



**Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 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 Johanson (SARC)  
Melissa Crisp-Cooper  
(EBRC)  
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)  
Ameen Ali (SGPRC)

**Absent Members**

Joyce Clark (SDRC)  
Linda Chan-Rapp (HRC)

**Others Attending**

Aaron Carruthers  
Albert Feliciano  
Alicia Amador Cortez  
Alicia Manzo  
Ana Barragan  
Ariela Gross  
Beth Hurn  
Caralina Navsarro  
Carla Lehmann  
Carmen Baca  
Cathy Furukawa  
Charles Nguyen  
Chris Arroyo  
Christina Cannarella  
Christine Kantor  
Christine Tolbert  
Cindy Cox  
Claudia Wenger  
Connie Lapin  
Daysi Funes  
Dena Hernandez  
Dora Contreras  
Elizabeth Gomez  
Erika Acosta Millan  
Faviola Cruz  
Faviola Valencia  
Fernando Gomez  
Fernando Preciado  
Gladys Lizarraga  
Harvey Lapin  
Huyen Tran  
Jeanette Weisman  
Joe Hernandez

**Others Attending**

Judy Mark  
Karina Saldana  
Katie Hornberger  
Kidada Medina  
Kristianna Moralls  
Lai Saelee  
Lia Cervantes  
Lisa Hooks  
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

**Others Attending**

Robin Maitino-Erben  
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  
Tanisha Morris  
Tania Morawiec  
Tanya Hernandez  
Teresa Ayala  
Tina Harshman  
Tina Reszler  
Vi Ibarra  
Vianey Gomez  
Vicki Smith  
Victoria Schlussler

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair Rick Wood (FA) called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

**2. ESTABLISH QUORUM**

A quorum was established.

**3. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Members and others in attendance introduced themselves as indicated.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Molly Kennedy informed the committee that Disability Voices United has held discussion groups with Independent Facilitators, Financial Management Services, LACs, and self/family advocates, and will be distributing their assessment of the barriers that are still impacting people as they work to transition into the Self-Determination Program.

SCDD Deputy Director of Regional Center Operations Tania Moraweic announced that SCDD will be sending 9 individuals, including self-advocates, to participate in a 2-part train the trainer series through the Department of Rehabilitation.

Harvey Lapin urged the committee members and advocates to reach out to regional center boards of directors in support of the Self Determination Program.

Tina Harshman explained that vendors are hesitant to be set up to serve SDP participants due to uncertainty about payment. She suggested creating documents that can be used to clarify the process for vendors to increase participation in the program.

Lourdes Gomez advocated to normalize extended school hours and out of home respite services to allow families of regional center clients to engage in self-care.

Rubi Saldana expressed that she does not feel supported by her regional center board, and that changes to services take a very long time.

Elizabeth Gomez expressed concern about the impact that lengthy evaluation processes have on SDP participation. Regional centers have been asking families to move forward without necessary services and amend their budgets after evaluations are complete and services are approved, creating unnecessary and time-consuming barriers to participate.

Christina Cannarella proposed that regional center board members be provided with SDP training, and that each board have a seat for SDP. She called for greater stakeholder engagement in public meetings and expressed a need for supporting stakeholders in giving public comment.

Maria Elena Diaz requested that more time be allowed for public comment, to allow families of regional center clients to express the barriers they are facing in transitioning from the traditional program to the self-determination program.

Fernando Gomez encouraged the committee to revise the agenda so that the community has greater opportunity to express their concerns through public comment.

Daysi Funes expressed frustration about the disparities and barriers that Hispanic families are experiencing when trying to enroll in SDP.

Kristianna Moralls expressed that the Self-Determination Program is worth supporting despite the challenges and encouraged everyone to continue to be vigilant in protecting the integrity of the program.

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

It was moved/seconded (Nutt/Landry) and carried to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes as corrected. (Motion passed unanimously by acclamation [see page 1 for a list of voting members], see corrections below).

- Remove Lisa Cooley from the attendance list
- Page 6, Danielle Isola was listed twice
- Page 8, remove apostrophe after SCDD
- Page 8, capitalize Social Rec

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

SSDAC Co-Chair Rick Wood gave an overview of the changes that the SSDAC helped to accomplish in 2021, including increasing enrollment in SDP, the creation of the Office of the Ombudsperson, and providing feedback that led to new DDS budget initiatives and directives. Co-chair Wood acknowledged that the SSDAC still has work to do to address the barriers that were discussed during public comment. Co-Chair Wood asked committee members to have discussions with their LACs about the updates to the DDS FAQ, the DDS goods and services directive, and how to allocate funds left over from the SDP pilot period to reduce barriers and increase enrollment.

Co-Chair Wood announced that committee members Lisa Cooley, Joyce Clark and Carla Lehman have joined the SSDAC workgroup, and reminded the committee that co-chair elections will occur at the next statewide meeting.

A pre-recorded message from SCDD Chair Wesley Witherspoon was played. Chair Witherspoon thanked Maria Marquez for her service as SSDAC co-chair and introduced the newly appointed co-chair, Harold Fujita. Maria Marquez thanked Co-Chair Rick Wood and the rest of their committee members for their work to advance SDP. Co-Chair Harold Fujita introduced himself and explained the principles that he brings to his position as co-chair.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Molly Kennedy expressed concerns about a lack of self-advocate leaders on the SSDAC.

Mari explained the barriers that she has faced while enrolling in SDP, and the long wait times that she has been given for assessments. She asked for the committee's assistance in addressing these concerns.

Carla Lehmann expressed concerns about SDP participants paying out of pocket for services while waiting for the assessments that regional centers are requiring.

Tina Harshman called for a system to be set up to reimburse people who pay out of pocket for services while waiting for an assessment.

Harvey Lapin asked that advocates bring these concerns to regional center boards.

Connie Lapin expressed concerns that Person Centered Planning is not being prioritized.

Lisa Cooley encouraged advocates to discuss the barriers they are facing with the Director of Client Services at the regional center.

Maria Marquez encouraged self-advocates to continue to speak up and express their needs.

## **7. SCDD UPDATES**

State Council on Developmental Disabilities Executive Director Aaron Carruthers provided the committee with updates on SCDD activities and announced that funding has been secured to provide the SSDAC with a

dedicated staff member. Executive Director Carruthers encouraged committee members to be recruiters for the position. Committee members expressed a desire to assist in the recruitment and screening process and make the position part of the Limited Examination and Appointment Program (LEAP) to ensure that it is open to people with disabilities.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Christina Cannarella asked that LACs that have contributed to funding a staff position be refunded, and that SCDD include RC board members in SDP Training.

Mayra Garcia expressed concern that Inland and Harbor regional centers are discriminating against the Latino community and asked who will provide these families with support.

**8. SCDD SDP STATEWIDE ORIENTATION UPDATE**

SCDD Executive Director Aaron Carruthers introduced Self-Determination Program Manager Joseph Hernandez, who gave an update on the status of the statewide orientation and provided an overview of the orientation training modules. Co-Chair Rick Wood asked that committee members and members of the public submit comments to Joseph Hernandez via email by February 21, 2022.

**9. UPDATE ON PERMANENT OMBUDSPERSON**

Katie Hornberger, interim Ombudsperson for the Self-Determination Program at the Department of Developmental Services provided the committee with an update on the status of the permanent Ombudsperson position. The Office of the Ombudsperson has responded to 130 requests since it was established and has helped DDS identify gaps in the law as well as DDS policy.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Lourdes Gomez asked that the Office of the Ombudsperson establish a timeline so that those who call for assistance can anticipate when they will receive a response.

**10. 2022 GOAL AND PRIORITY SETTING EXERCISE**

Co-Chair Rick Wood opened the floor for committee members to discuss what they would like the SSDAC to focus on achieving over the course of 2022-23. Committee members expressed an interest in creating a platform for sharing

best practices, working to reduce racial disparities, creating a timeline for the SDP enrollment process, increasing data collection, and SDP training for RC staff, Independent Facilitators and family/self-advocates. Committee members voted on these priorities and took the following action:

It was moved/seconded (Pawoskar/Landry) and carried to delegate the creation of a workplan and timeline based on the results of the priority poll to the SSDAC workgroup. (Motion passed unanimously by acclamation [see page 1 for a list of voting members]).

#### 11. **NEXT STEPS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned without objection at 3:37 p.m. with the next meeting to take place sometime in May 2022.