

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

Opening:

The regular meeting of Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 PM on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, via Zoom. Quorum was established.

Committee Member Present

Rosalinda Garcia - Self-Determination Advisory Committee Chair
Deaka McClain – Individual, Self-Determination Advisory Committee Co-Chair
Maria Elena Walsh – Harbor Family Resource Center
Miriam Kang – Parent
Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate
Shirlys Gruber – Parent
Jamie Temple – OCRA
Kyungshil Choi – Parent
Wendy Clutterbuck – Parent
Mayra Garcia – Parent
Kathy Maye – Parent

Harbor Staff Present

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services
Aurelio Lopez – Participant Choice Specialist
David Hernandez – Participant Choice Specialist
Bernice Perdomo – Client Service Manager
Becky Garduno – Client Service Manager
Erika Castillo – Client Service Manager
Jessica Eich – Client Service Manager
Jessica Sanchez – Client Service Manager

Visitors

Azucena Bustillos, Spanish Interpreter
Kim Sinclair, Autism Society of Los Angeles
Jane Sakuri, Autism Society of Los Angeles
Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation
Sonni Charness, Guidelight Group
Monserrat Palacios, DDS
Albert Feliciano, SCDD
Claire Seo, Parent
Debra Jorgensen
Marleni Pineda
Lulu A.
Adriana Ortiz
Agnes Pitlik
Alejandra Calderon

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

Basel Al
Brianna Viltz
Carola Maranon
Cathy Cheng
Danni Rae
Evelyn Rodriguez
Ivon Muniz
Janet Yataco
Junko Kubo
Kristiana Moralls
Maria Poblete
Maria Santos
Mary Michille Magapan
Nancy Oseguera
Reiko Umeda
Shelia Jones
Silvia Calles
Tamra Pauly
Tomas Mendez
Yazmin Flores
Yesenia Flores
Yongchao Dush

Abbreviations

Harbor: 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:

January 8, 2025 & February 5, 2025 minutes were posted for review. Minutes were approved by the committee members.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

Aurelio Lopez presented the SDP data in a graph format via a “Harbor SDP” Power Point presentation shared via Zoom.

- Completed PCPs 339; 25 within the soft rollout and 314 from 7/2021 to 02/2025
- Certified Budgets 404; 37 within the soft rollout and 367 from 7/2021 to 02/2025
- Spending Plans 375; 32 within the soft rollout and 343 from 7/2021 to 02/2025
- SDP Live 364; 32 within the soft rollout and 332 from 7/2021 to 02/2025

SDP by Ethnicity:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| White/Caucasian | 147 |
| Latino | 78 |
| Asian | 73 |
| Black | 28 |
| Other | 20 |
| Multicultural | 15 |
| Biracial | 2 |
| Native American | 1 |

SDP by Language:

| | |
|----------|-----|
| English | 309 |
| Spanish | 43 |
| Korean | 2 |
| Japanese | 6 |
| ASL | 2 |
| Tagalog | 1 |
| Chinese | 1 |

- Number of fully oriented participants: 1,231 (102 are in the follow-up stage, 396 have chosen to withdraw and 369 in the unknown stage).

DDS Directives: March 2025

- No updates.

Implementation Funds (RFP) 2023-2024:

- RFP’s were posted online to allow agencies to apply to receive funds to help train and development IF’s to meet the needs of the Harbor community.
- We had two RFP’s submitted- one from ASLA/Phoenix and one from Guidelight. The scoring committee included two SDAC members and two Harbor staff. The raw scores for the RFP’s submitted received the same total score.
- Committee members voted in the chat on how they would like to allocate the funds. The committee voted to split the implementation funds in half – no oppositions.
- ASLA/Phoenix & Guidelight were congratulated for being selected for the funds and informed that the Harbor Community and Development Department will be in contact with them in regards to the funds and required documents needed.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

Guidelight Group Updates:

- Guidelight (Sonni) thanked Harbor and the committee for awarding grants to continue the work they have been doing.
- They completed the training last fall. All 20 that received the scholarship finished the training and only one did not earn their certificate.
- Surveys were sent to the first eight of those IF trained to get feedback. More to come.
- Guidelight is supporting the scholarship recipients by connecting them to individuals seeking services.
- Guidelight (Sonni) noted they are able to support connecting an individual to an IF.

Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA)/Phoenix Facilitation Updates:

- ASLA (Kim) noted that they have completed modules 1-5 and by next week they will have module 6 completed.
- ASLA (Kim) informed trainees about 099/024 and this seem to be something big with the trainees.
- ASLA (Kim) requires that they submit their homework and complete a PCP.
- Participant shared that she has enjoyed the training and the dedication that ASLA/Phoenix have provided her. She is excited to be able to graduate.
- Participant shared that she would like to thank the program and training provided. She is graduating tomorrow.
- Participant wanted to share that she hopes more flexibility can be given to trainees due to technology issues and unforeseen circumstances. It was noted that some trainees would like to have physical copies of the materials to help them learn.

Public Comments:

- Participant noted some errors in the translation to the Spanish minutes. Staff noted that the changes could be noted and communicated to staff via email or phone call to correct.
- Participant wanted to know what kind of training service coordinators receive to inform the families about the SDP program. Staff informed participant that the service coordinators receive staff case management series training for SDP for 3 hours and have additional support available to them.
- Participant wanted to know if parents could attend the training staff attend as they continue to need support and additional training. Harbor shared that while internal trainings are for staff only, there is not a set limit on the amount of orientations a community member can attend.
- Participant wanted to know the number of Black/African American participants in the SDP program and what the enrollment number was before. Staff noted that there are 28 Black/African American participants and was unsure of last month's number at the time.
- Participants and staff thanked Rosalina Garcia, Chair of SDAC as this is her last SDAC meeting. Rosalinda thanked the committee and public for the years of services and collaboration in an effort to better the program.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

- Staff introduced new committee member, Kathy Maye, to the SDAC committee. Staff informed committee and public that Vice Chair, Deaka McClain, will be taking over as chair of SDAC.
- Participant noted that she had some questions regarding 099 services. Staff noted they are working with an FMS agency to establish 099 to allow IF to continue to support families.
- Participant noted some providers are charging more for the SDP model for services and this is affecting the budget of the individual. Staff noted this is up to the SDP participant to negotiate the rates as no additional funds can be given beyond the traditional rate.

Statewide Updates:

- No updates.

Partner Updates:

- Jamie Temple shared that there are no updates and shared her information in the chat. They can support individuals and family with generic supports, IEP and collaborating with the regional center.
- SCDD (Albert Feliciano) shared that they continue to provide trainings and this Monday they have the training in Spanish. They continued to provide statewide trainings for SDP in different languages.
- SCDD (Albert Feliciano) noted they would like to add an agenda item as there are challenges being raised by IF's and parents as they have reported that some vendors are charging higher rates for those in SDP compared to those in traditional case management. Is there a way to collaborate with DDS to ensure that families do not have to deal with this issue.
- HR Alliance FMS (Briana) shared they are up and running with Harbor. Briana is the lead supporting Southern California. Any individuals that need support can reach out to HR Alliance.

SCDD- Albert Feliciano Updates:

- To attend the SCDD Statewide Trainings held on Mondays at 10 am, focused on special education and inclusion:
Meeting ID#883-2711-3155 Password: 2024
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU3zu0qt2l9Xg48JPx6sJKTGil6RO0LJALHoDy6q8u3KAqSA/viewform>
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Self-Determination Program (SDP) Statewide Orientation:
<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy (OCRA) – Jamie Temple

- Any questions, contact OCRA:

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2025

Jamie Temple Zoellner
562-623-9911
OCRA.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org

Public Comments:

- Participant shared concern regarding SDP providers increasing rates. Harbor staff reiterated there are no current regulations dictating rates that SDP providers can charge. Advocacy needs to happen at the State level.
- Executive Director shared that the committee has an agenda to ensure that the meeting runs smoothly and ensure that the public has a dedicated time to voice their concerns.
- Participant shared that she is graduating from ASLA tomorrow and after a year; her son is transitioning into SDP. She has learned a ton of information from ASLA and would like to recommend that more trainings and supports be provided to IFs to gain more knowledge.
- Participant shared that her 9-year-old son has been affected by the rates that providers are charging for individuals live in SDP.
- Participant noted further clarification is needed in regards to rate changes for therapy.
- Participant asks for clarifications in regards to 099 services and IF being able to support individuals live in SDP via transition services. Staff noted that IF is not included in the budget and paid outside of the budget.
- Participant wanted to know what FMS agency will help provide PDS. Staff noted Cambrian.
- Participants wanted to know if the chat can be translated as some questions are in Spanish.
- Participant noted her son had his fourth piano recital and second at Cal State Long Beach.
- Participant shared this is her first SDAC committee and would like to have more details about the number being reported by Harbor in regards to families process with SDP.
- Vice Chair, Deaka McClain, would like to set up a meet and greet with just committee members as there are new members.

Next meeting: April 2, 2025 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

Adjournment, Conclusion

Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM
Minutes submitted by David Hernandez