

**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 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*), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Clifford Black (OCRA), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*), Townley Saye (First 5), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE: 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: Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Chris Miller (RCRC*), Crysalynd Miranda (OCRA)

Absent Representatives: Alma Ingram (RCRC Diversity Specialist), Denise (SCDD), Jerry Freitas (RCRC), Jaclyn Balanay (DDS), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD)

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 (Erin):**
 - a. Pam was selected as the timekeeper.
2. **Review, Discussion and Approval of May 2026 Minutes (Erin):**
 - a. Pam brought up two changes to the May minutes. Pam motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Townley seconded the minutes. Robert noted that he did not

second the minutes in May so the minutes from May were not approved.

3. Update on May Action Items (Sheila):

- 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. Update: Alex, Julie, and Sheila spent some time trying to come up with a good meeting date for a meeting in English and Spanish, but it has not been completed.

-In Progress

- b. Increase our outreach about these meetings, put it on our social media and other partner agencies to advertise. **-In Progress**

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

- a. September 12th Board of Directors' Meeting in Del Norte County- Robert will present a report from our local self-determination Advisory Committee.
- b. Erin and Leticia will make a presentation at the September Board meeting.
- c. Kayley shared that TAFT College is launching an IF training course this fall. It is a free, online, non-credit class at the community college. They are offering two different certificates. You can get an IF certificate that you did the training and they also have a person-centered planning training. It is 3 classes in total if you want both certificates. The IF certificate training is two classes. The August class is full, but you can still sign up and be put on a wait list. The more people on the waitlist, the more sections they are going to open. It is currently only offered in English right now, but they are working on offering it in Spanish. The professor is also an independent facilitator, and she is on the LVAC of Kern Regional Center and very active in the community.

TAFT College IF Training Flyer:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oV498GkpaH0h4yAwzqwyJKkp2VhNvn-G/view?usp=drive_link

Guide on how to register:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qRBroYIRcxh4B_iKBgBSslXmqjwHaU_/view?usp=drive_link

5. State Council Report: (Julie)

- a. Julie is not in attendance to provide us with an update.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

- a. Chris and Frank are not in attendance to provide us with an update.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):

- a. Robert shared that at the Board Meeting Julie shared with everybody the topic of what is the difference between self determination and traditional services.
- b. Townley asked if there is a threshold or a goal for self-determination enrollment that achievable or an expectation? Robert asked Sheila and Alex to answer her question. Sheila responded by saying there is not an identified number that DDS or

RCRC has set at this point. Sheila shared that Alex, herself, and the team want it to be readily available to anybody who's interested, and for that enrollment process to go as smoothly as possible. Sheila shared that we have lots of people interested. Alex shared that anyone who wants to enroll can enroll and that we will figure out how to make it happen for them.

8. Set priorities for DDS SDP Implementation Funds (Committee):

- a. Sheila shared that we attached the directives from DDS about the funds. This upcoming set of funds is different than the previous year's funds. Sheila shared that the biggest change is that the regional centers have the authority to determine if there's an identified conflict of interest. Prior years it's been up to the LVAC to make the decisions and now it's collaborative. If there is an identified conflict regional centers can say that's not acceptable. Sheila shared that as of July 1st the funds that the LVAC's have been getting year after year will no longer be coming to the LVAC's. It is her understanding that instead of 2 million split between the 21 regional centers on a per capita kind of basis it will be 1 million now and they will be directing what we do with it. This is why Sheila wants to prioritize this committee looking at how they want to spend the current money that we have until 2028 to spend because it will be the last pot of money that we will get without a whole lot of direction about how we spend it. Sheila shared that we have \$50,000 to spend by March 2028. There is roughly about \$9,000 left to spend before March 2027. After that is when DDS says the funds can only be used for statewide standardized training and resource fairs.
- b. Kayley brought up the July 14th DDS Directive which talks about the funds from July 14th of 2026 to June 30th of 2030. It states that the funds may be used only for statewide standardized training and local community resource fairs. The July 14 DDS Directive speaks about future LVAC funding from 7/14/2026 - 6/30/2030, on page 8. <https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/D-2026-Legislation-001.pdf>
- c. Gabriel Baca Meza shared that he thought it would be difficult to have a resource fair in our catchment area because we are the smallest regional center in terms of enrolled or clients served but we cover a vast amount of territory. He feels it can work but that it will take a lot of creativity from all of us to make that work.
- d. Sheila brought up that from the remaining funds that we have left that we usually send people to various conferences with those funds. She is asking the committee to consider the priorities between now and March 2028 and if as a committee they think the conferences are going to be something of value. Erin shared that she believes it is and it's difficult to look at this funding because we don't know what kind of training is coming our way or what things are coming the next couple of years to potentially send people to. Erin likes the idea of making a video that explains the difference between self-determination and traditional services and then playing this video along with other important information in the lobby which

would also be beneficial for those more visually inclined. Something that is in plain language, easy for people to access, easy to understand, and in both English and Spanish.

- e. Sheila encouraged the committee to consider adding somewhere on the list of priorities ongoing support for independent facilitators as they are learning about SDP process. She shared that we have a few Spanish speaking IFs but that she would like to see more. Pam said she thinks it is a good idea but that we need somebody to present what that would look like, how much it would cost so that the committee can consider it.
 - f. Kayley shared an idea RCRC has not done yet, but that Sheila has heard good results statewide is having a non-regional center staff that has some understanding, knowledge, and training help coach other people as they go through the enrollment process. Both Sheila and Erin love this idea.
 - g. Sheila asked for this topic to be left on the agenda because DDS wants the regional centers to report on specific details of what the committee is prioritizing and how much money spent for each. Since both chairs Chris and Frank are missing this month, we will bring the topic back next month.
 - h. Maribel asked how many Spanish speaking IF's we have. Sheila shared we have at least 4 Spanish-speaking people that have completed the IF training. We have two active independent facilitators that are Spanish-speaking and Latina. The other two are not supporting anyone outside of their own family.
9. Review options for SDP training for families, DVU support groups and ICC Aug Conference (Committee/Community):
- a. We have several community members who are interested in going to the ICC Conference. Registration is \$150 per person. Lucero Lopez shared that there are about 20 people that want to go to the conference. Sheila shared that some people have been able to have the registration paid for through their IPP. She also shared that she understands that some people are requesting support with transportation and lodging because it is in Southern California. Lucero shared that renting a 15-passenger van would be \$847.00 to pick it up on the 13th and bring it back on either the 15th in the afternoon or the 16th in the morning. She is asking for assistance with gas, the rental of the van, the registration, and the hotel. Lucero shared that the hotel is around \$394 per room for 2 nights. She is requesting 10 rooms to support these families and their children interested in self-determination. Registration for 20 people would be \$3000. Some service coordinators got the registration approved but many are still waiting to hear back. Based on rough numbers of \$847 for the van rental, \$3940 for the hotel, and \$500 for gas, that would be \$5287.
 - b. Angie brought up that she is in self-determination program and she was not aware that she should have had some funds put aside in the budget to allow her to attend these conferences. She would like to attend because she feels it would be very

beneficial since it's going to be all Spanish. Sheila shared that airfare and lodging are strictly forbidden in self-determination to be covered.

- c. Alex said if the decision needs to be made today or this week for things to happen for people, he asked if the committee would be open to projecting up and approving up to a certain amount based on the information we have.
- d. Clifford asked how we did it last year, did we allocate a certain amount for these different categories? Did we offer a food stipend? Alex shared that we didn't cover food costs last year. Sheila will attempt to set up a relationship where they pay for the hotel directly and that we can probably pay ICC directly for the number of registrations that we need. Everything else will need to be through reimbursements after the trip including the van rental, gas receipts, and food receipts. Sheila pointed out that if the van rental is covered then the mileage reimbursement is not paid.
- e. Erin suggested approving up to \$9000 and Bonnie agreed that would be good to cover all bases.
- f. Bonnie motioned to have a cap of \$9000 for the travel expenses in the form of hotel rooms, registration for the conference as needed, van rental and gas for the ICC conference. Pam seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the committee.
- g. Kayley from Disability Voices United (DVU) made a presentation about a support group for the committee. She shared a little bit of the background about who Disability Voices United is. They are an organization that is directed by and for people with disabilities and their families. Everybody who works for them either has a disability or is a direct family member of someone with a disability, so they are all passionate about this work. The founders are some of the leaders who fought to get the self-determination law passed, and they advocate for its implementation ever since. Judy Mark is the president of their organization. They are continuously advocating for barriers to be eliminated in SDP through advocacy, policy, and a lot of grassroots efforts. They maintain strong ties with underserved communities like the Latino community, Asian American, African American, and immigrant communities. They have a lot of community-based partners. They have an independent facilitator roundtable, they have an FMS roundtable, LVAC collaborative roundtable, and they do these support groups because they think it's stronger when we learn together instead of separately. It's important for everybody to have the same information, so when they do these support groups they invite everyone. There are IFs there, sometimes there is regional center staff, and self-advocates to share their opinions. Some of the things DVU has done in the past are 9 statewide self-determination conferences, they have published 2 books and are currently working on updating them. Thinking Outside the Box is one of them, it's a

manual on the self-determination program, which goes step by step over the enrollment process. It has all the directives in it and lots of information.

- h. DVU hosts monthly SDP Connects, which they host in English with Spanish and Korean interpretation. They get 300 to 400 people there once a month and they go over different SDP topics. Kayley shared that this year there's been a lot of updates to the self-determination program, especially with the state budget, so they have been talking a lot about that and giving updates to the community. They have hosted conferences and resource fairs for other regional centers like Westside Regional Center, North LA Regional Center, and Inland Regional Center. Inland Regional Center just had their conference and resource fair in June, and they had 330 participants, 58 exhibitors, and 11 small SDP businesses there. They have also hosted their monthly support groups for other regional centers. They hosted a support group for North LA for four years and had an average of 96 participants show up each time. For IRC they hosted it for a year or two and had an average of 72 participants. Kayley said that they are very familiar with the self-determination program law and the DDS Directives on its implementation and the logistics to enroll in the program.
- i. Kayley shared that their monthly support groups would include 12 monthly one-and-a-half-hour support groups and they would have it in English with Spanish interpretation. If we wanted it in another interpretation language, then it would be a little bit more. They would lead the support groups, and they would like to do it in the evenings because they have found that more people can join then. They would be hosting it with Tina Ewing Wilson who is a self-advocate and has been in the program since its pilot-so more than 20 years. They have an independent facilitator who they trust to do these trainings. They work with three different independent facilitators to help them with their training. They would provide us with monthly feedback after every meeting. Kayley would keep a list of topics that are recurring so we can be in the loop and know what's happening with your participants and their family members. The cost would be \$1,100 per session. They can do a 20-minute presentation at the beginning on a topic and then go into an open forum. The support groups are held via Zoom.

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

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

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

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

12. DDS Directives (Sheila/Alex):

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

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

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

14. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Committee/Community):

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

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

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

16. Meeting Recap (Sheila/Alex):

- a. Topic was not discussed as we ran out of time at the meeting.

17. Adjourn the meeting (Erin):

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.

The next meeting is set for August 21, 2026.

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Prepared by: J. Blum