



**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, March 27, 2025 - 4:00pm-5:30pm**

**MEETING NOTICE/DRAFT AGENDA**

**\*Meeting is open to the public – all are welcome to attend\***

**PLEASE NOTE**

There will be a public comment period at the *beginning* of the meeting to provide guests an opportunity to address the committee.

**\*\*We honor confidentiality and you can make public comment anonymously.\*\***

After the public comment period, the committee will be conducting business and will NOT be engaging with guests.

Questions can be submitted to through the “Chat” feature and will be recorded.

**SDLAC Members:**

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) - present  
Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate) - present  
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)  
Kristin Zlogar (OCRA-Attorney/Clients’ Rights Advocate) - present  
Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present  
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate)  
Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate) – present  
Brenda Bachechi (Community Advocate/Provider) – present  
Sandy Chin (Parent Advocate) - present  
Barclay Lynn (Advocate) - present  
Aparna Kommineni (Advocate)

**SCDD Partners:**

Sheraden Nicholau (SCDD-Regional Manager, Bay Area Office) - present

**GGRC Partners:**

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present  
Lisa Rosene (Director, Regional Center Services) - present

Lop Hou (CFO) - present  
Juliet Esperanza (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present  
Meghan Reynard (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present  
Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist) - present  
Janika Jaramillo (Participant Choice Specialist)  
Angelina Demetry (SDP Admin) - present  
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) - present

**Guests:**

Debra Adler  
Sonia Valenzuela – Family Supports Services Manager, FRC Help Me Grow SM  
Amelia Eddelman – IF  
Daniela Bazan – AbilityPath, HMG SM  
Olaf Luevano – FMS  
Toni Mullin – Parent Advocate  
Chris Aguire – DDS  
Kathryn Pengilly – SLP  
Olga Maldonado – Community Navigator, SF and SM, Support for Families  
Wendy Reyes Orellana -

Welcome/Call to order (Walsh) (10 minutes)

- a. Roll call (Nguyen)
    - i. Guest introductions are optional
  - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) - M/S, Sascha and Ken
  - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) – M/S, Sascha and Ken
- II. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program (Walsh/Hou) (5 minutes)
- a. Update on GGRC's SDLAC expenditures
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT (20 minutes)
- a. Comments are limited to FOUR minutes per speaker on items not on the agenda, 20 minutes total.
  - b. We welcome critiques and feedback but ask speakers refrain from personal attacks on individuals or the committee.
  - c. The committee will not be responding to comments but may address them further down in the agenda or in future agenda items.

Debra Adler: Education services about employment and coemployer models. Has anyone experienced these penalties from employers?

Brenda Bacchechi: Several participants who were part of SCDD annual assessment where they ask several questionnaire process and the concern/question is what is the objective? It's done virtually and there may be confusion, the data might not be reliable. We should find out more information and how it impacts funding our services. There's different FMS agencies have different guidelines in how they're interpreting directives from DDS regarding SDP. Recently there's a situation about reimbursing agencies and how that happens, that directive was interpreted differently by Ombudsperson, FMS and SCDD. As a provider, it's confusing and trying to align with the directive.

IV. Discussion and review of SDLAC Committee Centered Plan (Parekh) – (10 minutes)

There's work underway and we have a four main goals with the committee – onboarding support, providing one on one and group coaching and webinars to help bring more people into SDP, updating SDP learning manual for social workers, events module on the new Bay Area SDP website. Other projects being spearheaded by Israel Picchardo to translate materials. Capture best practices in general and identify those, Liz Grisgby is doing the data support group and working with Angelina.

V. SDLAC Funded Projects (Walsh) – (10 minutes)

- Bay Area SDP Website Committee
- SDP Updates in Case Management Manual
- SDP Onboarding Process – offering coaching for people interested in SDP and works for them, doing more behind the scenes before they engage with independent facilitation, supplemented by group coaching sessions.

Some of the information will be shared and disseminated by partners, staff and public. Ken will make sure the English and Spanish flyer will be shared, we can share on social media and websites.

- GGRC Staff training sessions

VI. SDLAC Workgroup Reports (10 minutes)

- Participant Onboarding (Ken/Sascha)
- Outreach and Equity Coordination (Christine/Alyson/Elizabeth)  
Comment from Liz and indirectly related to the subcommittee, thought that for underrepresented communities (socioeconomic, ethnicity, senior SDP participants) giving people more information for services and supports about

GGRC. Is this something presently available in the binder or prospective participants receive.

Lisa Rosene: new standardized IPP has requirements for people to learn about SDP.

- Best Practices (Brenda/Sandy)
  
- VII. SCDD Update (Nicholau) – (5 minutes)  
Refreshed interest in groups wanting to do more about SDP, providers asking questions. Ken, Sheraden and other self advocates served on a panel for SDP with Autism Society of San Francisco. Orientations are still scheduled in multiple languages. Working with DDS on additional modules being released shortly and deeper dive on general SDP information.
  
- VIII. GGRC SDP Team Update (Esperanza/Demetry) – (10 minutes)
  - a. Participant data points: number of persons currently enrolled, number of participants in the process, how long participants have been enrolled GGRC Updates provided by Angelina and Juliet through a slide deck.
  
- IX. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – (5 minutes)  
  
Federal SDP waiver was a big part of California having the funds to launch the program.  
  
ACTION: Brainstorming session for A-1 funds for 22/23 FY.
  
- X. SDLAC Conflict of Interest (Walsh/Parekh) – (5 minutes)  
M/S Sascha, Brenda
- XI. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA) – (5 minutes)  
No updates
  
- XII. Federal updates (Parekh) – (5 minutes)
  
- XIII. Adjourn

***Next Meeting: Thursday, April 24, 2025 - 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM***