self-Determination process. Alex said we do not have a list, Erin offered to help support creating a list.
- d. Sheila shared that she believes they have received the last allotment of implementation funds. She suggested that we may want to plan with the idea that could be the last set of funds that we get and to have the things we are supporting become sustainable without those funds in the future.
- e. Bonnie talked about Raise and Shine. They are a family resource and empowerment center located at 419 Talmage Road in Ukiah. They provide parent support groups and one-on-one support for families that have children with disabilities or special needs, and if you have any kind of questions or need resources.

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

- a. Sheila shared that the barriers are not structural like not enough IFs or FFM's. It is more lack of understanding, and individuals being tentative/fearful of enrolling.
- b. Alex shared he feels that the barriers vary person-to person.
- c. Monica and Erin feel that service coordinators are hesitant to talk about SDP vs traditional services because they don't quite know the difference. Erin shared she thinks it is getting much better because SDP information is being included in the IPP process. Erin wants to request that service coordinators participate in SDP orientation and receive the 2 certificates as well as complete all of the other things families in SDP would go through, so they understand the process.

Sheila shared that PCT training is mandatory for all service coordinators and many of the service coordinators have done the previous one-hour orientation. Alex shared that the training piece is challenging because service coordinators already have lots of mandatory training. Erin feels it will save time and money in the end if they go to these trainings. Sheila doesn't feel that training alone will be the solution. Hands on experience is needed, and she said it is easier for service coordinators to learn about SDP from someone who is already doing it than a new enrollment. New enrollment can have all kinds of layers and take a lot of time and back and forth. Service coordinators who have done it are mentoring, training, and supporting the people who are learning it along with Alex and Sheila. Word of mouth is a part of what gets people to think about exploring SDP and hearing that FMs are not terrible anymore.

10. Conversation about organizations that can provide SDP training to families (Committee):

- a. Chris proposed voting to send people to person-centered thinking training. Erin shared that they have 10 people who said they would like to go. She suggested adding another 5-10 to that list to open it up to more families. Erin shared that the training is for families that are really wanting to move over to self-determination for them to learn more about supporting their families or themselves through the process. Training is offered by Pathway to Possibilities with Andrea Alessi in person on the weekend, which makes it more accessible to people.
- b. Sheila and Alex offer a person-centered thinking training, but it is during the week during business hours. Training is open to anyone and is free but in the middle of the day for two days in a row, which can be a big challenge for families so this would be an opportunity for people who wouldn't be able to attend otherwise. The next RCRC person-centered training will be in Eureka, there will be one in Ukiah in the fall sometime. RCRC offers free training every quarter and they alternate between north and south.
- c. Sheila said we have funds available. We have some funds that expire very soon. There is more than enough to cover up to 20 people to go. Same training curriculum provided by somebody who is not a Regional Center employee but one of our vendors. It is the same training but different trainer who is local and accessible.

Sheila clarified for Gabriel that this is a 2 full day training on person-centered training not self-determination. The training is on May 2nd and 3rd from 9am to 5pm. Erin motioned to purchase up to 20 tickets for PCT and Bonnie seconded the motion. Motion has been passed to purchase tickets. People interested in attending the person-centered thinking training on 5/2 & 5/3 please email Sheila at skeys@redwoodcoastrc.org

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

- a. Chris complimented Alex and Sheila for all their hard work and for everything they do for us in self-determination and helping everybody figure out their stuff.
- b. Erin reached out to DVU to get more information on training. The support group cost per support group is almost \$1,500. It would be both informational and the ability to talk to other people. Erin would like to know how much the cost would be before voting. Bonnie brought up that she thought we would discuss different options and then pick one. Julie also said it would be useful to know how much money we have to spend because paying for this means not paying for something else. Erin will email and ask how much the training would be to get a quote and then she will send that quote to the committee.
- c. Sheila said we have about \$10,000 in funds left that expire a year from now.
- d. Sheila said if there are any things we could do in the very near future with the funds that are going to expire to email her with the ideas.

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

- a. We currently have 65 people in SDP and 3 more people scheduled to enroll between now and June 1st. 30 people who have completed orientation and submitted their certificates. They have expressed interest in moving forward, they are in various stages of being given information about independent facilitators, getting budgets created and working on plans.
- b. Alex stated that most of his days lately have been new budgets, new spending plans, talking to interested families and clients, and a lot of one-on-one work with service coordinators who have never done self-determination before and are trying to figure it all out.
- c. Sheila shared we have 20 FMS agencies that are vendored. Over 15 active IFs, 3 that speak Spanish and will meet in the southern counties in people's homes.

13. DDS Directives (Sheila):

- a. Sheila shared April 29th at 1pm there is a community meeting about orientations and what people should expect from regional centers once they let us know they are interested in moving forward in SDP.

14. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Clifford shared there will be a live webinar on May 5th that Disability Rights California is holding specifically about social recreation services through the Regional Center in original or SDP services.
<https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/events/ACE-social-recreation-services-through-regional-centers>
- b. Gabriel shared that the elections for the mid-terms are coming up and thinks it would be very useful for the Regional Center to work on informing the clients about the elections because individuals with disabilities have a strong voice and the need to be heard.
- c. Mendo Leap is doing an Autism Acceptance month event this Saturday from 5-7pm.

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

- a. None

16. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. **Action item- Erin is working on FAQ with families to provide to Alex and Sheila**
- b. **Action item- Erin will work on a comprehensive list of SDP provider supports with details on what they offer and for what age groups.**

17. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

The next meeting is set for May 15, 2026.

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Prepared by: J. Blum (04/17/2026)