

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee for RCEB
Meeting held via Zoom
May 4, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7:09

Item 1. Welcome, Interpreter's Intro, Chat Monitor, Roll Call to Establish Quorum

- This meeting was facilitated by Irene Litherland and Jocelyn Manalac
- Lorena offered to monitor the chat comments

Roll call taken, the following committee members were in attendance:

- Irene Litherland
- Arthur Lipscomb
- Pamela Baird
- Vi Ibarra
- Jocelyn Manalac
- Lorena Gomez
- Virginia Hom
- Rajashree Joshi-Hangal
- Aarthy Desikan (arrived after roll was taken, at approximately 7:30pm)

Committee members absent:

- Ken Sobieraj

Item 2. Committee Members Review and Consent to Minutes of 4/6/2026 Meeting

- March meeting minutes- edit to note that Ken Sobieraj was absent
 - Motion by Vi, second by Lorena to approve minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.
- April meeting minutes- edit to note that Aarthy Desikan, Jocelyn Manalac, and Lorena Gomez were present.
 - Motion by Raji, second by Vi to approve minutes as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Item 3. Discussion of Meeting Facilitation and Committee Member Roles

Greg Gonzalez with SCDD Bay Area Office discussed the need for a committee member to volunteer to facilitate the next few upcoming meetings. Some of the duties of the meeting facilitator are:

- finalize the meeting agenda and send to RCEB
- confirm the minutes are ready for distribution and send to RCEB

- confirm anyone doing updates or report at the upcoming meeting are prepared and know what they are being asked to speak on
- schedule interpretation
- facilitate during the monthly meeting to keep the committee moving through the agenda and on time

Pamela Baird volunteered to serve as Facilitator for the next several meetings.

Greg also shared that the committee needs to identify a records manager for the next several meetings. Some of the duties of the records manager are:

- draft meeting minutes
- Work with the meeting facilitator to see the agenda
- Send agenda to RCEB 10 days in advance of next meeting
- Monitor SDP email account

Vi volunteered to serve as records manager, with Raji as backup if needed (but cannot do July)

Lorena volunteered to serve as Chat Monitor for the next several meetings.

Item 4. Update from Regional Center

Sean Milani shared [this report](#). A comment from the audience expressed appreciation for Sean's non-defensive presence as he was responding to questions from attendees.

Item 5. Public Comment

- Suggestion to collect data on notices of action of appeals
- What is the committee doing to support families in Self-Determination? It is frustrating to track down the case managers to assist with SDP renewals.
- An IF brought up concerns about the timeliness of a response from case manager and stated that timelines set out by RCEB are not currently being met.
- A young adult in SDP shared that he recently lost his SDP specialist, he will connect directly with Sean Milani.
- Regional Center is limiting how much participants can pay employees, which is not aligned with the principles of self-determination

Item 6. Discussion of goals for next funding round

Motion from Pamela and second from Raji to provide funding to pay for staff support for this committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Other recommendations for use of funding are:

- Improving outreach to underserved communities, including Black families, and non-English speaking families.
- Expand and strengthen IF capacity in RCEB catchment area
- Development of tools that community members can use to help guide access to SDP.
- Additional suggestion: an app that would show a person specifically where they are in the process of SDP. This was offered as an RFP previously, which was referred to as “where’s my pizza?”
- We need something to improve communication so people know what the timelines are that they are working with, and where they are in the process. We need to be clear on who is responsible for deliverables
 - Suggestion to create workgroups to focus on each of the three recommendations. Motion was made by Virginia, second by Pamela, and passed unanimously. Greg to send info on the three workgroups to the committee and members can volunteer from there.
- Comments in chat:
 - Concerns about placeholders and delays.
 - Question about how this committee is making sure implementation is improved for clients, and what is the role of DDS being part of this meeting
 - Families feel they are doing all they can on their end, but delays are being put in place by RCEB

Item 7. Update on Potential new Committee members

- There are no new applicants

Committee allowed Public Comment for individuals that were not able to speak during the first public comment.

- People are experiencing long delays, and extension budgets since RCEB is not responding in a timely fashion
- A person in SDP shared that using SDP to support transportation has had a positive impact on him by greatly reducing his travel time
- Is there someone at RCEB that families can contact when there are delays or they are not getting timely responses from their case manager.

8. Items/announcements to be sent out by the Committee’s “no Reply” email

9. Items for Future Agenda

- Reports of funded projects
- Update on SDP Bay Area Website
- Report on this May 5 Statewide Advisory Committee meeting