Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 18, 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*), Townley Saye (First 5), Clifford Black (OCRA)

REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COMMITTEE:) Alex Ostell (RCRC), Sheila Keys (RCRC), Jerry Freitas (RCRC), Lori Gutierrez (RCRC), Patricia Kamlley (DDS), Julie Eby-McKenzie (SCDD)

COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Gilbert Rangel (Equilingual.com), Bianca Magallon-Flores (PPL FMS), Diana Perez(GTI FMS), Carmen Baca, Maribel Oliver, Gabriel Baca Meza, Lucero Lopez, Fabiola, Mariah, Sherry Erickson, Kayley Proenza (DVU), Lauren Cook, Susana Avalos-Garcia, Beth Martinko, Monica Star(IF)

Absent Committee Members: Frank Van Curen (RCRC*), Pam Jensen (SCDD*), Erin Moynahan (SCDD*), Bonnie Boek (Raise & Shine-First 5), Chris Miller (RCRC*), Crysalyn Miranda (OCRA)

Absent Representatives: Alma Ingram (RCRC Diversity Specialist), 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 (Alex/Sheila):
    a. Lori Gutierrez introduced herself as the new RCRC client services director. She shared that she is located in the Ukiah office.
    b. We did not have a quorum this month.

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2. Review, Discussion and Approval of August 2026 Minutes (Alex/Sheila):
    a. August meeting minutes were not approved as we did not have a quorum.

3. Update on April Action Items:
    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:
    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**

    Update on August Action Items:
    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.

4. Participant and Family Sharing – What's Working and What's Not Working (Community):
    a. Sheila shared that the contract with DVU for the support groups that was approved last meeting has been sent for signatures and that they hope to have the contract in place by October 1st. Once the contract is in place Disability Voices can start getting to work on various activities to schedule and put the word out about the meetings.
    b. Alex shared that there are 2 people interested in scholarships to attend the IF training. They will send out an email to committee members to hopefully get approval that way.
    c. Maribel, a mother of a client at RCRC, thanked the committee for listening to their request to attend the ICC conference. She shared that it really helped her a lot to learn more about self-determination and get to know about more resources to be able to support her son more. Maribel shared she was able to find a lot of information in Spanish and was able to meet different FMS's and thanked Sheila for all of her hard work. Maribel also thanked the committee for the DVU trainings and workshops.
    d. Robert shared that is he going to the Association of Regional Centers Agency Conference will be September 25-27th at the Doubletree Hotel in Torrance, CA.

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5. State Council Report: (Julie)
    a. Julie shared that the number of people going through orientation is just skyrocketing. She shared that she is sure that some of that is partly due to the fact that regional centers are not doing them anymore, instead they are all running through SCDD's orientation. Julie stated that they have received great feedback on the orientation and that they are slowly adding other languages.
    b. October 9th Tri Counties Independent Living Center is having their Disability and Senior Exo at the Sequoia Conference Center. The State Council's executive director, Aaron C., will be coming and doing a presentation from 01:30pm to 02:30pm at the expo to talk about the current view for disability services at both the federal and state level, the State Council's new five-year plan which starts October 1st and to get feedback from the community about what is important to people. Julie strongly encouraged people to attend if they can.
    c. September is emergency preparedness month. She shared they have been doing a statewide series about emergency preparedness. There are 2 times left to attend. The next one is for self-advocates in Spanish on September 25th from 11am to 12pm and then the last one will be for family advocates again in Spanish on September 30th from 6pm to 7pm.
    d. October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. There are two job fairs coming up. One in Lake County on October 6th and the other one is on October 21st at the Ukiah Conference Center. They are a collaboration with RCRC, the Department of Rehabilitation, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation and the Employment Development Department.
    e. Julie shared that there are other events related to employment throughout October and if you are on her distribution list you will get information about all of it. If you would like to join Julie's distribution list you can email her at Julie.eby-mckenzie@scdd.ca.gov to request to be added.
    f. Julie shared that the regional manager in San Diego, Yolanda Cruz, is doing a training on exploitation of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If only a handful of people, ask for the training in Spanish she will provide interpretation at the training. If there are a large group of people who want the training in Spanish, she will schedule a second training to be in Spanish. Yolanda is bilingual so she can do both of those training courses.

6. Co-Chair Update (Chris):

    a. Neither co-chairs were in attendance at the meeting to provide an update.

7. RCRC Board Meeting (Robert):
    a. Robert shared DDS granted 5 more years of funding for self-determination. Sheila shared that the self-determination waiver is something that the state has to apply to the federal government for every five years. The upcoming five years was just approved by the federal government, so that means we are able to continue with self-determination. The waiver allows the state of California to get reimbursed by the federal government for about half of the services provided, which is helpful for

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the state as well as for DDS and regional centers.

b. Robert shared that he is going to Harbor Regional Center next week for the Association of Regional Center Agencies(ARCA) which will take place at the Doubletree Hotel September 25th to 27th.

Meeting experienced technical difficulties with Spanish translation, so meeting was ended.

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

    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

9. Review options for SDP training for families, and DVU support groups (Committee/Community):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

10. RCRC Update: SDAC Membership, Participant Enrollment, IF/FMS Services, SC Support & Training, SD Meetings (Sheila/Alex):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

11. Barriers to enrollment for new participants (Committee):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

12. DDS Directives (Sheila/Alex):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

13. How to Assist Individuals Who Wish to Offer Support to Others in their Community (Committee/Community):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

14. Resource Sharing/Community Input (Committee/Community):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

15. Add/Remove Agenda Items for Next Meeting (Committee):
    a. Add to discuss information regarding changes with SDP waiver extension.

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16. Meeting Recap (Sheila/Alex):
    a. Not discussed as meeting was ended due to technical difficulties with Spanish translation.

17. Adjourn the meeting (Sheila/Alex):
    a. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

The next meeting is set for October 16, 2026.

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Prepared by: J. Blum

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