



# NOTICE/AGENDA

## STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES STATEWIDE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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**JOIN ZOOM MEETING:** [https://bit.ly/2021\\_Nov10\\_SSDAC](https://bit.ly/2021_Nov10_SSDAC)

**MEETING ID:** **858 0155 6822**

**PASSWORD:** **875554**

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OR

JOIN BY TELECONFERENCE: (VOICE ONLY)

**CALL IN NUMBER:** **888-475-4499**

**MEETING ID:** **858 0155 6822**

**DATE:** November 10, 2021

**TIME:** 10:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M.

**COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS:** Maria Marquez and Rick Wood

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Item 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

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Item 2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

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**Item 3. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

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**Item 4. APPROVAL OF JUNE 2021 MINUTES**



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**Item 5. CO-CHAIR REPORTS**

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Rick Wood and Maria Marquez

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**Item 6. SELF-DETERMINATION SUCCESS STORIES**

Committee member will share a Self-Determination Program success story from their Regional Center. Each person will be afforded up to two minutes to speak

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**Item 7. OMBUDSPERSON INTRODUCTION**

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Presented by: Katie Hornberger

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**Item 8. UPDATE FROM DDS**

Presented by: Nancy Bargmann and Tim Travis

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**LUNCH**



There will be a 45-minute lunch break following the breakout sessions

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**Item 9. DISCUSSION: Q&A WITH DDS**

Presented by: All Members and DDS

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**Item 10. DISCUSSION OF DDS SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES**

Presented by: All

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**Item 11. PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item is for members of the public only to provide comments and/or present information to the Committee on matters not on the agenda. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak.

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**Item 12. NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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## **Accessibility**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f) and Executive Order N-29-20 (this Executive Order can be found by clicking the link on page one of the agenda or typing <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.17.20-N-29-20-EO.pdf> into your web browser), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternative formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in this meeting should contact Robin Maitino-Erben at (916) 263-8193 or [robin.maitino@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:robin.maitino@scdd.ca.gov). Please provide at least 3 business days prior to the meeting to allow adequate time to respond to all requests.

**All times indicated and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.**

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 4.**

**ACTION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Approval of June 22, 2021 Minutes***

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Committee members will review and approve the meeting minutes from the last meeting.

***Action Recommended***

Approve the June 22, 2021 meeting minutes

***Attachment(s)***

June 22, 2021 Minutes



**Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 22, 2021**

**Attending Members**

Bertha Monterrey (SGPRC)  
Charles Nutt (FNRC)  
Irene Litherland (RCEB)  
John Francis (NLACRC)  
Joyce Clark (SDRC)  
Judy Mark (WRC)  
Casey Taylor (TCRC)  
Linda Chan-Rapp (HRC)  
Lisa Cooley (ACRC)  
Maia Pawoskar (IRC)  
Maria Marquez (Co-Chair)  
Mariela Ramos (VMRC)  
Martha Johansen (SARC)  
Michelle Smith (CVRC)  
Rick Wood (Co-Chair, KRC)  
Robert Taylor (RCRC)  
Sascha Bittner (GGRC)  
Sherry Johnson (SCLARC)  
Sonia Jones (NBRC)  
Tim Jin (RCOC)  
Virgilio Orlina (ELARC)

**Absent Members**

Pierre Landry (FDLRC)

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Charles Nguyen  
Charlotte Endres  
Robin Maitino  
Michi Gates  
Kevin Haynes  
Larry Landauer  
Jennifer Bloom  
Gabby Ohmstede  
Carla Lehmann  
Christopher Wecks  
Rosie Lasca  
Kishan Sreedhar  
Doug Pascover  
Howard McBroom  
Holly Charmichael  
Mark Altieri  
Jason Bergquist  
Huyen Tran  
Gabrielle Steckman

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Rick Wood (FA) called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves as indicated.

#### 4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### 5. **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Clark/Cooley) and carried to approve the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes as corrected. (Motion passed unanimously by acclamation [see page 1 for a list of voting members], see correction below).

- Page 7, Public Comment section – capitalize “Independent Facilitator.”

#### 6. **CO-CHAIR REPORT TO SSDAC**

Co-Chair Rick Wood encouraged committee members to redefine their role in SDP as it moves into the next phase. He emphasized the importance of member’s roles in advising their local committees and Regional Centers and asked that members think about what questions they would like to pose to DDS. He thanked members who have committed to contributing funds toward statewide meetings and informed them that those funds will soon be requested.

Co-Chair Maria Marquez thanked committee members for their advocacy and encouraged those who are transitioning into the Self-Determination Program to continue to ask questions, engage in trainings, and attend local SDAC meetings as they navigate the process.

#### 7. **PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON JULY 1<sup>st</sup> STATEWIDE ROLLOUT**

SSDAC members held discussions with panel members regarding the statewide SDP rollout. The first panel was comprised of Regional Center staff, who discussed barriers to enrollment, the role of LAC’s, Service Coordinator training and the need for guidance from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). Regional Center panelists informed the committee that they have begun holding collaborative meetings with Regional Centers statewide to share best practices and ensure consistency.

The second panel included Independent Facilitators, who discussed the value of Person-Centered Planning (PCP), the role of the Regional Center in assisting participants in hiring Independent Facilitators, and racial inequality within the Regional Center system and the SDP. They also

discussed the vendor certification process and ways to improve the PCP payment process.

The final panel was made up of Financial Management System (FMS) providers, who discussed the roles and responsibilities of the FMS, the importance of making sure all Service Coordinators are educated about and able to offer SDP, and the challenges that participants are experiencing with background checks as they are hiring staff.

Committee members and panel members discussed the questions that they would like to send to DDS staff, who were not available to participate in the panels.

**8. NEXT STEPS**

Co-Chair Rick Wood proposed that the Self-Determination workgroup meet to put together a summary of the panel discussion to distribute to local committees and compile a list of questions for DDS. The Workgroup will discuss the next steps and schedule the next SSDAC meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

Co-Chair Rick Wood adjourned the meeting at 3:27 P.M.

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 5.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Co-Chair Reports***

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***Attachment(s)***

Chair Report

Panel Questions and Responses

Panel Questions for DDS

***Handouts***

None



# STATEWIDE SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JUNE 22, 2021

## REPORT OF CO-CHAIR RICK WOOD

### INTRODUCTION

The Statewide Self Determination Advisory Committee (“SSDAC”) held its regular meeting on June 22, 2021. The SSDAC is comprised of the Chairs (or designees) of the 21 Regional Center Self Determination Local Advisory Committees. Consistent with its responsibilities prescribed by the Self Determination law, the SSDAC meeting agenda included panel discussions on the July 1, 2021 Statewide Self Determination Program (“SDP”) Rollout.

The meeting was structured to include presentations by the Department of Developmental Services (“DDS”) followed by a Q & A of DDS staff, and discussion by Regional Center staff (“RC”), Independent Facilitators (“IF”), and Financial Management Services (“FMS”). Although DDS was not represented at the meeting, SSDAC members and members of the public submitted written questions regarding the SDP rollout to DDS. RCs were represented by Michi Gates, Kevin Haynes, Larry Landauer, Jennifer Bloom, and Gabby Ohmstede. IFs included Carla Lehmann, Christopher Weks, Rosie Lasca, Kishan Sreedhar, Doug Pascover, and Howard McBroom. FMSs were represented by Holly Charmichael, Mark Altieri, Jason Bergquist, Huyen Tran, and Gabrielle Steckman.

A spirited and sustained discussion included a review of the challenges and opportunities presented during the first three years of the SDP which ended in June, 2021 with approximately 550 participants completing enrollment in the SDP; what steps are being taken by RCs to assist participants in becoming enrolled in the SDP; how RCs are preparing for the rollout and what timelines are in place to meet enrollment objectives; what issues have arisen regarding accounting and payment of FMSs; what steps are being taken to assist participants in selecting IFs and FMSs; what should participants expect from PCP planners; what are the roles of IFs and FMSs; and much more.

Attached to this report are the following documents: first, a summary of the transcript of the discussion by panel members and SSDAC members, as well as members of the public; and second, written questions submitted to DDS. It is hoped that the Chair of each Self Determination Local Advisory Committee will use the information contained in these documents to discuss with respective committee members, RC staff, participants, service providers, and members of the public the local challenges and opportunities which the SDP presents. It is expected that this process will result in the development of best practices in the SDP.

Attachments:

June 2021 SSDAC Panel Question Responses  
Written SSDAC Questions

June 2021 SSDAC Panel Question Responses

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>What have you used as a timeline to get people fully enrolled in SDP?            What role is the local advisory committee playing in the rollout of SDP?</p>	<p>Regional Center</p>
<p>Kern: June numbers: 65% (72) had the advantage of being in the pilot. So those members helped. Preparing: really struggled over last 3 year; been opaque to RC staff, very fuzzy edges, struggling to understand role, what could/could not be approved; how to certified budget. Tried having a specialized unit but no one wanted to do it. Participants were spread out and it was difficult. Excited about rollout because the Service Coordinators will have more experience, the more you do it, the easier it will become.</p> <p>Helping participants: usually in Budget or spending plan step. Usually because they are unsure what you can and cannot include/spend. Unmet needs are coming up in a very big way. A lot of success in using fast track services. Some people have transitioned in as fast as 30 days.</p> <p>Rick: we need to practice to make it run smoother. LAC and LAC Chairs need to collaborate. The power struggles need to stop.</p> <p>Inland: having difficulties due to learning the program. Trying to learn what they can and cannot approve. Education barrier with staff and clients. Enthusiasm factor needs to be overcome, so they started to develop a mentorship program. Managers will teach other managers for staff in order to expedite and educate families. Seems like everything is a challenge. Delays with brand new requests and changes/additions.</p>	

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>Orange County: goal area is streamlining and empowering families and having things on the website in Spanish/ English/ Vietnamese, which is coming soon. Person centered plan is very important. The better the PCP the smoother the process.</p> <p>Response to Question – what role does your LAC have? They are very helpful at identifying barriers. However, only one person in the LAC is in SDP, need more members of LAC to be in the program. The LAC helped to allocate funds to coaching families.</p> <p>Follow-up question to Larry: How would you describe the relationship between the RCOG LAC and the RC? Is the RC setting the agendas and running the meeting? Larry has never missed a meeting. He is very committed. He helps with hosting and does not set agenda. They have only tried to assist. Again, he mentioned that more LAC members need to be enrolled in the program.</p>	
<p>How are you preparing for the SDP rollout?  How are you trying to help participants who are stuck on a step in the SDP process?  Do you have a timeline?</p>	Regional Center
<p>How could DDS help you in being able to better serve participants and get them fully enrolled in the program?</p>	Regional Center
<p>Alta: What is working? RC's are having monthly check-ins with DDS to answer questions, guidance, etc. That is appreciated. What they need more of: initial funding for PCP development; will that be extended? Uncertainty on rollout, need more specific information and more standardized processes. Also need more consistency with POS, Accounting, Budget Cert, etc.</p>	

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>Gabby added: DDS has provided outreach in smaller groups settings to try to prepare, and the department has been receptive to hearing ideas from the smaller groups. However, it's not <b>just</b> what we need from DDS, it's what we need from CMS and the Governor (.g. in holding pattern with budget). Planning will come once budget is signed.</p> <p>CMS – some things are not under DDS and they are waiting to hear from CMS. Gabby stated that they have put together a statewide SDP RC group where they have all 21 that meet monthly (last 6-8 months). Rick commended Gabby and said this is a way to establish best practices.</p> <p>Larry added: Regulations would be helpful.</p>	
<p>What knowledge base does your accounting department have of SDP? Describe inefficiencies or barriers which may impact the timely payment of FMS's for a participant's services and supports and identify best practices to overcome them.</p>	Regional Center
<p>Gabby: been working closely business services and all other stakeholders to put together some information to help understand the problems we are having related to the POS and the billing. Put together info so they understand the problems across the state and try to propose solutions.</p> <p>Issues:</p> <p>POS: When initial POS is entered into the system, it currently takes 4 different staff to enter in each authorization. A recommendation has been made to lower the number of people required to enter each authorization.</p> <p>FMS Budget and E-Billing: different amounts (process it vs. approve it) budget is put into eBilling to submit invoicing on. there are different amounts put down, broken down by three budget categories and then the service codes, and then there's an overall budget amount. while statute says that doesn't need approval if it's under 10 percent,</p>	

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>RC still needs to process it. If money moves at all, the service coordinators has to enter each into system. They have made a number of proposals. Gabby's RC has had at least 8 conversations to try and address. DDS and others are actively trying to address. All kinds of problems are occurring because of this.</p> <p>Kevin: the obstacles and barriers Gabby mentioned they are experiencing as well. In the meantime, asking changes be made as quickly as possible. System is setup to work a certain way.</p> <p>Follow-up question for Larry and Kevin. Knowing that spending plans and budgets are stuck points, why aren't budgets being certified?</p> <p>Larry: OC has certified a number of budgets from the lottery. However, perhaps people wanting to get in by July 1st haven't had budgets certified and that is due to being short staffed. There is a lot of people holding until the budget is signed.</p> <p>Follow-up question from Tim Jin. How can LACs help train SC?</p> <p>SDRC Gabby: their LAC is involved in all trainings, including diversity, etc. They have also incorporated trainings into new hire packages.</p> <p>Alta: Their LAC helped create a community Q&amp;A sessions (8 week, covering different topics). They have had very good turn out and great way to spread the word. Also, the LAC helped develop an implementation timeline. Jennifer is open to having a 30-day timeline like Kern.</p> <p>Rick – How can we share what SDRC and Alta are doing (timelines, fast track, collaborating with LAC)?</p> <p>SSDAC members should reach out to Jennifer and Gabby to see how they are doing it. LAC should be reaching out to the RC staff assigned to participate a monthly Statewide</p>	

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>RC SDP meetings. RC reps should come to LAC meetings and ask them to report back on statewide issues.</p> <p>Judy question for RC. There is wide difference between the way RC are doing business. This group represents who is doing well and who isn't (she suggested one solution to the entry problem could be only having three service codes). Judy believes this is because not all RC have gone through the paradigm shift. How do you make that shift?</p> <p>Gabby: thinks it's a matter of perception. The RC does have oversight for things such as whether things are being put in the right category, whether items meet the definition, etc. RC should be looking at whether services meet description per statute, fall under correct service, under the right thing. Beyond that, it really is up to the person/family. How do you change culture? Rick asked that each SSDAC member go back and ask that question of each RC.</p> <p>Gabby: their RC started by asking for SC volunteers that wanted to do it and take on this new program. Now they are using those examples. Gabby doesn't believe that is an issue with their RC.</p> <p>Michi – Judy's question is so important and areal issue that needs to be worked through. I don't think SDP should be a huge shift. Problem is, the perception that RC is in charge. We are not in charge, we need to go back to the basic roots to empower individuals to make their own decisions. Our whole system needs to look at that question.</p> <p>Kevin: exposure to the program, have SC look beyond setting services in a particular box. That is typically how we train them and to get them to pivot will take time. Secondly, exposure to their network of peers.</p>	

<u>Panel Questions</u>	<u>Who Responded</u>
<p>Point made by Joyce Clark: LAC and RC need to work at having a good, collaborative relationship.</p>	
<p>What role should Regional Center play in assisting consumers and families to locate, interview, and hire IFs and FMS's?  How would you recommend participants most efficiently connect with independent facilitators to be able to successfully find one who is a good fit for their needs?</p>	<p>Independent Facilitator</p>
<p>Sonni – thinks differently about the two groups. IFs are vendored with the RC so when I think about what RC role is, understand options, connect them and vet them. FMS is a formal relationship. Service Coordinator should at least know options of FMS at RC, speak to the differences between them, etc.  IF = view is a little different. RC should be able to direct families on where they can go (e.g. go to monthly advisory committee meetings, connect with your local State Council office, go to the IF statewide network). Service Coordinators should be informed on where to go.</p> <p>Rosie: Orientation through RC can be a little more robust and have training on how to interview, possibly a check list they can use during the interview process.</p> <p>Carla: encourage parents to talk to and work with other parents.</p>	

<p>What expectations should participants have from PCP planners?</p>	<p>Independent Facilitator</p>
<p>Chris: consumers need to be educated on full set of steps and educated on how to allocate funds. Needs and supports vary for each step. We need to do better job educating those transitioning into SDP. Including, education on where money may need to go. Re: expectations of IFs, it really depends on what that person wants. Baseline should be: that an IF has a fair amount of experience doing PCP and probably some sort of formal methodology training. For the remaining transition steps in the process; expect timely communication, very coherent understanding of the process. If you are left asking questions of the service coordinator, there's probably a problem with your IF.</p> <p>Kishan: The discovery process. PCP should not be tying down the services. A good plan is something that takes the hopes and dreams in order to support the goals of the individual. Look for the process as a discovery process.</p> <p>Doug: In the future we will look forward to accountability.</p> <p>Judy: We have a long way to go - going into this program. I encourage people to find people in their community to become IF.</p> <p>Sonny: PFP is an approach that has predated the Self-Determination Program. It can be a lot of different things. The conversation includes PCP as well as other aspects. We need to make the directive clear. We need to clear up the language in order to make sense of the expectations.</p>	



How can the payment process for PCPs be improved?	Independent Facilitator
<p>Kishan: The plans were initially supposed to be for vendor providers, so we are still understanding how this is done with non-vendor providers. We are open to explore new methods of how it can be improved.</p> <p>Chris: A lot of these are brand new IF. The process of getting paid is a long process which can take many months. From a market perspective or an industry perspective that's not very sustainable if what they want to accomplish is produce a lot of IF to support a community of people who want to enter self-determination. A suggestion I have is allowing or advising regional centers to be more flexible and allowing consumers to pay on an hourly or monthly basis. To allow for consumers to set their own benchmarks. That way individuals who are new to being an IF have an easier transition into this field.</p> <p>Rosie: Having to wait so long for payment is a problem. I would do the same suggestion; to break down the costs and review the contract so that they can start getting paid for services provided. We could provide a list of documents needed. We could post the documents on the website so that everyone is better prepared to submit paperwork. A lot of individuals do not know the process and that is why is taking so long. My suggestion to regional centers is to be consistent, create something now so we know what the expectation is from regional centers.</p> <p>Carla: Invoice to FMS is very quick. I would suggest that instead of becoming a vendor.</p> <p>Sonny: Instead of doing a vendor relationship with every IF, they vendor-ize the vendor number through the FMS. When people start working as an IF don't expect to see a penny until about six months after the work is completed. This current system is not</p>	

<p>sustainable. Allow people to start the vendor process as soon as they are hired so they can get paid in a timely manner.</p>	
<p>Does the consumer have full authority over their spending plan? How should unmet needs be consistently validated across regional centers?</p>	<p>Independent Facilitator</p>
<p>Doug: The client should have full authority over the spending plan, and within the law they do. Where I have seen the problem is sometimes the budget and the certification process are done together. What's supposed to happen is: we establish what it costs to serve you in the traditional system if you were getting all of the services needed. That is the amount off money that goes to the spending plan and you can spend that as you wish. What seems to have happened a lot, is the conversation goes more like: We are starting with the spending plan and these are the things that we want to buy, this is how much money we need. That sort of invites the regional centers to question the things that you want to buy. In comparison to having a certified budget. And from what I can tell, those are the processes that are taking so long.</p>	
<p>What advice can you give consumers to help them get through the enrollment process in a timely manner?</p>	<p>Independent Facilitator</p>
<p>Chris: Some of the stall points that happen in the transition process happen in the budget and spending plan. Three basic suggestions. First you develop a clear understanding of the steps in the process. A person needs to be self-motivated to help the process along. Secondly, work with the regional center to develop a certified budget together, reflective of what it would cost the regional center to support you in the traditional system. Consider evaluating the range of support and services offered and consider if these services are reflective of your needs. Lastly, the spending plan. Come up with a tentative spending plan.</p> <p>Kishan: Becoming familiar with regional centers. Have someone to contact for a follow-up status.</p>	

Karla: This process is slower with marginalized groups so we should think about things we can do to improve this process.	
What do you envision the role of the Independent Facilitator to be? What do you think is NOT the role of the Independent Facilitator?	Independent Facilitator
Rosie: Getting to know clients/members and using different communication styles.	
What do you think the actual role of the FMS is versus what regional centers or participants sometimes think it is? (3:25:00)	FMS
Holly: FMS is more than payroll, there are other scope of services that differ through the different states and program. One area of confusion is the employer models. Another confusion is the different roles especially IF, service coordinator, and the FMS. One piece that is also important is also including FMS in financial plan.  Mark: FMS functions include the core function to manage the budget and processing funds as well as other financial services. Be an active member of the social support system to ensure that the employees are paid in a timely manner.	
As we move to the statewide rollout of the SDP, what are the significant issues that you feel need to be addressed?	FMS
Jason: Right now the regional centers and FMS are trying to figure out their role. It would be helpful to standardize the rules and responsibilities of these programs.  Tran: Services need to be standardized and designate roles.	
Based on your experience working in other states, how is the FMS role in California the same or different? (3:35:00)	FMS
Mark: California is much larger scale than other states. It's hard to compare the programs because of the scale. It's difficult to orchestrate due to the different operations and processes to follow.	

<p>Holly: California can take note of programs in other states such as routine service coordinating. Making sure that everyone is aware of the self-determination option and service coordinators all need to be offering self-determination. The time frames are in place in other states which is something California does not do. Not having these time frames is what leaves California's consumers with questions. Flexibility in other states that California can take note of.</p>	
<p>Can you comment on some of the challenges reported by participants when they are hiring staff, including background checks, liability insurance, and their ability to make choices of staff that are not accepted by the FMS? (3:43:00)</p>	FMS
<p>Tran: The background or live scan is limiting availability. We want to make sure that clients are safe in their homes and under great care.</p> <p>Gabrielle: Caregiver shortage and hard time finding employees.</p> <p>Jason: Liability insurance - FMS providers - some already have workers comp policy and liability insurance. We want people to hire who they want to hire. Sometimes the barrier is the live scan.</p> <p>Holly: Varying levels of details that meets the background check.</p>	
<p>Can you comment about some concerns we've heard about very delayed payments to FMSs at certain regional centers?</p>	FMS
<p>Mark: FMS should talk to the employer model. Making sure that there is no one on 'standby' so those payments can go through on time. I would like some clarity on auditing protocols before we take any action.</p>	
<p>Our advisory committee makes recommendations to DDS about the implementation of the SDP. What else would you want us to know?</p>	FMS
<p>Mark: Make sure that people are aware of the SDP. Rural access to this program as well.</p>	

SSDAC Questions

Member	Question
Lisa Cooley, ACRC	How will DDS help immigrant families who are part of self-determination adjust to it?
Irene Litherland, RCEB	Are all regional centers going to continue to do the RC side of the transition steps after July 1, even before there is further guidance from DDS? (In other words, we don't want any pausing of transitioning after July 1.)
Robert Taylor, RCRC	<p>What are we doing to get Independent Facilitators, into our Rural Areas. We lost at: Redwood Coast Regional Center, A Financial Management Services Provider, already! And how our Regional Centers, can be successful with our Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee, and: DDS?</p> <p>All Social and Recreational Services, need to come back. Is really need it!</p>
Mariela Ramierz, VMRC	I was wondering if this committee can get all materials from this committee be translated into Spanish so that it can be shared with our Hispanic community our local advisory SD committees?
Public	Question
Kidada Medina	My Question if DDS were present: We are now approximately one week away from the July 1st roll out? What direction, if any, can you provide to Regional Centers who are still struggling to get participants over the finish line? What do you suggest RC consumers and stakeholders at struggling RC do to effectuate progress?
Evelyn Rodriquez	<p>Puede el centro regional observar, discutir el RATE de los servicios de los empleados en mi Plan de gastos? RCOC está haciendo esto!!! También están pidiendo información de mis empleados como experiencia, grado de estudio, etc. Puede ese detalle de información solicitarse??? Como mamá que tiene a su hijo 10 meses en el programa de Autodeterminación estoy MUUY decepcionada. Considero que se está VIOLANDO mi derecho de LIBERTAD en Autodeterminación</p> <p>Can the regional center observe, discuss the RATE of employee services in my Spending Plan? RCOC is doing this!!! They are also asking for information from my employees such as experience, degree of study, etc. Can that detail of information be requested??? As a mom who has her son in the Self-Determination program for 10 months, I am VERY disappointed. I believe that my right to FREEDOM in Self-determination is being VIOLATED</p>
Evelyn Rodriquez	Could you please clarify this for me? I understand that the Independent Facilitator can represent SDP clients in a fair hearing against the Regional Center when an issue arises and that the client can pay the IF for the representation through their spending plan. Could you please confirm that this is the case?

	<p>Who is the Orange County Self-Determination Specialist?  The Great Barrier in Orange County is the Director of Services.  Cathy Furukawa should be at the family reunions that we are in Self Determination.</p> <p>Yesterday I had a meeting with you. They asked me for information about my employees, experience, degree of study, to support the RATE. This is terrible. After 10 months in the SD program they come to me with these things. I am very disappointed.</p> <p>Why some Regional Centers like RCOC and WRC are not giving certified budgets to clients that want to get into Self Determination in July?  What can we do about it? Some people have been waiting for years to get self-determination and it is not fair that we have to wait even more!</p>
Beth M.	<p>Please RC Orange County, allow me to get my son's certified budget so we can enter as of July 1. I was diagnosed with breast cancer and facing troubles. I need my son into SDP as we've got people ready to hire and go to help him. Thank you and bless you.</p>
Karen Bonacci	<p>I'd like to learn more about the fast track service and 30-day transitions and how to make them work. Can you share more at end of discussion?</p>
Sandra McElwee	<p>Please ask Larry why they are not providing any budgets to participates who want to begin July 1<sup>st</sup></p>
Beth M.	<p>Here are my notes from the latest RCOC Advisory Committee meeting: provided in the spirit of helping, not criticizing: I attended the last RCOC SDP Advisory Committee meeting in order to raise my need to obtain a certified budget for my son, an RCOC consumer. At this meeting, I learned that the RCOC was not providing any budgets to any consumers until the bill was signed into law, putting a July 1 entry into the SDP program in jeopardy for my son and all other RCOC consumers who have been working towards SDP entry as of July 1. Below is a summary of what I took away from the meeting.</p> <p>The chair was not present, and the first 15 minutes of the meeting was spent trying to get another committee member to chair the meeting. The meeting was quite contentious, with so much consumer/public commentary, that the rest of the agenda was postponed. I heard the following feedback from the community: 1. Spanish SDP Orientation was still not available (RCOC advised it would be shortly, it had just been completed) - this effectively blocked all Spanish speaking consumers from starting the SDP process. Additionally comments were made alleging services provided to Spanish speaking consumers were not as much as for others.</p> <p>2. A number of frustrated individuals with issues in the Fair Hearing process; "why can't RCOC spend this money on helping consumers rather than hiring lawyers" Also "can the Advisory Committee ask for and review the items being disputed" in order to provide input to RCOC.</p>

	<p>3. A number of consumers, like my own situation, asking for certified budgets, with no immediate plans to do so.</p> <p>4. A request for confirmation that there was a list of participants trying to enter SDP. Community didn't feel this was addressed well.</p> <p>5. A number of community activists and Independent Facilitators advised that other RC's were providing budgets and gave examples.</p>
Christina Cannarella	Can there be a database setup from DDS for regional centers that has a more detailed list of specific services and supports that have been approved under SDP? The SDP Service Definition list out now gives an overview but as we know, RCs are still constantly asking DDS for clarification. This takes up extra time and slows down the process for participants to be enrolled. I understand that there will always be certain circumstances that may require additional guidance from DDS but there are many of the same questions (FAQs) that regional centers across the state are asking. So can we streamline this process!
Tim	Does ACRC have a SDP specialist in all of the 10 counties that they serve? Also. Why is the sole proprietor option discouraged for people who decide to be in SDP? What's taking so long to get families in the SDP?
Paula S.	Will Jennifer Bloom share the Alta Regional Center SDP timeline document with this group?

Member	Question
Public Comment	Question
Jan Opsvig	As an IF I like to collaborate with the FMS to make sure the employer burden is accurately calculated. But I know the client in much more detail and feel I should have the spending plan outlined then go to the FMS to check the numbers. How do you as FMS's feel about that.
Janelle Lewis	Even though the role of the Service Coordinator is changed in SDP, they are still important as IPP team members, dispensing accurate SDP information, etc. The weekly SC trainings in our regional center are optional, not required. Are there any actual requirements, across regional centers, for all service coordinators to attend SDP trainings?
Anonymous	Related Question... Why are FMSs leaving California?
Christina Cannarella	This is my questions for DDS...1. Could DDS create a PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED SERVICE CODE similar to 102 that we could use to hire our IF? RC vendored service providers are using this service code right now to get paid to provide PCPs to consumers wanting to go into SDP. In my opinion it's not fair that IFs who are not vendored have to wait many months to get paid but traditional service providers can get paid right away to provide the same services. They created PDS-PA, ILS and SLS because of the need for consumers and families. There is a HUGE need for this for many consumers and families now and will increase once SDP is opened up to all consumers.

Natalie Cooper	If an employee has been live scanned though an FMS for another client can they work for a different client with the same FMS without going through fingerprints?
Neil Jacobson	With the employer or co-employer models, what percentage of wages do FMS take for fringe benefits and overhead including background checks, insurance, etc.?
Molly Kennedy	Is there a way to set up working with a local caregiver agency that could be used in an emergency and be paid per diem
Jon Francis	To DDS: CAN participants have the control over increasing the rate paid affordably, to their FMS if needed?
Virgilio Orlina	For FMS...How are you going to prioritize the process of payments for unmet or emergency needs of consumers who were in SD program.
Beth M.	What can ya'll do as a statewide group to pull together a report card or more kindly a report update - that shows each RC and if they are not providing certified budgets (RCOC is NOT), and if they are approving spending plans (RCOC is NOT) and if not, what are the issues. That would help every RC see how they stand relative to the rest of the state, and hopefully we can all help those that are not moving to start moving. I really see no reason why a certified budget cannot be provided in any RC period. How can you all help to move what looks like a giant mountain to this poor mom.
Christina Cannarella	Where can we view the recording of this meeting? There has been a lot of valuable information shared that needs to be disseminated. Thanks!
Beth M.	It would be awesome if you all could agree on that set of questions to ask each RC so you get a comparative response across the state. That would shine a spotlight on the areas that need additional assistance so that the consumers are not held back from applying or getting stuck along the path.
Verbal question	Question for DDS: Can Crisis Services be added outside of the SDP budget.  There are Crisis intervention teams that tell the family they are not available on the weekend and to call the police. I recently discussed this with Law Enforcement, and they do NOT want to be called unless really necessary. They feel the Crisis Intervention team would be more appropriate.
Jessica Munoz	does anyone have by any chance the email of the executive director for IRC? on March my son's IF presented the PCP plan to the service coordinator and it is time that my son haven't started on the program, what can I do, to move forward, any recommendations will be appreciated.



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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 6.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Self-Determination Success Stories***

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Committee members will share Self-Determination Program success stories from their Regional Center. Members will each be afforded up to three minutes to speak.

***Attachment***

None

***Handouts***

Maybe handout the day of the meeting

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 7.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Ombudsperson Introduction***

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Self-Determination Program Ombudsperson Katie Hornberger will introduce herself to the committee and will provide an overview of the role of the Ombudsperson.

***Attachment***

Presentation: Office of the Ombudsperson for Self-Determination

***Handouts***

None

# Office of the Ombudsperson for Self- Determination

Katie Hornberger

Department of Developmental Services

# Agenda

- Introduction
- Explanation of Role
- Review of Activities
- What the Ombudsperson Doesn't Do
- Measures of Success
- How to Get Assistance
- Questions

# Introduction

- WIC 4685.9
  - Established and independent and autonomous Office of the Self-Determination Program Ombudsperson. The law established rights and duties for the office. The Ombudsperson is appointed by the DDS Director for a term of 4 years and may be reappointed. The person must have adequate training and experience for the role. Calls to the office are confidential unless release is agreed to.
  - [Law section \(ca.gov\)](#)
  - [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4685.9.&nodeTreePath=9.8.6&lawCode=WIC](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=4685.9.&nodeTreePath=9.8.6&lawCode=WIC)
- AB 136
  - The budget bill signed by the Governor on July 16, 2021 putting that law into effect.
  - [Bill Text - AB-136 Developmental services. \(ca.gov\)](#)
  - [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB136](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB136)

# Explanation of Role

- Providing information
- Assisting RC consumers and families
  - Facilitating solutions to disagreements
- Investigating Complaints
- Reporting to the Legislature
- Recommending changes to DDS and the Legislature

# Review of Activities

- Attend stakeholder meetings
- Share information
- Resolve individual matters
- Investigate systemic matters
- Facilitate improvement in the program

# What the Ombudsperson Doesn't Do

- Decide disputes in favor of one party or another
- Overturn a judicial decision or make a recommendation to a court



# Measures of Success

- The Ombudsperson will strive to:
  - Increase the number of people in SDP
  - Reduce the amount of time it takes to enter SDP
  - Recommend policy change at regional centers and DDS
- Satisfaction surveys will be sent to all callers to the Office.

# How to Get Information or Assistance

- Website at [Office of the Self-Determination Program Ombudsperson - CA Department of Developmental Services](#)
- Email to [SDP.Ombudsperson@DDS.CA.GOV](mailto:SDP.Ombudsperson@DDS.CA.GOV)
- Call 1-877-658-9731

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 8.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Update from DDS***

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DDS has been invited to provide an update on the statewide rollout and new initiatives related to the Self-Determination Program.

***Attachment***

None.

***Handouts***

Could be handouts the day of the meeting.

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 9.  
INFORMATIONAL ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Discussion: Q&A with DDS***

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In order to inform and receive input from the SSDAC, DDS will participate in a discussion and answer questions about key initiatives related to the Self-Determination Program.

***Attachment***

None.

***Handouts***

Could be handouts the day of the meeting.

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 10.**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Discussion of DDS Self-Determination Program Initiatives***

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Members of the committee will discuss the new Self-Determination Program initiatives that were presented by DDS and how they can use the information they received to inform the work of their Local Advisory Committees.

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**November 10, 2021**

**AGENDA ITEM 11.**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Public Comment***

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Members of the public will be given the opportunity to provide comments to the Committee on matters not on the agenda. Each person will be afforded up to three minutes to speak, at which time the person may be muted.

Members of the public wishing to comment on items listed on the agenda may do so prior to action being taken by the Committee.

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November 10, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 12.**

**POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM**

**STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES – SSDAC**

***Next Steps and Adjournment***

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Committee members will discuss next steps. This discussion could lead to action being taken and/or delegation of tasks to the SSDAC Workgroup.