

RCEB SELF-DETERMINATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, January 6, 2025

Start Time: 7:00 pm **End Time:** 8:44 pm

Location of the Meeting: Zoom- no physical location

Location of the Next Meeting: Zoom-no physical location

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members Present: Dianne Millner, Virginia Hom, Vi Ibarra, Irene Litherland, Arthur Lipscomb, Jocelyn Manalac, Lorena Gomez, Pamela Baird

Committee Members Absent: Aarthy Desikan

Committee Administrative Assistant: Britney Edmond

RCEB Staff Present: Lindsay Meninger, Ronke Sodipo, Jenifer Castaneda

SCDD Staff Present: Sheraden Nicholau, Manager of the Bay Area Regional Office of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities

Guests: Ana Elvira-Sanchez, Chris Aguire, David Block, Norma Gonzalez, Tanya (community liaison for PPO)

Agenda Item: Welcome, Interpreter's Introduction, Chat Monitor, Roll Call to Establish Quorum

Dianne Milner welcomed committee members and guests. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

Agenda Item: Review and Consent to the Minutes from Prior Meetings

Dianne does not currently have the prior meeting minutes, but expects that will be prepared in the near future for review.

Agenda Item: Update on Hiring Committee Administrator/Facilitator

Dianne, Irene, and Virginia interviewed and hired Britney Edmond for the project administrator position. Dianne introduced Britney Edmond to the committee and guests.

Agenda Item: Report on activities on Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee 12/4/24 "Town Hall"

Vi attended the quarterly meeting. The meeting began with a welcome by co-chair Rick Wood. She also revealed that the newly appointed co-chair is Nestor Niedz. He previously served on the state council board. Niedz has been a part of the employment subcommittee and self-advocate subcommittee. He is also personally in the self-determination program. The audience was reminded of the purpose of the State Advisory Committee for Self-Determination: the committee helps identify best practices, effective training materials, implementation concerns, and systemic issues. The committee also makes recommendations on ways to enhance self-determination.

The committee also reviewed DDS demographic information about statewide numbers. They discussed how many are in self-determination and broken down by regional centers, ethnicities, and diagnoses. Vi placed a link in the chat that has demographic data current as of October 31st.

Questions were asked if the information posted in Facebook groups is being monitored by DDS. Yes, DDS is aware of the activity and does monitor it. They also followed up with information at a previous town hall about FMS services. DDS will be developing FMS standards. They are also providing guidance around the standardization of FMS charges. Additional training modules are also being created to remedy the feedback from participants and families. The Committee was introduced to newly appointed SDP Ombudsperson Marlene Morales. She is bilingual and bicultural. Morales previously worked at the Regional Center of Orange County.

The presenters, Katie Hornburger, Katie Dempsey, and Marlene, were asked by the audience what they see as the greatest concern about self-determination and its future. Katie Hornburger felt that delays in payment from the FMSs caused immediate and dramatic impacts. Katie Dempsey called out the complexity of California labor laws and ensuring there are protections for serving recipients. Marlene mentioned ensuring clients get the right information so that they can make informed decisions.

Dianne posed follow-up questions about when the next meeting was scheduled. She also asked Vi if there were any glaring figures from the data provided. Vi replied that no upcoming meeting date was revealed, and there were no glaring instances in the data. Vi mentioned that enrollment usually dips in the summer months. Sheraden provided a detailed link with the data shared at the meeting.

Agenda Item: Update from Regional Center

a. Report on current RCEB SDP Enrollment; Status of making the report available on RCEB SDP website and in Committee minutes- per SDLAC request from the December 2024 meeting

Jenifer Castaneda reported updates for the Self Determination Program. Current enrollments are 403. 13 of those are for January. 184 are in their first year. 111 are in their second year. 66 are in their third year. 30 are in their 4th year, and 12 people are in their 5th year. Jenifer discussed the SDLAC SDP Implementation Budget \$131,332.77 to be spent by March 2027.

b. Any other RCEB updates on new developments at State or local level on Self-Determination

Lindsay added that FMSs are becoming more stringent around timelines and retroactive payments. Everyone needs to be accountable for their role in the process. She shared a Self-Determination Timeline.

Agenda Item: Update on (A) Potential new Committee members, and (B) Outcome of December 5, 2024, SDLAC Membership Overview Training/Discussion

- a. Sheraden Nicholau revealed that there are ten potential new committee members. They are currently looking for self-advocates, people with experience, and residents of Contra Costa County. Sheridan, Ronke, and Arthur interviewed one applicant last month and will interview another soon.
- b. Ten members attended the SDLAC overview training. All voting members got an online video recording to review at their discretion. One question posed at the overview training was: How do we use this material? They may plan another training session every year for new members. It would be open for any existing or established voting members to attend. They discussed the need for a repository, Google Drive or SharePoint for materials and historical documents. This allows committee members to look at previous projects and assessments to see what worked or didn't work. It would be an internal repository for voting members and advisors. Discussing a contracted admin person might create and maintain that Google Doc or SharePoint. They also discussed establishing formal follow-ups, including debriefing of the results of projects and asking for wrap-up reports from project grantees or working groups.

Agenda Item: Update on Funded Projects: Outreach Fairs Targeted to LatinX and Black communities

a. Report on March 1, 2025, SDP Outreach Fair Targeted to LatinX

Irene discussed that the Congressional Familiar group is planning a resource fair to be held on March 1st at a middle school in Oakland. The goal is 250 attendees. They are having weekly meetings for the full committee. They have been divided into around ten subcommittees surrounding declarations, signage, volunteers, music, entertainment, and information tables. There are presenters scheduled for workshops. They will also have breakfast, lunch, snacks, and childcare.

b. ACTION ITEM- Defer recruitment and RFP for SDP Outreach Fair Targeted to Black Communities until next funding cycle (2025-2026)

Dianne asked that the committee move forward on the recently reviewed proposal to allow Clover Associates and Kim Merzouk's company, Navigating Autonomy Group, to assist the SDP with outreach to the Black community. Irene added that she felt the proposal looked promising. Irene moved and that the Committee accept the proposal of Navigating Autonomy Group/ Clover Advocates. The motion was seconded by Virginia. All in favor and no opposition. The motion passed.

Agenda Item: Continued discussion on proposed committee projects for use of DDS funds- Possible ACTION on proposed Project item: Issue Request for Proposal ("RFP")

to create an SDP Handbook similar to the North Los Angeles County Regional Center IF Handbook

Virginia proposed that the committee create an SDP handbook, to help clients self-educate. Dianne discussed that an RFP needed to be created quickly so that the book could be completed by the March 31, 2025 deadline. Lindsey mentioned ensuring it is a digital copy because of ongoing changes. Virginia plans to make this a downloadable version. Virginia asked if the remaining money could be used to purchase the handbook, "Think Outside of the Box." She feels that case managers can offer these books to clients. Lindsey assured that the case managers already have a resource that they give out. Virginia wants the book to be a one-time resource when the applicant joins the program. Vi is concerned with the timeline. She feels this is a worthy project but wants to ensure that the resource is accessible. She feels that more time is needed to complete this project.

Pamela asked if we could add a table for the SDP at the upcoming Transition Fair. Jenifer said that someone from the committee can present at the fair. Pamela volunteered to present at the table. Dianne recommends that the committee use the additional funds to purchase more handbooks that can be given out at the fair. The Committee took no action on purchasing the handbooks at this time.

Dianne solicited a motion to allow Virginia to explore the possibility of doing a quick RFP to see if someone can create the SDP handbook for RCEB by the end of March. She asked that they authorize a motion of \$5,000-\$10,000. Pamela says there should be a maximum instead of a range. Pamela makes a motion for a maximum of \$8,000 for creating the handbook. Irene seconded the motion. Vi opposed the motion. The motion was passed.

Agenda Item: Status of item approved at November 2024 Committee meeting approving posting on RCEB website an invitation for proposals to facilitate SDP Enrollment similar to the invitation for proposal posted by Alta Regional Center

Jenifer discussed that the committee needed to designate who would monitor the receipt of any RFPs. The new administrator Britney will work with RCEB to monitor those emails. Dianne suggested using the committee email and Britney will monitor it.

Agenda Item: Action Item; Adopt 2025 meeting schedule

Attached to the agenda were the proposed 2025 meeting dates. Dianne asked if anyone had concerns. She entertained a motion to adopt the meeting dates. Vi moved to adopt the meeting dates. Irene seconded the motion. Arthur shared he will not be available in August. All were in favor. No opposed.

Agenda Item: Public comments on successes and concerns with SDP, or items not on the agenda.

Dianne asked if any members wanted to raise any issues. No issues were raised.

Agenda Item: Future Agenda Items and Announcements

Dianne requested that RCEB follow up with DDS on when they will present the data they have accumulated to the committee. Virginia wants to propose new projects at the next meeting. Virginia asked for the database to review previous projects. She requested to add to the agenda in February to review the PowerPoint project and examples of previous projects.

M/S/C “Move to adjourn the meeting.” Motion passed. [Millner].