SCDD Los Angeles Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) Minutes August 3, 2026

Members Attending
Kathleen Barajas (SA)
Lisa Davidson (FA)
Vanessa Garcia (FA)
Ellen Jannol (FA)
Manisha Strait (FA)
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)

Members Absent
Jess Comer (FA)
Alnita Dunn
Lourdes Gomez
Elena Tiffany (SA)

SCDD Staff Attending
Dennis Tomko
Patricia Jackson

Council Members Attending
Cathay Liu
Nestor Nieves

Others Attending
N/A

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
   Chair Ellen Jannol called the meeting to order at 4:43pm

2. **ESTABLISH QUORUM**
   A quorum was established.

3. **WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**
   Conducted roll call for members.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
   Public comment was received concerning Self Determination feedback, differences between co and sole employer model, and employer liability.

   Public comment was also received from Laurel Benjamin, sharing information on a research study on the experiences of parents with developmental disabilities and the providers that support them (including parents' Service Coordinators and children's Early Start providers). Eligible parents and providers can earn a $30 gift card for a one-time 45 minute Zoom interview. Laurel attached fliers with additional information.

5. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON MINUTES OF 6/1/2026** *All*
Minutes were discussed and approved by all committee members in attendance (Kathleen Barajas, Lisa Davidson, Vanessa Garcia, Ellen Jannol, Manisha Straight, and Wesley Witherspoon) with a vote of yes.

6. **CHAIR REPORT**
   A. Discussion and Possible Action on Committee Priorities
      a. Priorities discussed were Self Determination Training and Rate Reforms. No formal action was taken.
   B. Discussion and Possible Action on Voting Kathleen Barajas as new chair
      a. All committee members in attendance (Kathleen Barajas, Lisa Davidson, Vanessa Garcia, Ellen Jannol, Manisha Straight, and Wesley Witherspoon) voted yes.
   C. Discussion and Possible Action on Voting new meeting date
      a. All committee members in attendance (Kathleen Barajas, Lisa Davidson, Vanessa Garcia, Ellen Jannol, Manisha Straight, and Wesley Witherspoon) agreed and voted yes on switching meeting dates to every other month on the last Monday of the month.
      b. Next meeting will take place on Monday, September 28, 2026 from 4:30-6:00pm.

7. **REGIONAL MANAGER REPORT**
   A. Discussion and Possible Action on SCDD Statewide and Local Activities
      a. Discussion and Possible Action on FIFA 2026, 2028 Olympics, and the City of Los Angeles
         i. DJ Tomko provided updates on the activities SCDD is doing in coordination with the City and County of Los Angeles.
      b. Discussion and Possible Action on Self Determination Program
         i. DJ Tomko provided updates on changes to the Self Determination Program Orientation provided by SCDD.
      c. Discussion and Possible Action on Early Intervention
         i. DJ Tomko provided updates on Early Intervention.
      d. Discussion and Possible Action on California Budget
         i. DJ Tomko provided updates and analysis regarding the DDS Equitable Access to Intake and Services Proposal

8. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON SCDD COUNCIL REPORT** No report was provided.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON ACTIVITIES OF THE STATEWIDE SELF-ADVOCACY NETWORK

Wesley Witherspoon, RAC Member, provided an update.

10. MEMBER REPORTS

Members and Council Members provided updates on their activities and those of the community.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Rate Reform was discussed, specifically a request for clarification on the definition of excessive mileage.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

ADDENDUM

Vote #1 – Minutes

Kathleen Barajas (SA)	Yes
Lisa Davidson (FA)	Yes
Vanessa Garcia (FA)	Yes
Ellen Jannol (FA)	Yes
Manisha Strait (FA)	Yes
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)	Yes

Members Absent

Jess Comer
Alnita Dunn
Lourdes Gomez
Elena Tiffany

ADDENDUM

Vote #2 – New Chair

Kathleen Barajas (SA)	Yes
Lisa Davidson (FA)	Yes
Vanessa Garcia (FA)	Yes
Ellen Jannol (FA)	Yes
Manisha Strait (FA)	Yes
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)	Yes

Members Absent

Jess Comer
Alnita Dunn
Lourdes Gomez
Elena Tiffany

ADDENDUM

Vote #3 – New Meeting Date

Kathleen Barajas (SA)	Yes
Lisa Davidson (FA)	Yes
Vanessa Garcia (FA)	Yes
Ellen Jannol (FA)	Yes
Manisha Strait (FA)	Yes
Wesley Witherspoon (SA)	Yes

Members Absent

Jess Comer
Alnita Dunn
Lourdes Gomez
Elena Tiffany