

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
Self Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:10PM on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 via Zoom. Quorum was not established.

**Committee Member Present**

Deaka McClain – Individual, Self-Determination Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
David Oster – Individual  
Jamie Temple – OCRA  
Miriam Kang- Parent  
Tami Cardenas, Parent

**HRC Staff Present**

Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services  
Aurelio Lopez – Participant Choice Specialist  
Bernice Perdomo-Chavez – Participant Choice Specialist  
Minerva Prado – Participant Choice Specialist  
Jessica Sanchez – Client Service Manager

**Visitors**

Ana Davaa, Parent/Independent Facilitator  
Rafael Carbajal, Remarkable & Centered Supports  
Sheila Jordan Jones, Independent Facilitator  
Janneth Juarez  
Jazmin Chandler  
Vanessa Besack, Independent Facilitator  
Helen Reese, Phoenix Facilitation  
Santiago Villalobos, Phoenix Facilitation  
Debra Jorgensen, Guidelight  
Albert Feliciano, SCDD  
Kristianna Morallis, DVU  
Rosy Seriat  
Reiko Umeda, Independent Facilitator  
Tamra Pauly, Independent Facilitator  
Chloe Estelle, Individual  
Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation  
Stanley Briones, Dromen Inc.  
John Feringa, Dromen Inc.  
Lucy Paz, Interpreter  
Jacqueline Gayton, DDS  
Jeff Ives  
Gaciola Ramirez

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**Abbreviations**

HRC: Harbor Regional Center  
IF: Independent Facilitator  
PCP: Person-Centered Plan  
SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
SDP: Self-Determination Program  
DVU: Disability Voices United  
FMS: Financial Management Service  
DDS: Department of Developmental Services  
RFP: Request for Proposal  
SDAC: Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee  
OCRA: Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy  
ASLA: Autism Society of Los Angeles

**Welcome:**

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat.

**Approval of Minutes:**

February 7, 2024 minutes have been postponed due to committee not meeting quorum.  
February and March minutes will be reviewed and approved during April 2024 committee meeting.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Bernice Perdomo-Chavez presented the SDP data in a graph format via an "HRC SDP" Power Point presentation shared via Zoom.

- Completed PCPs 159; 25 within the soft rollout and 134 from 7/2021 to 02/2024
- Certified Budgets 238; 37 within the soft rollout and 201 from 7/2021 to 02/2024
- Spending Plans 202; 32 within the soft rollout and 170 from 7/2021 to 02/2024
- SDP Live 211; 32 within the soft rollout and 179 from 7/2021 to 02/2024

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SDP by Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	79
Latino	54
African America/Black	14
Biracial	2
Multicultural	10
Other	12
Asian Indian	6
Other Asian	7
Chinese	4
Filipino	7
Korean	4
Guamanian	1
Vietnamese	4
Japanese	7

SDP by Language

English	175
Spanish	32
Korean	2
Japanese	1
ASL	1

- Number of fully oriented participants: 913 (83 are in the follow-up stage, 283 have chosen to withdraw and 336 in the unknown stage).

Directives from January 2024 DDS Self-Determination Program (SDP) were shared.

This directive provides new billing requirements that are to go into effect starting April 1, 2024 and going forward.

Questions during presentation:

- Are low numbers due to lack of outreach/representation? It was explained that each Asian community is broken down individually, however if encompassed together they would total the same or a little more than other ethnic groups such as *Latino*. As for outreach, this is being conducted on a normal basis and the goal is to expand the outreach of SDP to all ethnic groups.

**Dromen Inc. FMS Presentation**

- John shared the reason and purpose behind Dromen Inc.
- Dromen Inc. will provide the following models: Bill-Payer and Co-employer Models and they will also offer Employment Services.
- Employer Burden:
  - Bringing power back into the control of the family.
  - Will encompass the benefits package for the employee.
  - Workers compensation rates vary by job classification and duties. Depending on duties and where your employees fall, will determine the employer burden for that family. Which is why it is difficult to have one specific employer burden.

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- Discussion of how the employer burden is calculated required by DDS, the regional center, mandates, and law.
- Review of average employer burden based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- Starting Burden rate for Dromen expected at 26%. It cannot be a fixed rate because of factors that cannot be represented by a percentage.
- What is the process in transferring from one FSM to Dromen?
  - Transition process is a big challenge. Recommended that a call take place with Dromen Inc. first to better understand the dynamic of the case.
  - Open to transition at any time.

**Current HRC FMS Updates**

- Presentation on the current active FMS's and their employer burden.
- Update on Aveanna increasing their employer burden to 14.07% effective 04/01/2024.
- The goal is to have this information available to the community within a months' time. This way families are able to access new information pertaining to any changes in the FMS employer burden or any new vendored FMS.
- ACE FMS is in the process of being courtesy vendorized through HRC. Once updates are provided, new information will be available to the community.

**Phoenix Facilitation Updates**

- Presented on ethnicity updates. Majority of referrals this month were Asian.
- Referrals are received through the regional center, self-referral, and the community. The majority for the month of February came from the regional center. The majority of January's referrals came from self-referrals.
- Majority of referrals from February were English at 91%; however, they also had Korean-speaking referrals at 9%.
- February had a high number of cancelled intakes.
- Phoenix continues to follow up with families. In many instances, families are not responding. Attributing this to families feeling confident and supported with the coaching services and IFs referred to them.
- Continually doing outreach to inform community of their coaching program and services offered by the regional center.

**Statewide Updates:**

- No updates at this time.

**Partner Updates:**

**Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy (OCRA)**

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- Provide free legal information, advice and representation to regional center individuals. Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy (OCRA) | Disability Rights California
- [ocra.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:ocra.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org)
  - Contact Number: (562)623-9911

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano**

- State council continues to provide weekly statewide training on different topics.
- SCDD continues to provide statewide self-determination orientation trainings. These are supplemental to what HRC is already providing. Provided various times in the month.
- Statewide SCDD Self-Determination Program Orientation:  
<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- SCDD Weekly Statewide Trainings:
  - Meeting ID#: 883-2711-3155
  - Password:2024
  - Direct Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88327113155?pwd=OEhsc09BNkM4V0FSVEJPYjlkQU5YQT09>

**Guidelight**

- Guidelight presented on their upcoming open application process set to be available for 20 scholarships for their essential independent facilitator-training program. They provided the following dates for their upcoming summer and fall cohorts:
  - Summer 2024: July 10 – August 28; Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:30pm
  - Fall 2024: October 2 – November; Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:00pm
  - <https://www.guidelightgroup.org/independent-facilitator-training>
  - [debra@guidelighgroup.org](mailto:debra@guidelighgroup.org)

**Braveheart**

- Vanessa Besack from Braveheart, presented on her Independent Facilitator training program. She shared that this program was available for individuals interested in becoming independent facilitators. Her program will allow trainees the opportunity to work with real clients as they learn.
- [www.bravehopepartner.com](http://www.bravehopepartner.com)

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**Public Comments:**

- Miriam Kang shared her story on her son Nicholas and his most current successes with self-determination.
- David Oster shared that he was in the process of starting year 4 in SDP and also has had the opportunity to take salsa lessons and is looking forward to taking adaptive swim lessons during the summer.

**Next meeting:** April 3, 2024 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Minutes submitted by Minerva Prado