



**Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2023**

Attending Members

Betty Monterrey (SGPRC)
Michelle Smith (CVRC)
Carla Lehman (WRC)
Charles Nutt (FNRC)
Chris Miller (RCRC)
Lori Walker (NLACRC)
Jennifer Walsh (GGRC)
Joyce Clark (SDRC)
Lisa Cooley (ACRC)
Maia Pawooskar (IRC)
Michelle Smith (CVRC)
David Forderer (SARC)
Pierre Landry (FDLRC)
Rick Wood (KRC)
Rosalinda Garcia (HRC)
Sherry Alvarez (SCLARC)
Tim Jin (RCOC)
Vi Ibarra (RCEB)
Vivian David Nicolas
(VMRC)

Absent Members

Cathay Liu (ELARC)
Darlene Williams (TCRC
Co-Chair)
Debby Hight (NBRC Co-
Chair)
Vivian Nicolas (VMRC)
Viviana Barnwell (Co-
Chair)

Others Attending

Aaron Carruthers
Alejandra Claderon
Alnita Dunn
Aminah Abdul-
Hakim
Ana Ramirez
Angelica Tolentino
Beth Hurn
Carla Lehmann
Carolyn Tellalian
Chayashi
Chris Miller
Christian
Christine Tolbert
Coushatta Seymore
Dena Hernandez
D.Perez
Jeanette Castro
Jessica Mercado
Kavita Sreedhar
Kristen Stone
Lia Cervantez
Lerma
Lilia V.
Lisa Hooks
Malcom Mcintosh
Julie LaRose
Katie Hornberger

Others Attending

Naomi Hagel
Olivia Gonzalez
Patricia Herrera
Rachel Palmer
Teefy
Renee Bauer
Richard Dier
Robin Maitino-Erben
Robin Monroe
Romina Solorio
Rondale Holloway
Sandra Mcelwee
Sandra Mendez
Santiago Villalobos
Scarlett VonThenen
Selvin Arevalo
Shelia Jordan Jones
Sheraden Nicholau
Suzy Requarth
Tanya Hernandez
Yaritza Sanchez

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Rick Wood (FA) called the meeting to order at 10:31 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 JUNE 2023 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved/seconded (Nutt [SA]/Landry [FA]) and carried to approve the June 2023 meeting minutes as presented. (Motion passed by acclimation).

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

Co-Chair Rick Wood reported that the SSDAC workgroup met between meetings to discuss submissions for the Best Practices Platform and next steps on a project to address disparities. Co-Chair Wood reported that based on local SDAC reports in the SSDAC's bi-monthly reporting platform, it is clear that many regional centers are not currently collecting the data that the committee needs to analyze in order to find ways to increase enrollment in the self-determination program (SDP). The Committee discussed the State Council on Developmental Disabilities' (SCDD) "Unprofessional Conduct Policy," which now applies to local SDAC members that were appointed by SCDD.

6. **SCDD UPDATES**

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided an update on SCDD's SDP activities, which included a summary of the data collected for SCDD's SDP orientations, along with an overview of SCDD's Self-Determination Program Evaluation, which can be found at the following link: https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/08/FINAL_SDP.Eval_Full_Report6.30.23Public_8-29-23.Accessible.pdf. The full presentation for this agenda item can be viewed here: https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/09/2023.Sept_ED_Report.to_SSDAC-RM.CT_ACFinal.pdf.

Executive Director Carruthers and committee members discussed the lack of SDP data collection at regional centers and how to go about collecting the data

that the SSDAC is requesting. Many of these data points were collected during the phase-in of the SDP but are no longer required to be reported to the Department on Developmental Services (DDS). The committee discussed options for requesting this information from DDS.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Alnita Dunn commented that because the data has not been collected over a period of time, it would be difficult to conduct any longitudinal analysis to draw accurate conclusions.

7. BEST PRACTICES PLATFORM UPDATES

Co-Chair Rick Wood and SCDD staff presented updates to the SSDAC Best Practices Platform. Many of the submissions to the BPP survey were focused on practices of local SDACs. These included suggestions about how to spend implementation funds and creating self-governance policies. Some of these have been added to the BPP, which can be viewed at the following link: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-best-practices-platform/>.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Christian (no last name given) stated that he believes that some barriers Independent Facilitators face are with billing. He asked if there will be any new start-ups to go along with the new training and certification the committee mentioned earlier in the meeting.

8. DDS AND OMBUDSPERSON UPDATES

Acting Ombudsperson Katie Hornberger provided an update on the amount and types of inquiries received by the Office of the Ombudsperson. The presentation for the Office of the Self-Determination Ombudsperson can be found here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2023/09/2023-09-28-SSDAC-Ombuds-Presentation-Accessible.pdf>.

The DDS update was provided by Vicki Smith, Suzy Requarth and Katie Dempsey. DDS reported enrollment numbers through the end of July 2023, provided an overview of recent directives to address pre-enrollment transition reports and guidance for local SDAC meetings, and stated that that upcoming areas of focus for DDS are enhanced data collection, Financial Management Services standards and certifications, and Independent Facilitator standards and certifications.

DDS reported that the ability to break out data is increasing as more people enroll in SDP. More data fields are being added to the department's data collection tool, which will be used to create appropriate targets and benchmarks for regional centers. DDS has requested input on the types of data that they should collect.

Members asked questions about the underrepresentation of older individuals in the SDP and if DDS will be issuing directives regarding Independent Facilitation services being conducted virtually, as opposed to in-person, as mandated under Title 17. Suzy Requarth stated that it would be helpful in the SSDAC/local SDACs wrote a letter to DDS with feedback regarding remote services. Members provided feedback regarding Independent Facilitators losing their independence once they are required to be vendored by a regional center.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kavita Sreedhar asked Ombudsperson Katie Hornberger if there will be guidance regarding FMS rate changes and spending plan updates, and suggested that FMS providers be invited to a townhall to discuss barriers and address the issue of providers not taking on clients with greater needs and bigger budgets.

Alnita Dunn asked if High School students and their families are being made aware of SDP as an option. She stated that typically they should be members of the regional center, but communication between schools and RCs isn't always there. She stated that if schools and parents knew about SDP, more diverse groups could be reached.

9. DECEMBER TOWN HALL

Co-Chair Rick Wood informed members that in lieu of holding a standard SSDAC meeting in December, the Committee will hold a short townhall meeting to invite members of the public to share their experiences with Financial Management Services (FMS). SCDD staff guided members through an exercise to choose FMS related topics to focus on during the townhall.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carla Lehmann stated that as a committee, her local SDAC wasted a lot of time talking about COI and financials, and suggested that it would be helpful to have guidance written up to clear it up for everybody to save time in the future.

Maia Pawoskar stated that SCDD does not have the authority to create policies for local SDACs, and that if each regional center creates their own policy the same disparities persist. She expressed concern that if guidelines are not provided that regional centers may continue to resort to denying services in SDP for the same reasons.

Kristianna Moralls, Director of the Self-Determination Program at DVU, stated that there are still over 100 people coming into SDP every month and that the program is worth fighting for. She announced that DVU will hold a conference to talk about many of the same issues discussed at the SSDAC meeting on Friday, November 3rd from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Register at <https://disabilityvoicesunited.org/our-future-our-fight/>.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:47 P.M.