Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 21, 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*), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*), Townley Saye (First 5), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5), Chris Miller (RCRC*), Crysalyn Miranda (OCRA)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE:) Alex Ostell (RCRC), Lori Gutierrez (RCRC), Patricia Kamlley (DDS), Denise (SCDD)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Bianca Magallon-Flores (PPL FMS), Diana Perez, Carmen Baca, Maribel Oliver, Gabriel Baca Meza, Lucero Lopez, Angelica, Fabiola, Mari, Sherry Erickson, Kayley Proenza (DVU), Tina Ewing-Wilson (DVU), Judy Mark (DVU), Olaf Luevano (RitzFMS), Gavi Gershov (TrueCare FMS), Denise Gorny (SCDD), Rosie Lasca (IFTA & IFTU), Patricia Kamlley (DDS), Angie,

Absent Committee Members: Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Clifford Black (OCRA)

Absent Representatives: Alma Ingram (RCRC Diversity Specialist), Jerry Freitas (RCRC), Jaclyn Balanay (DDS), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD), Sheila Keys (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 May and July 2026 Minutes (Chris):
    a. Chris motioned to approve the May and July meeting minutes. Crysalyn seconded

the minutes. May meeting minutes were approved. July meeting minutes were approved.

3. Update on April Action Items (Pam):
    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**

    Update on May Action Items (Pam):
    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. Maribel thanked the committee for support the families received so that they could attend the ICC conference. She shared that she learned a lot of things, it was enriching, and the information was great. She met other FMS's and thanked Sheila for all her hard work with the conference.
    b. Carmen also thanked the committee for the opportunity to attend the ICC Conference. The families were able to learn in their own language. She hopes they can continue to go to these conferences.
    c. Gabriel shared that it was nice to see Jonathan Padilla at the ICC Conference. He feels that the relationship with the Executive Director (ED) is better than it was 2 years ago especially with the ED and the Hispanic, Latino community here at RCRC which is a positive change in the right direction. He looks forward to talking with him further about ideas he has and concerns from the community and is optimistic that this will be a much more productive relationship.
    d. Pam asked how many people went to the ICC conference and how much money was spent. Alex shared that at least 20 people attended and that we will be right around the $9000 that we approved. Chris gave a shout out to Sheila for all that she did to make the ICC conference happen.

5. State Council Report: (Julie)
    a. Julie is not in attendance, but Denise came to represent her. Julie wanted to share that she is putting on some resource fairs throughout our four-county region and she will be sending flyers out for those. Throughout the state of California they will be sponsoring four workshops on employment issues. September is supporting National Disability Employment Awareness month. The workshops are called Celebrating Value and Talent. They will be talking about California Employment First Policy, Workforce Innovation, and the Opportunity Act and Employment Advocacy.

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The other workshop is benefits planning, dispelling myths, and launching employment while maintaining benefits, which is very important because a lot of families and clients fear going to work and losing their benefits. They will all be presented in Spanish on Zoom.

b. Denise also shared that UVAH-Ukiah Valley Association for Habilitation is doing a dinner auction. The dinner auction will be held on October 10th at the Alex Roba Rec Center from 5-10pm with lots of fun auction items, music, and dancing.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

    a. Chris shared that he was elected as the new co-chair of the statewide self-determination advisory committee. Chris's goal is to represent the people who live in rural areas that never get the opportunity to be at the tables where even small changes can come and make it better for everybody in rural areas. It has always been his goal to make sure the rural areas are not ignored and that all of us are getting support we need to be successful so that is what he is striving to do when he takes over as co-chair. Chris asked if there is more he can do to support all of us to get our voices heard about what we need to please let him know so he can deliver our needs to the committee and get this accomplished for us and self-determination as a whole.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):
    a. Robert shared that he is going to the Board Meeting on September 12th in Crescent City.
    b. Erin will be presenting at the September Board Meeting.
    c. There will be one last Board meeting for 2026 in November.

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

    a. Pam suggested that we wait until next month to discuss when Sheila is back because we need to talk about how much money is available and what our deadlines are for spending it.

9. Review options for SDP training for families, and DVU support groups (Committee/Community):
    a. Kayley from DVU gave the presentation again to review. Judy Mark and Tina, who would run the support group, were also in the meeting.
    b. The proposal was for 12 monthly meetings, 1 each month for 1.5 hours and it would be in English with Spanish interpretation. They offer other languages, but it may cost a bit more. The support group would be in the evening and they do not like to have regional staff there so people who attend feel more comfortable sharing their problems but they provide monthly feedback to the committee and the regional center on the topics that they are seeing and that people are asking for. Each support group would cost $1,100 and that goes towards advertising and promoting

the event, paying the moderators, the host of the event, and interpretation. Doing a month-to-month meeting basis will not work for DVU. Bonnie asked if we did 4 months, is it just a question and answer or is there a specific topic each month. Judy shared that they don't have specific training because they want to let people drive these groups. If no one has anything they will suggest topics to prompt discussions. Townley brought up her concern about starting a support group and then ending it due to lake of funding. She worries that it weakens trust amongst community members. Alex shared that from 2024-2025 we have $1.000 left after the ICC conference. 2025-2026 funds are available which is $52,000.

c. Erin motioned to allow the committee to cover the cost of a four-month contract with DVU for support groups. Chris seconded the motion. The committee voted and approved a four-month contract with DVU.

10. <u>RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Sheila/Alex):</u>
    a. Alex shared that we have 39 currently enrolling people. Most of our active enrollments are under the age of 25. 3 new people enroll in August and 4 scheduled to start in September. The rest of the active enrollments will be later this fall. We have 71 enrollments in SDP. Percentage wise compares to bigger regional centers. With a lot more enrollments there are a lot more service coordinators feeling more confident. Alex and Sheila have been working with service coordinators to support them but over the past few months they have been very intentionally shifting responsibility for client service support to their manager and the director's team because they don't have the capacity with this many people to be as involved as they have been so they are seeing more managers taking initiative to feel more comfortable with the SDP process. We have lots of dedicated service coordinators who are excited to learn and enthusiastic about the process.
    b. Alex shared that they have been continuing their monthly roundtable meetings. They have been pushing all of our service coordinators to go to the State Council orientation that was done specifically for regional center staff. At their last roundtable, they asked for a show of hands who had attended and almost every person raised their hand.
    c. There is a new directive from DDS to have a standardized set of core competencies for service coordinators and specific training for specific lengths of time that have to occur. One of those trainings is self-determination so Sheila and Alex are doing a 1-hour quick course for new service coordinators on what SDP is. Time is set aside because it is required and not optional. Every service coordinator will be required to attend that course as part of their orientation starting in mid-October.
    d. Alex did not think we had any new independent facilitators since our July meeting. Some newer IF's have taken on new clients. One barrier we are still experiencing is

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building our capacity for Spanish language IF's. We have one person who is consistently providing that service, so they are focusing on getting more Spanish language independent facilitators. Erin asked if the service coordinators will be going through IF Training and Alex shared that they will not be because they do not have the capacity to do the training however they are getting more hand on training with items like spending plans, getting invoices uploaded to FMS's portals, and doing training with them as things come up.

e. Mari asked for the timeframe on how long it takes to transition from transitional services to SDP. Alex shared that on average it usually takes 7-8 months because RCRC doesn't have a whole department for Self-Determination including only having self-determination service coordinators, and their own fiscal person like some of the other regional centers have.

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. Alex shared that there were no new Directives.

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. Olaf from RitzFM services shared that they provide services for all three FMS models, that they do not have a waiting list, that they speak Spanish, located in Southern CA and vendored with our regional center.
    Olaf Luevano (Hablo Español)
    Direct Phone: 626-709-3723
    Email: oluevano@ritzfms.com
    Schedule a Meeting / Agendar una Reunión:
    https://calendly.com/oluevano-ritzfms/15-minute-meeting-clone
    New Client Registration Form / Registro de Nuevos Clientes:
    Register — Ritz FMS
    b. Robert shared that the Board of Directors is going to look at two revisions to the new client benefit fund policy. They want to make a client benefit fund that will benefit self-determination participants to get more resources as a last resource if needed for things that are really, really needed with their service coordinator.
    c. Maribel shared that people would benefit from the DVU support groups. Carmen also shared that she is happy about the DVU support groups being approved. That the outreach be sent in Spanish and English for the trainings and support groups.

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15. Add/Remove Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Committee):
    a. Remove agenda item #9

16. Meeting Recap (Sheila/Alex):
    a. Alex will follow up with Sheila to discuss having a self-determination participant representative at each Board meeting. Pam and Robert will reach out to people to create a list of participants interested in participating.
    b. Maribel is interested in the IF training. Sheila, please reach out to Maribel with more information.

17. Adjourn the meeting (Erin):
    a. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am.

The next meeting is set for September 18, 2026.

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Prepared by: J. Blum

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