

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, May 15, 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*), Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5) Crysalynd Miranda (OCRA),

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

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Bianca Magallon-Flores (PPL FMS), Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Maribel Oliver, Gabriel Baca Meza, Lucero Lopez, Kristianna Moralls, Fabiola, Mari, Sherry Erickson, Gari Gershov, Kayley Proenza (DVU), Griselda Silva, Valerio Baca, Susana, Diana Perez (GT Independence)

Absent Committee Members: Robert Miland Taylor (RCRC*), Townley Saye (First 5), Clifford Black (OCRA), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*)

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

3. Update on April Action Items (Sheila):

- a. ACTION: Erin will work on a comprehensive list of SDP provider supports with details on what they offer and for what age groups. -In Progress
- b. ACTION: Erin will work on FAQ with families and then provide to Alex and Sheila. -In Progress

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

- a. Sherry asked Sheila about the process of getting the service coordinators to work on the renewal process for clients. Sheila said that at the service coordinators request they updated the reminder from 2 months ahead to 3 months ahead, and she is getting more requests on how to do those activities around those times. Sheila suggested that the client check in with their service coordinator as well.
- b. Sheila is working on a straightforward tool for renewals with the steps outlined because there are a lot of new service coordinators who haven’t done it before. Alex shared that if someone is trying to get in touch with their service coordinator and they aren’t getting a response to please include Sheila and Alex so they can provide support as needed.
- c. Carmen Baca shared that she is a parent of two children at RCRC; one is an adult, and one is a minor. She feels that the process of self-determination is not working and there are a lot of barriers for the clients and their families. She feels it takes a lot of time with the POS and the vendors getting paid timely. Alex asked if there is a certain place she is stuck to see if he could help or asked that Carmen reach out to Sheila or himself so they can discuss the specifics of what is going on and how they can best support her.
- d. Maribel shared that she is a parent of a client at RCRC. She knows families that are transitioning, and she feels that the regional center creates a lot of obstacles, and the process is really slow and tedious. She shared that the IF she uses has not received payment in 9 months. Sheila replied, saying she is happy to continue doing anything she can to improve the timeliness and access. Getting the release of information is required before they are able to pay the IF for their work, and it is not a rule we have the ability to change.
- e. Lucero stated that she is transitioning her kids over to self-determination and that the process is stressful. The process is super slow; the coordinators are not supporting her and feel untrained. She has asked for the actual process and all she receives a date 2-3 months out to complete the process and that the facilitators are not getting paid.
- f. Kristianna shared that she is the chair of the Lanterman Regional Center Local Volunteer Advisory Committee, and she has been out trying to advocate to keep the LVAC funds. She shared clips from the Senate committee hearing. Kristianna stated that both the assembly member Dr. Jackson and Senator Menjavar had reservations about keeping the trailer bill that would reallocate our funds and said that DDS should come back to the table and make a compromise. They have not done that, so they are asking people to send emails to both of those congressmen and share how helpful these have been to you, that the community is benefiting from the services that the LVAC funds have been able to provide.

If you want LVAC Funding to continue share how the lvac services have helped you:

Email:

Senator Menjivar

senator.menjivar@senate.ca.gov

Assemblymember Dr. Jackson

Assemblymember.Jackson@assembly.ca.gov

Clip from hearings

Assembly:

<https://youtu.be/qH4slcF9CBw?si=ddhfvLal8TEsv2Lv>

Senate:

<https://youtu.be/CyFTe3q4dRI?si=l7kcrFqBNgaDWVG7>

Si quieres que se mantenga la financiación de LVAC, comparte cómo te han ayudado los servicios de LVAC:

Correo electrónico:

Senadora Menjivar

senator.menjivar@senate.ca.gov

Diputada Dra. Jackson

Assemblymember.Jackson@assembly.ca.gov

Fragmento de las audiencias

Asamblea:

<https://youtu.be/qH4slcF9CBw?si=ddhfvLal8TEsv2Lv>

Senado:

<https://youtu.be/CyFTe3q4dRI?si=l7kcrFqBNgaDWVG7>

- g. Maribel followed up about the community's request to contract with DVU and about getting a quote to find out how much they would charge to train the community. She acknowledged DVU's presence in the meeting and wanted to find out if there was information to share. Sheila pointed out to Kayley from DVU and that Erin Moynahan was going to talk with DVU about this request, but she is not present in today's meeting, so she didn't know if she had any information to share. Kayley shared that she wasn't the person that Erin contacted but that Kayley's coworker contacted her this morning and asked if she could be in our meeting. Kayley shared that they offer support groups, and they do support groups currently for Inland Regional Center and North LA Regional Center monthly where about 80 people show up. Someone from DVU is at the meeting as well as one of their contracted IFs. Meetings are usually about an hour and a half. The cost per support group is \$1475 per meeting (when calculating from documentation shared it adds up to \$1125). Julie from the State Council asked if DVU still offers their regular statewide support group meetings. Kayley said they offer the monthly SDP connect where they go over different topics related to the self-determination program. Kayley shared they just had one where they went over the latest updates with the budget and is a very informational meeting, so it might be overwhelming for beginners. They also have their Think Outside the Box Series which goes step-by-step over the process. Each one is an hour and a half long each; they're free to anybody and located on their YouTube channel. They have one on PCP, transition

support, FMS, transitioning into the program all in English, Spanish, and Korean. Kayley thinks our area having an informational part of the meeting and then a Q&A would be most beneficial.

Think Outside the Box, 4th Wednesday of every month from 4:30-6:00 pm

Person Centered Planning - May 27

Registration: DVUnited.org/Think

Beginning the series over again. 7 sessions on:

1. Transition supports
2. PCPs
3. Individual budget
4. Spending plan part 1
5. Spending plan part 2
6. FMSs
7. Transitioning into the SDP

Watch past videos on our [Youtube](#)

SDP Connect, 2nd Wednesday of every month from 4:30-6:00 pm

Next SDP Connect: June 10

Registration: DVUnited.org/SDP

Chris suggested inviting Kayley back in July and putting her on the agenda so the rest of the committee can be a part of the decision and Kayley can be prepared and we can ask clarifying questions at that time as well.

- h. Bianca McGallen Flores shared that she is a community liaison with PPL and FMS in Northern CA as well as throughout all of CA and other states.
“My name is Bianca Magallon-Flores and I am a Community Liaison for PPL an FMS vendored through all Regional Centers.

I wanted to share that we are currently accepting new enrollments. We do not have a waitlist and can work with a wide range of budgets. We offer the Sole Employer and Bill Payer model. Participants do not need to provide anything to get started. If you have any questions or would like more details about enrolling, transferring, or scheduling a time to meet, please feel free to reach out directly.

Bianca Magallon-Flores, PPL FMS Community Liaison

Biflores@pplfirst.com

Hola, me llamo Bianca Magallon-Flores y soy coordinadora comunitaria de PPL, un proveedor de servicios de FMS que opera a través de todos los Centros Regionales. Quería compartir con usted que estamos aceptando nuevas inscripciones. No tenemos lista de espera y podemos trabajar con una amplia variedad de presupuestos. Ofrecemos el modelo de empleador único y el de pagador de facturas. Los participantes no necesitan presentar ningún documento para empezar. Esto es parte del proceso de Auto Determinacion y es requerido. Si tienes alguna pregunta o deseas más detalles sobre cómo inscribirte, cambiarte de programa o programar una cita, no dudes en ponerte en contacto

con nosotros directamente.
Bianca Magallon-Flores, PPL FMS Coordinadora Comunitaria
Biflores@pplfirst.com “

5. State Council Report: (Julie)

- a. The new SDP orientation has launched. Part 1 of the video is available at any time to watch. Some regional centers have been using it for their service coordinators to learn more about self-determination and get the basics on self-determination. Anyone who wants to get the certificate for having participated in the orientation has to go to a live session for both parts one and two. They are currently available in English and Spanish and are currently being translated into other languages as well.
- b. FYI - the link to the orientations is here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. Chris shared that the statewide committee put together a small group of people to participate in a roundtable discussion quarterly with DDS on self-determination and barriers to self-determination. They talked about implementation funding and why that funding is so important. Kristianna is also on the roundtable, so Chris asked her to share as well. Kristianna shared that the intent of the group is to get the community's feedback and for the community's voices to be heard. Also, for the group to pick a topic, sit together to discuss and problem-solve. The topic for the meeting on May 1st was LVAC funding. The meetings are usually 1.5 hours long.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Sheila/Robert absent):

- a. Sheila shared that Robert isn't at the meeting because he is traveling to the board meeting. At the board meeting tomorrow, there will be a participant who is going to go in person and share her experiences with SDP with the board.

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

- a. Julie brought up something that Sheila, Alex, and Julie used to do holding an informal support group meeting for people to come and just ask their questions and get clarification and bring any issues to the table. Julie is wondering if it would be beneficial to restart this and invite various people to talk about their experience or add their expertise. Meet with FMSs or IFs. Sheila had been thinking about this as well and offering one that takes place in Spanish with English translation. Sheila talked about working with Julie to see how goes. Alex shared that there are now more people interested in SDP and signed up as well.
- b. Sherry asked for a resource list for people such as this meeting, DVU, other sources for training or other meetings available for SDP information to give to clients and IFs. She shared that you learn a lot even just by attending these meetings, and she suggested that service coordinators attend some of these meetings.

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

- a. Sheila and Alex shared that they feel the community has done a really nice job sharing the barriers. Alex shared that he hears the most is that service coordinators can't communicate clearly about what SDP is, and with that feedback is working with service coordination to help educate all our service coordinators and get them involved. Alex said he likes to hear what particular steps of the enrollment are taking the longest. Is it when you are doing your orientation, is it when you are doing your budget, when everything is done and you've waiting on your purchases and enrollment dates. The more specific information Sheila and Alex receive on where things are breaking down, and information is lost then they can focus their efforts towards it.
- b. Crysalyne asked a question that came up earlier in the meeting from the community about a concern about processing times. She asked what processing times look like currently if they are enrolling in SDP? Alex shared in general that there is a residual effect of a lot of things related to rate reform including fiscal processes in general are really backed up and all of our purchases have a 6-week lead time. For new enrollments in SDP we would need the budget, authorized approved spending plan, and the IPP all done by mid-April to give 6 weeks' time for the service coordinator to enter the purchases, for those authorizations to make it through all of our different fiscal systems and get uploaded to e-billing which is what the FMS can see get it completed for June 1st billing of services.
- c. Sheila shared that all regional centers do not start any SDP enrollments for July 1st because there were too many difficulties with the fiscal year end and FMSs were not able to see in e-billing, resulting in staff not being paid on time.

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

- a. Pamela shared that she thinks having a meeting in Spanish for individuals who seem very interested and want to participate is a really good idea based on everything we have been hearing. Chris agreed with Pamela.
- b. Chris brought up that he thinks bringing back SDP Conversations would be really helpful for people. Bonnie asked who would lead that and how that would happen. Julie said that Sheila and Alex would talk about it, and Sheila added involving Alma and Susan as well. Bianca said she would love to be involved as well. Pamela and Diana want to be involved as well. Mari asked if any members of the community can be a part of that meeting as well. Sheila and Alex said the intention is for anyone to come and kind of work together as a community to make self-determination work and help people understand. Having folks from the Spanish-speaking community have a forum where they can have a conversation in a language, they are comfortable in would be great.

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

- a. Sheila shared that since our last meeting she has had 1 request for IF training. The person is the mom of an RCRC client and is applying for SDP for her daughter. She wants to help other RCRC clients with the process and enjoys advocating for people. The committee approved her scholarship.
- b. Sheila let us know that there are still \$10,000 in funds from the 24-25 implementation funds left to spend which need to be spent by March 2027. We also have the new allotment of funding which is \$52,668.

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

- a. We currently have 67 people in SDP and another couple that are enrolling soon. We have 32 people in various stages but actively working towards enrollment.
- b. We had 3 new enrollments April 1st, 1 new enrollment May 1st, and 3 scheduled for June 1st and 2 scheduled for August 1st.
- c. Sheila shared that she and Alex had a good meeting with a group of our IFs and provided guidance and tools for them to streamline spending plan processing by having all the needed info included. Alex and Sheila are providing ongoing support and training for service coordinators, which is what they spend most of their time doing. They are putting more tools together for service coordinators so that they have reference points that will work well.
- d. Sheila and Alex have recommended to new service coordinators and supervisors that they watch the 2-hour video on SDP from state council's orientation.

13. DDS Directives (Sheila):

- a. No new directives since the last meeting.
- b. Alex shared that once someone says they are interested in SDP and have done the orientation that the service coordinators need to be aware of what they have to provide to that person. So, they are working on making more user-friendly information that can be shared. Alex is trying to create a form that goes through the steps of SDP, which is complicated, because some things are happening at the same time, but a tool that service coordinators can use when they are in an IPP Meeting and required to talk about SDP that they can hand to someone that explains the steps and is also helpful for the service coordinator to feel more comfortable talking about what those steps are. They are working on that handout and getting it translated into Spanish as well.

14. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Community):

- a. Bonnie from Raise and Shine Family Resource and Empowerment Center shared that they have an upcoming SIB Shop on May 23rd for the siblings of children with disabilities from 10am-1pm in Ukiah. Ongoing family support groups on Mondays and Wednesdays. They do offer 1 on 1 support through our community navigators for anyone having difficulties with the regional center if they want some 1 on 1 support. They also have a weekly playgroup on Tuesdays from 09:30-11 and it's so full they are adding a second class on Thursdays from 09:30-11.
<https://raiseandshine.org/bonnie@first5mendo.org>
- b. Alex shared that the May Revise of the California budget was released, with all of the federal changes to Medicaid. The news was generally good in terms of regional center services, but there are some changes to things like IHHS and Medi-Cal so state council and Julie might have additional webinars when there's Medicaid discussions or updates like this to the budget. Julie said that currently it's all trying to reach a compromise of what to put in the budget and what to put in the trailer bills and that it will all be completed in June. She thinks that any additional webinars on the State budget will happen in July after the budget is actually finalized.
- c. Mari shared that there will be another rally in Sacramento on May 27th and encouraged others to attend and voice their concerns.
- d. Gabriel shared that although the May Revise of the budget is now out, we should still be pushing that any last-minute attempts to make cuts do not work. He shared that many families went to Sacramento on May 7th and spoke at the rally. He spoke at the rally and voiced his concerns and encouraged others here in our SDAC community to do so as well. He also reminded people that the deadline to register to vote is May 18th.

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

- a. Add DVU presentation-remove items 9 and 10 to allow time for presentation

16. Meeting Recap (Action Items below):

- a. Sheila, Alex, and Julie will work on self-determination conversation meetings in English and Spanish as well as ideally have a meeting before our July meeting.
- b. Increase our outreach about these meetings, put it on our social media and other partner agencies to advertise.

17. Adjourn the meeting:

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.

The next meeting is set for July 17, 2026.

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