

## **RCEB SELF-DETERMINATION LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**Date:** Monday, October 6, 2025

**Start Time:** 7:00 pm      **End Time:** 8:30 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, Ken Sobieraj, Raji H.

**Committee Administrative Assistant:** Britney Edmond

**RCEB Staff Present:** Ronke Sodipo, Karina Perez, Jenifer Castaneda, Dr. Rebecca Nanyonjo

**SCDD Staff Present:** Sheraden Nicholau

**DDS Liaison Present:** Chris Aguire

**Guests:** Frida Blum (Spanish Interpreter), Giovanna (Spanish Interpreter), Colleen N., Satwik (PRAGNYA), Chelsea Huffman (Exceptional Intentions), Dr. Laura Espinoza (Autism Society of Los Angeles), Claudia Wenger, Patricia Albeno, Rosie Lasca (IF Academy), Sonia M., Jeanette Castro, Kayley Proenza, Araceli Lopez, Jean, Uriel, Arleene Vasquez, Meena Tadimeti (Special Needs In My City), Kayley Proenza (Disability Voices United), Jean, Laura Espinoza, Olaf Luevano, Arleene Vasquez (La Familia APA), Abby Huang

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

Dianne Millner introduced herself and welcomed committee members and guests. Committee members and guests introduced themselves.

### **Agenda Item: Review and Consent to the September 2025 Minutes**

Dianne gave the committee members time to review the minutes from September's meeting. Raji shared that the meeting notes need to be amended to represent that she was present. Dianne entertained a motion to approve the minutes, pending the administrative assistant will amend the meeting notes to add Raji H. as present for the previous September meeting. Vi moved to approve the motion. Lorena seconded the motion. The motion to approve the September minutes as corrected was passed.

### **Agenda Item: Report on Bay Area Website**

Irene shared that three Bay Area committees form the Bay Area Website committee. The website is funded by and under the direction of representatives from three Bay Area advisory committees: The Golden Gate Regional Center, San Andreas Regional Center, and the Regional Center of East Bay. The representatives meet once a month. She shared that the webmaster contract has been extended. Ken and Irene are the two representatives from the Regional Center of East Bay.

## **Report on September 9, 2025, Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee**

Vi shared that the meeting began with an update from the committee co-chairs. They shared some deliverables, which have been sent to DDS. She shared a link in the chat.

The first is a report on service coordinator trainings. Per statute, the local advisory committees have authority to provide service coordinator training on Self-Determination and statewide. There is a disparity in where some committees feel connected to their regional centers and have input on service coordinator training, and others who feel that they have less input. There is a letter regarding that, as well as recommendations that were shared at the meeting.

Also, the State Advisory Committee created an orientation binder. This resource will be used when onboarding new committee members. It can also be used by others expressing interest and wanting additional information about what our Advisory Committee does.

Vi also shared that Aaron Caruthers from the State Council reminded everyone that the State Plan Development Survey is open for the 2026-2031 period. It will remain open until October 15<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged everyone to complete the survey if they had not done so already.

Vi stated that some clients may not have family members who can help them navigate Regional Center services. The State Council can have a role in identifying someone to be an authorized representative for them. There is a portal where the form for assistance can be completed. At the State Council meeting, they discussed goals and priorities. One suggestion was to connect an active Advisory Committee member with a less active Advisory Committee member for mentorship.

Vi suggested that, as the committee reviews their funding, they should look at a grant called DDS SAE. SAE stands for Service, Access, and Equity. It is a statewide grant that happens annually. Dianne asked if there is a website for more information on the grants. Vi said yes, there is a site available. She shared it in the chat.

The Statewide Committee will meet on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and the format is still to be determined.

## **Agenda Item: Update from Regional Center**

### **a. Report on Current RCEB SDP Enrollment**

Jenifer shared a presentation. There are 500 enrollments in SDP. In September, there were 19 initial enrollments, 41 renewals, 48 revisions, and 0 disenrollments.

She also shared that SDP town halls have begun. SDLAC has worked with the Regional Center of East Bay to launch a series of six open-topic webinar town halls for currently enrolled participants. The first webinar was on 09/29/2025 and was available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Cantonese. RCEB sent initial announcements through the no-reply email. The next town hall is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2025, between 4:00 pm and 5:00 pm. All sessions are remote. For specific language needs, please register in advance. The deadlines for two SDLAC projects have arrived. The committee is now reviewing the applications. Reminder that the individual budget, spending plan, and current IPP are requirements for participation in the SDP program. The Department of Developmental Services will be reviewing budgets post

certification, with no start date as of today, of when they will begin. RCEB does not anticipate changes to the current process, as reviews will be conducted after certification. DDS is hosting listening sessions on October 9<sup>th</sup>. This session is at 10 am and focused on the SDP program will include families, individuals, and vendors of services. Regarding a new, online system for case management and financial information (LOIS). <https://www.dds.ca.gov/newsletter/lois-is-listening-what-were-hearing-ways-to-share-your-ideas>

She shared a flyer with future dates in the chat.

**Agenda Item: Update on Potential new Committee members**

Sheraden stated that one application has been submitted. They are a family advocate from Alameda County. She and the committee will reach out to the applicant to begin educating them on the committee's processes and proceed to an interview if they choose.

**Updates from the three Project Workgroups for use of 1st year of DDS funds to improve implementation of Self Determination: (A) Independent Facilitation Capacity Building Workgroup; (B) Moving Forward in Self-Determination Workgroup; and (C) Self-Determination Town Hall/Manage SDP (Learning Series)**

Dianne shared that DDS provides local advisory committees with a certain amount of funds. We have funds that have to be spent by March 31, 2026, and March 31, 2027. The committee created three workgroups. Each workgroup was formed to implement projects that were voted on by the committee.

Sheraden shared that due to her new role she will not be participating hands on in the workgroup. She is available for questions.

- (A) I.F. Workgroup- Joceylin shared that the focus of this RFP is Independent Facilitation Capacity Building in the RCEB Catchment area. This project is divided into two parts. Part one is to create the survey and a directory of Independent Facilitators in RCEB's Catchment area. Part two is to do Advanced Independent Facilitator training. The deadline for submission was September 30<sup>th</sup>. The project completion date is March 15<sup>th</sup>. They have two responses that will be reviewed for interview.
- (B) Moving Forward in Self-Determination- Dianne shared that this workgroup consists of Irene, Vi, and Lorena. Vi shared that they are still receiving proposals through October 15<sup>th</sup>. This workgroup will wait until October 15<sup>th</sup> before reviewing all submissions. Interviews will be scheduled following the meeting.
- (C) Town Hall/Managing SDP Workgroup- Dianne shared that this group consists of Virginia, Raji, Arthur, and Pamela. They have received four responses. She also mentioned that his project is connected to the town halls that Jenifer mentioned earlier. The Manage SDP Learning Series is the request for proposal. They will use that input and provide a learning series for people interested in SDP.

Raji thanked RCEB for coming forward with assistance in this project. They have taken the first part of the project and have pushed forward with the town halls.

She requested that Britney, the administrative assistant, to email the proposals to the workgroup and they will schedule a meeting to plan the interviewing process.

Raji shared that the Request for Proposal is not closed yet. There is a deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Discussion of possible new project using DDS funds for RCEB surveys**

Dianne shared that there is a possible new project for RCEB surveys. Virginia and Lindsay were not present. Britney requested someone from RCEB use their email address to access Survey Monkey nonprofit status. Jenifer stated that the committee needs to use the regular member status of the subscription.

### **Agenda Item: Announcements requesting to be sent out by the Committee's "No Reply" email**

Dianne asked if there were any additional items to be sent out via the No-Reply email.

Meena Tadimeti from Special Needs in My City, shared that their nonprofit has a health and wellness conference on November 8<sup>th</sup> in Modesto, California. It is an in-person and livestreamed event. She will share the information to the committee via email.

Arthur shared that he will be hosting a webinar presentation for Spanish-speaking families on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. He shared a Spanish flyer in the chat.

Satwik from PRAGNYA shared that they are hosting a GGRC workshop event in San Francisco. He shared the event details in the chat.

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

Patricia Albeno asked what the purpose of the town halls and the purpose of this meeting is.

Dianne shared that this committee is not to address individual cases. We are directed to facilitate and help improve the Self-Determination Program overall. The intent for the town halls is for parents to be able to share their concerns in their special cases.

Araceli wanted to ensure that this was the main forum for those who have concerns. She stated that what she was sharing is not an isolated incident. It is a reflection on structural problems that are affecting many families. Therefore, she feels it is important to be heard at the local advisory meetings.

### **Agenda Item: Future Agenda Items and Announcements**

Kayley Proenza from Disability Voices United shared that on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, from 4:30 pm -6:30 pm they are hosting a SDP Connect. The meeting will be translated in English, Spanish, and Korean. This month they will have DDS Deputy Director, Ernie Cruz, and he will discuss the IPP process.

### **Agenda Item: Adjournment**

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