



Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 22, 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)
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate)
Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate) - present
Brenda Bachechi (Community Advocate/Provider) - present
Sandy Chin (Parent Advocate) - present
Barclay Lynn (Advocate)
Aparna Kommineni (Advocate) - present

SCDD Partners:

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

GGRC Partners:

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

Lop Hou (Chief Financial Officer) - present
Juliet Esperanza (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present
Meghan Reynard (SDP Supervising Social Worker) - present
Kori Mason (Participant Choice Specialist)
Janika Jaramillo (Participant Choice Specialist) – on leave
Angelina Demetry (SDP Administrative Support) - present
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary) - present

Guests:

Debra Adler – parent/advocate
Chris Aguirre – DDS
Laura Semmes
Mary Aprill
Amelia Eddleman – parent, new IF, son in SDP
Vashna
Olaf Luevano – Ritz FMS
Olga Maldonado – SFF, Matrix and AbilityPath, parent of incoming SDP
Lilian Ansari – parent of two persons served, disability advocate
Patricia Idrugo – FRC
Ivan Rameriz - IF

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh) (10 minutes)
 - a. Roll call (Nguyen)
 - i. Guest introductions are optional
 - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) – M/S, Ken, Brenda
 - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) – M/S, Sascha, 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.

Amelia – What is the update on 099 participant directed services and ideally get paid without the full vendorization process. Sounds like we’re getting an FMS on board, just want to make sure it’s on everyone’s radar. Many IFS aren’t working with RCs that don’t offer the 099 code. Lillian – Is there a reason why there’s no SDP update at the GGRC board meetings? Ken shared there is an update annually at the board meetings. Ken suggested she raise this with Eric and GGRC staff that there’s a desire for more frequent and regular updates.

IV. 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
- b. SDP outreach flyer/pamphlet and translation

Planning resource fair for September in San Francisco and will hopefully get to Marin and San Mateo counties. There’s a venue identified for San Francisco.

Staffing expansion is happening. Every single social worker at GGRC is going to have at least one SDP case, starting with Marin. Their dedicated SDP social worker (Cassandra Bellatareto) will start with 18 case and go up to 30 cases. San Mateo will start moving towards getting everyone to one SDP case.

Angelina shared the data points and updates for May 2025.

Questions were raised about outreach and sharing information about SDP to families and prospective individuals at their IPPs.

Question was raised about what’s a comfortable amount of growth per month. SDP team responded that it’s based on the needs of the people served.

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

Ken shared the updates on Pragnya and Support for Families coaching activities.

Shared Bay Area website spearheaded by Alyson.

Ken shared his updated presentation that outlined the proposed priorities for the SDLAC. (Attachment)

Aparna agreed to volunteer for WG 3.

Sascha agreed to volunteer for WG 4.

Jennifer suggested each of the working groups share what support they need. Also having a coordinated calendar so they know when different groups are meeting. Anh will work with

working group leads on getting meeting dates on the SDP calendar and have scheduling invites sent out to everyone.

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

- Bay Area SDP Website Committee
- SDP Onboarding Process

VII. SDLAC Workgroup Reports (10 minutes)

- Participant Onboarding (Ken/Sascha)
- Outreach and Equity Coordination (Christine/Alyson/Elizabeth)
- Best Practices (Brenda/Sandy)

VIII. SDLAC Strategic Planning for future projects – handout review (Ken) – (10 minutes)

IX. SCDD Update (Nicholau) – (5 minutes)

SDP orientations: some staffing changes and movement at DDS so the email account that monitors completed orientation list is back up and running.

Upcoming orientations are provided in a variety of languages and if there are specific language needs, please reach out to SCDD and let Sheraden know so she can make those requests.

Governor's May Revise, FY25-26 has a \$22.6 million reduction in SDP to establish "guardrails".

X. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – (5 minutes)

40% of people live in Los Angeles and the wildfire tax filing delays have the state at a disadvantage in fiscal forecasting. Federal activities and the unpredictable nature of proposed Medicaid funding keeps things largely unknown. Overall, DDS and Lanterman Act did not suffer severe cuts, they scored unspent money from past years and made some changes in other places.

The goal of the proposed reduction in SDP, which equates to about a 10% reduction is an effort to try and make the program sustainable for the future. In Eric's opinion, not an assault on the program but attempt to make it sustainable, more effective, and more responsive. More clear, standardized spending plans, IFs using standard forms, other ideas floated by others.

XI. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA) – (5 minutes) – no update this month

XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 26, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM