

RCEB SELF-DETERMINATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date: Monday, June 2, 2025

Start Time: 7:00 pm **End Time:** 8:27 pm

Location of the Meeting: Zoom-No physical location

Location of the Next Meeting: Zoom- No physical location

ATTENDEES:

Committee Members Present: Dianne Millner, Vi Ibarra, Joycelyn Manalac, Lorena Gomez, Irene Litherland, Pamela Baird, Arthur Lipscomb, Aarthy Desikan

Committee Members Absent: Ken Sobieraj, Virginia Hom

RCEB Staff Present: Ronke Sodipo, Lindsay Meninger, Karina Perez, Rebecca Nanyonjo, Jenifer Castaneda

SCDD Staff Present: Sheraden Nicholau

DDS Liaison Present: Chris Aguire

Guests: Cyndi Dozal (Clover Advocates), Kim Merzouk-Sandoval, Sonia M., Iris Calles, Meena Tadimeti (MJT), Samuel Coston, Shawna Shelton, Lizbeth Juarez, Giovanna Wormsbecker (Spanish Interpreter), Cecille D., Independent Facilitator Training Academy, Yelka Vargas (Spanish Interpreter), Mary Apprill, Norma Gonzalez, Will Sanford, Mark Polit, Patricia Albeno, Joyce Butz, Anne Chen, Araceli, Peter Kangas

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

Dianne Millner welcomed interpreters, committee members, and guests. The interpreters, committee members, and guests introduced themselves.

Agenda Item: Review and Consent to the May 2025 Minutes

Dianne gave the committee members time to review the minutes from May's meeting. Dianne entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Irene moved to approve the motion. Arthur seconded the motion. The motion to approve May minutes was passed.

Agenda Item: Report on Bay Area Website

Irene shared that the representatives from the Regional Center of East Bay, the Golden Gate Regional Center, and the San Andreas Regional Center committees meet monthly to discuss the Bay Area website. No new information at this time.

Agenda Item: Update from Regional Center

a. Report on Current RCEB SDP Enrollment

Jenifer revealed that the report is the same as reported from the May meeting because they are sending reports once a month. The reports will be sent along with the agenda.

DDS has confirmed that they will be presenting in the July meeting at the 7:10 pm time slot. Jenifer requested information from DDS ten days ahead of the meeting so that it could be shared with the agenda.

Vi will not be able to attend the Statewide meeting due to vacation plans however she will present a handwritten report when she returns for the August meeting.

Agenda Item: Update on Potential new Committee members

Sheraden reported that since the last meeting, the Regional Center of the East Bay has been close to scheduling a new appointment. There are no new updates today, but before the next meeting, the voting members should be voting on a new member.

She also reported that Morena Grimaldi, a long-trusted partner in SDP, has additional caregiving responsibilities and has to step down from the committee. She will attempt to stay in touch and attend meetings. Sheraden wished her well and thanked her for her longtime commitment. Irene mentioned that Morena was one of the original committee members. Pamela stated that she enjoyed working with her on subcommittees. Ronke said thank you to Morena for being a part of the RCEB board and one of the first members of the local advisory committee. She is grateful for Morena's hard work and commitment. Vi also mentioned that she and Morena's kids were in the same school district. Morena was a very well-involved parent through the Community Advisory Committee. Vi also stated that Morena has been a superstar in the community.

Agenda Item: Update on Funded Projects:

a. Confirmation from RCEB that the new Committee-funded SDP Handbook uploaded to the RCEB website; plans for notification and distribution (see #8 below for distribution)

Jenifer updated that the committee-funded SDP handbook has been uploaded to the RCEB website.

Dianne asked if there is a way to do an email blast to alert SDP participants that the new handbook is available on the website. Ronke shared that RCEB can place a website link for the new handbook in the next digital newsletter. Dianne asked that committee members send out the link to their contacts.

b. Presentation from Kim Merzouk and Shawna Shelton of NavigatingAutonomy.com, on the Black community- targeted SDP Outreach funded by this Committee

Kim Merzouk-Sandoval, a disability rights advocate, Independent Facilitator, and founder of Navigating Autonomy presented. She was

joined by Shawna Shelton, also from Navigating Autonomy, and is BCBA trained. Shawna is also an MS in special education. They were also joined by Cyndi Dozal from Clover Advocates. The team collaborated to respond to the committee's RFP. They provided information at the Black Joy Parade. The team contacted the Black Infant Health Organization where they assisted with the booth. The team participated in different events throughout Alameda and Contra Costa County. There was a huge turnout at the booth and the Zoom meeting. There were 385 registrants to the Zoom meeting. They also reached out to a local influencer in the state of California who promoted the Zoom meeting. There were 10-15 digital billboards in Alameda County and 10-15 digital billboards in Contra Costa County. There was feedback presented that some people would like another Zoom meeting that goes more into depth about SDP. Cyndi provided a survey to measure their knowledge about the program. The main concern was not being able to find enough Independent Facilitators in the area to support them.

Cyndi shared that there were social media posts by autism influencers, Clover Advocates, and Navigating Autonomy followers. They distributed Black Joy Parade flyers at the event and attended the Black History Event at Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley. There was a Virtual Info Session on March 29th discussing the types of SDP services. An IF, FMS provider and the team were there to answer questions. The slides from the presentation were emailed to participants. Forty percent of the registrants attended. There was a post-info session. Based on the survey 83% of the attendees found the session helpful. 50% of the responders did not know anything about SDP. 92% of the responders would like more information about the program.

Kim added that they will conduct a follow-up Zoom meeting this summer. She will invite the same providers for more in-depth information. Kim thanked everyone for giving them this opportunity.

Agenda Item: "Proposed Projects" workgroup recommendations regarding the use of 1st year of DDS funds allocated to our Committee to improve the

implementation of Self-Determination; Expected workgroup implementation over next few months

Dianne shared a document with workgroup guidelines. DDS has provided the SDLAC with about \$130,000 for each of the next two years. This money not only funds projects but also funds language interpretation and administrative assistance. The first deadline is March 31, 2026. The Proposed Projects Workgroup met and helped to determine the highest priority recommended three projects. The three projects are: (1) a safe space for newcomers; (2) additional office hours for assistance from experienced facilitators; (3) increasing the number of Independent Facilitators.

The Workgroup Appointments are as follows:

- The Safe Space workgroup will consist of Lorena, Irene Litherland, and Vi Ibarra.
- The Office Hours workgroup will consist of Virginia Hom, Pamela Baird, and Arthur Lipscomb.
- The Independent Facilitators workgroup will consist of Aarthy Desikan, Jocelyn Manalac, Sheraden Nicholau, and Ken Sobieraj.

Dianne also discussed the workgroup expectations. She shared that there are drafted RFPs from previous projects, interview scoring sheets, and questionnaires. The administrative assistant can also assist with Zoom meeting logistics. She shared Britney's email: britneyedmond77@gmail.com. Dianne also shared an example of how she and other members of a workgroup set up the events for the Black and LatinX community.

For each meeting in the future, Dianne will add a section to the agenda to allow each workgroup to share their progress. Dianne will email the workgroup guidelines to each member of the committee.

Vi asked if there is a set time to get all of the RFPs together. Dianne suggested that the RFPs for the projects be ready by September. Vi suggested sharing a draft of what the projects will look like in August to prepare for September.

Agenda Item: Items/announcements requesting to be sent out by the Committee's "No Reply" email, including notification of Item in Agenda Number 6(A)

Ronke has agreed to send out the link for the new RCEB-specific SDP handbook. Arthur shared that there will be an event at the Ed Roberts campus on July 26th. Britney will send that information to RCEB to get an email sent.

Agenda Item: Public Comments on Successes and Concerns with SDP, or Items Not on the Agenda

Joyce Butz has a daughter in SDP. She stated that they are trying to connect with a qualified provider. The provider got the live scan completed and even has one from a concurrent client. All of the information was submitted in May and there is a delay in the process. Is there a way that the provider can get a license for six months to a year instead of having to keep getting the live scan? Is there a way to expedite the process? She also asked what is ARF. Ronke answered stating it is Adult Residential Facility.

Jenifer shared that RCEB is hosting two Juneteenth events. One event is on June 7th in Oakland and the other on June 21st in Concord. They are each scheduled

from 9 am- 2 pm. There will be workshops and resources available. Jenifer shared the link.

Irene responded to Joyce stating that if the provider already has a live scan from a different participant in SDP; there is a different form to complete. That can shorten the process.

Agenda Item: Future Agenda Items and Announcements

Dianne shared that for the July meeting, there will be first reports from the workgroups. DDS will be present. Virginia Hom will also present when she returns. There will be more reporting from Jenifer that will be included in the agenda packet. Vi shared that the statewide report needs to be added to the July meeting as well.

Agenda Item: Adjournment

M/S/C "Move to adjourn the meeting." Motion passed. [Litherland/Baird/Millner].