



**Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 28, 2022**

**Attending Members**

Darylene Williams(TCRC)  
Charles Nutt (FNRC)  
Irene Litherland (RCEB)  
Jon Francis (NLACRC)  
Carla Lehmann (WRC)  
Lisa Cooley (ACRC)  
Maia Pawooskar (IRC)  
Mariela Ramos (VMRC)  
Martha Johansen (SARC)  
Michelle Smith (CVRC)  
Pierre Landry (FDLRC)  
Rick Wood (Co-Chair, KRC)  
Robert Taylor (RCRC)  
Sascha Bittner (GGRC)  
Sherry Johnson  
(SCLARC) Deby Hight  
(NBRC)  
Tim Jin (RCOC)  
Cathay Liu (ELARC)  
Harold Fujita (Co-Chair)  
Joyce Clark (SDRC)  
Bertha Monterrey  
(SGPRC)

**Absent Members**

None

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Albert Feliciano  
Alex Chesstel  
Anne De Medeiros  
Ariela Gross  
Beth Hurn  
Carolina Vargas  
Charles Nguyen  
Chris Arroyo  
Christina Cannarella  
Christine Kantor  
Christine Tolbert  
Cindy Cox  
Connie Lapin  
Danielle Isola  
Dawn Purdy  
David Grady  
Deidra Nelson  
Diane Bernstein  
Dena Hernandez  
Erika Acosta Millan  
Faviola Cruz  
Faviola Valencia  
Felicia Ford  
Fernando Preciado  
Gladys Lizarraga  
Harvey Lapin  
Huyen Tran

**Others Attending**

James Garcia  
Joe Hernandez  
John Forrest  
Johnny Xiong  
Judy Mark  
Julie Eby-Mckenzie  
Karen Bonacci  
Katie Hornberger  
Kay Medina  
Kecia Weller  
Kristianna Moralls  
Lia Cervantes  
Lisa Hooks  
Lori Walker  
Lourdes Gomez  
Maria Elena Diaz  
Maria Klassen  
Maria Marquez  
Maria Montoya  
Mary Ellen Stives  
MaryAgnes Nolan  
Megan Swope  
Melissa Crisp-Cooper  
Molly Kennedy  
Myra Garcia  
Naomi Hagel  
Nina Spiegelman  
Olivia Gonzalez  
Patricia Herrera  
Priyanka Nookala  
Robin Maitino-Erben  
Reva Guimont

**Others Attending**

Rosa Vadillo  
Ross Long  
Roxy Ortiz  
Rubi Saldana  
Riana Hardin  
Rihana Ahmad  
Samuel Coston  
Sandra McElwee  
Sara Martinez  
Sarah May  
Scarlett VonThenen  
Sheila Jordan-Jones  
Sofia Cervantes  
Sonni Charness  
Suzy Requarth  
Taleen  
Kharchadourian  
Tamra Pauly  
Tanesha Morris  
Tania Morawiec  
Tanya Hernandez  
Teresa Ayala  
Tim Travis  
Tina Harshman Tina  
Reszler  
Vi Ibarra  
Vianey Gomez Vicki  
Smith  
Victoria Schlussler  
Yaritza Sanchez

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Rick Wood (FA) called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M.

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves as indicated.

4. **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Taylor/Cooley) and carried to approve the February 2022 meeting minutes as corrected. (Motion passed unanimously, with the exception of Harvey Lapin who abstained [see page 1 for a list of voting members], see corrections below).

- Capitalize “Regional Center” everywhere it appears
- Capitalize “Board of Directors” on Page 6
- Capitalize “Board Members” on page 7

5. **CO-CHAIR REPORT TO SSDAC**

Co-Chair Harold Fujita shared a graphic that represents how the SSDAC fits into the bigger picture of the Self-Determination Program, operating with the RCs, DDS, and the State Council on Developmental Disabilities to ensure that the SDP works as it was intended.

Co-Chair Rick Wood announced that he will be co-chair for the DDS SDP advisory committee, a new workgroup that will assist in the implementation of SDP. Co-Chair Wood acknowledged and thanked Committee member Robert Taylor, who will no longer be serving as chair of his LAC. Co-Chair Wood expressed how important it is to ensure that the rights that have been created by legislation are not taken away. He reminded the committee of the three priorities that were set at the previous meeting and stated that timelines have been created for each of those priorities, and informed the Committee that the SSDAC and workgroups would continue to meet virtually as long as it was allowable.

Co-Chair Harold Fujita showed the new SDP webpage, which is hosted on SCDD’s website, and asked that members review and share their thoughts and

ideas about how to improve the pages. Some committee members expressed concern about duplicate information between the SCDD and the DDS websites. Committee members requested that information be kept consistent between the two websites to prevent any confusion.

## **6. OFFICER ELECTIONS**

The Committee held an election for Co-Chair of the SSDAC. Prior to this meeting, all SSDAC members were given the opportunity to self-nominate and submit a candidate statement. During the meeting the floor was also opened for any Committee member wanting to self-nominate. Committee members Martha Johanson and Rick Wood provided candidate statements. No other members wished to be considered.

Committee members Bittner, Jin, Liu, Monterrey, and Johanson voted in favor of committee member Martha Johanson.

Committee members Francis, Lapin, Cooley, Pawoskar, Ramos, Smith, Landry, Taylor, Johnson, Hight, Fujita, Clark, Williams, and Wood voted in favor of Committee member Rick Wood giving him majority vote and winning the election of Co-Chair.

## **7. DDS UPDATES**

Department of Developmental Services Director Nancy Bargmann provided an update on SDP-related initiatives. Director Bargmann reported that as of May 2022 1,462 people had enrolled in the program. The department is looking to develop methods to track how enrollment is progressing and working to figure out how to determine if RCs are educating consumers about Self-Determination.

Director Bargmann stated that DDS is looking for opportunities to use demographic data to reduce racial/ethnic disparities. RCs have filled 47 of the 63 PCS positions that were funded. DDS is working on trainings for PCS and requested input/recommendations. Statewide SDP trainings, a collaborative effort with SCDD, have been set to begin in July 2022. DDS is working with RC and FMS to create a plan for both short term and long-term solutions to the structural system issues that have resulted in payment delays for FMS. DDS is also working to make permanent the ability for FMS to be paid outside of the SDP participant's budget. DDS is considering issuing a directive to make transition funds available to pay IFs and FMS during participant's transition from traditional services into SDP. DDS is working to find solutions to ensure that

workers are paid respectable wages, including discussion about a rate increase. DDS continues to offer disparity grant funding every year and will have 22 Million in funding available for disparity projects in 2022. Director Bargmann listened to the concerns of members regarding employment disparities and the need for more disparity related data. SCDD Staff Robin Maitino asked that any additional questions for DDS be sent to her at [robin.maitino@scdd.ca.gov](mailto:robin.maitino@scdd.ca.gov).

## **8. INTRODUCTION TO THE SELF-DETERMINATION ADVOCATE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE**

SCDD Central Coast Regional Office Manager David Grady, along with self-advocates Kecia Weller and Priyanka Nookal, presented on behalf of the Self-Determination Self-Advocate Leadership Committee to introduce the Committee and their mission and goals to the SSDAC. The Committee seeks to ensure that all people served by the Regional Center are fully informed about Self-Determination. The Committee seeks to remove barriers to participation, to ensure that all consumers receive accurate information, and that all communication and materials for Self-Determination are easy to understand and accessible.

The Committee presented their findings about how RCs are sharing information about the SDP. Based on these findings, the Committee put together a list of recommendations to improve and standardize RC practices. The Committee expressed that they would like to work with the SSDAC and LACs to send these recommendations to DDS and to help with implementation. Co-Chair Wood encouraged SSDAC members to take these recommendations to their LACs.

## **9. SCDD UPDATES**

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers updated the committee on Bagley-Keene open meeting requirements under the legislature's new omnibus bill, which will extend the flexibility afforded by the Governor's Executive Order until March of 2023. This bill is expected to pass and will allow the SSDAC to continue to meet virtually. Executive Director Carruthers answered member's questions about how to implement workgroups at their LACs.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lulu A. requested that the SDP webpage is translated to Spanish instead of using Google translate.

Irene Litherland, Bertha Monterey, Martha Johanson, Mariela Ramos and Joyce Clark voiced their support for appropriate translation in order to allow Spanish-speaking families to participate equally.

#### 10. **2022-23 ACTIVITIES UPDATE/PRESENTATION**

Co-Chairs Rick Wood and Harold Fujita presented the timelines that the workgroup put together for each of the priorities that the SSDAC identified. Committee members and members of the public then participated in an interactive exercise to provide feedback and suggestions on how to accomplish each of the priorities.

It was moved/seconded (Pawooskar/Clark) and carried to adopt the workplan and timelines, and delegate to the workgroup the responsibility to synthesize and present the results of the activity, and to carry out the activities in the workplan (Motion passed unanimously [see page 1 for a list of voting members]).

#### 11. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Karen Bonacci, co-chair from the VMRC SDAC spoke about a pilot project she worked on at her RC and asked that RCs create opportunities for self-advocate microbusiness to collaborate to do administrative work. She asked that committee members and others keep their RCs accountable

Judy Mark present of DVU and parent of an SDP participant stated that she is happy with the ideas being shared at the meeting and invited everyone to participate in DVU's bi-weekly "SD Connect" calls. She provided a link to the DVU Self-Determination Manual and stated that the 2022 edition will be released by the end of July. This can be accessed at the link below:

<https://disabilityvoicesunited.org/interchange/self-determination/>

Lourdes Gomez, IF and mother of a RC client told the committee that parents from the Hispanic community were calling for the San Gabriel Pomona Regional Center President to be reinstated and asked DDS and SCDD provide TA to help reinstate this president because of how much he has done to help the Hispanic community

Betty Monterey agreed with Ms. Gomez and stated that the BIPOC community is very upset. She stated that she has concerns that the interim director that may become a barrier to SDP success at SGPRC

Joyce Clark announced that the San Diego Regional Center and the LAC will be hosting 2-day SDP Conference that will be free to RC consumers. Information on this conference can be found at the link below:  
<https://today.ucsd.edu/story/uc-san-diegos-new-downtown-hub-park-market-opens-to-the-public>

Sandra McElwee, IF and mother of a SDP participant, stated that DDS has created a disparity and deterred people from wanting to go into SDP. She stated that she has clients that have dropped out because they're afraid they will get stuck at today's rate and not get the rate increase. She stated that her son's budget is very tight, and that participants definitely can't afford to pay providers overtime.

Kay Medina also voiced support for SGPRC Board President Anthony Hill, stating that the community looks to him as a leader and that there is an outpouring of support for him from self-advocates, vendors and other stakeholders. She requested assistance with getting Mr. Hill reinstated.

Cindy Cox, IF and parent of a RC client stated that a variety of committees and workgroups doing important work but that she feels that people serving rural clients and people who live in rural areas are not being represented on these committees. She called for more balance to make sure that rural client's needs are being represented.

Carmen Florez stated that when RC clients have other health challenges intertwined with disabilities there are disparities, and that there is so much paperwork for them to try to qualify for assistance, placing a burden on the parents. She stated that as an IF she doesn't get funding to translate resources or provide verbal translation for clients. She stated that adjustments need to be made to the way SDP is run instead of keeping everything traditional at the RC, including business hours.

Felicia Ford, parent of a RC client voiced support for SGPRC Board President Hill and stated that the situation is serious, and that something needs to be done.

## 12. **NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:25 p.m. with the next meeting date to be determined.