

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self Determination Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 2, 2025

Opening:

The regular meeting of Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 PM on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, via Zoom. Quorum was established.

Committee Member Present

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

Harbor Staff Present

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services
Judy Taimi – Director of Adult Services
David Hernandez – Participant Choice Specialist
Aurelio Lopez – Participant Choice Specialist
Bernice Perdomo – Client Service Manager
Bryan Sanchez – Client Service Manager
Kelsey Machado – Client Service Manager
Jimmy Silvestre – Client Service Manager
Jessica Sanchez – Client Service Manager
Erika Castillo – Client Service Manager
Osvaldo Sanchez – Client Service Manager

Visitors

Lucy Paz, Spanish Interpreter
Kim Sinclair, Autism Society of Los Angeles
Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation
Celia Ramos
Rebecca LaBoriell, Guidelight
Yeray Vasquez
Monserrat Palacios, DDS
Sheila Jordan Jones
Albert Feliciano, SCDD
Stella Martinez
Michele Arslan
Adriana Ortiz
Jaqueline Casas

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Livier Perez
Georgina Leon
Tomas Mendez
Cindy Garcia
Yolanda Gomez
Jennifer Chi
Alejandra Calderon
Elizabeth Lopez
Naomi Cox
Maria Santos
Junko Kubo
Bill Greenfield
Allan Bravo
Danielle Alvarado
Ivon Muniz Diaz
Alicia Delgado
Tamra Pauly
IPhone 15 Max
Irma P
Maria Poblete
Marleni Pineda
Kelli Rea
Lulu A
Adelayda
Debora Smith
Esmeralda Mora
Kenghuy Ung
Lauren O'Neil
Mario Cristales
Matoria Filipovich

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

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ASLA: Autism Society of Los Angeles

Welcome:

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat.

Approval of Minutes:

March 5, 2025 minutes were posted for review. Minutes were approved.

Committee Chair went over rules to ensure the meetings remain orderly and efficient:

- All committee members raise your hands and wait to speak until called.
- Public participants put their comments in the chat.
- During public comments, raise your hand and wait to speak until called.
- Time limited to three minutes per comment.
- If your questions were not answered during the meeting, email Harbor staff.
- Agree to disagree, but be respectful.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

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

- Completed PCPs 352; 25 within the soft rollout and 327 from 7/2021 to 03/2025
- Certified Budgets 418; 37 within the soft rollout and 381 from 7/2021 to 03/2025
- Spending Plans 389; 32 within the soft rollout and 357 from 7/2021 to 03/2025
- SDP Live 381; 32 within the soft rollout and 349 from 7/2021 to 03/2025

SDP by Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	155
Latino	83
Asian	76
Black	28
Other	20
Multicultural	16
Biracial	2
Native American	1

SDP by Language:

English	320
Spanish	47
Japanese	7
Korean	2
ASL	2
Tagalog	1
Chinese	2

- Number of fully oriented participants: 1,268 (101 are in the follow-up stage, 401 have chosen to withdraw and 385 in the unknown stage).

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Public Comments:

- Participant asked when the next Spanish orientation takes place.
- Harbor staff shared that information provided to Harbor by participants has to be provided two weeks before they go live.
- Participant asked about those that do not move forward to identify barriers.
- Participant asked why individuals are not moving forward or unsure.
- Harbor staff shared that English orientations have about 35 individuals who attend monthly, while Spanish orientations have an average of two participants per month.

SDP Live survey

- For individuals who are live in SDP. Survey sent out fill out the survey to help improve the SDP.
- Sent out to participants who have been in the program one year and over.
- Some were sent out in paper form through mail, some emailed.
- Another email reminder sent out on April 7, 2025.

Guidelight Group Updates: Rebecca LaBoriell

- Continue to work with 20-trained IFs through program to find clients.
- Work with Harbor to ensure IFs continue to receive payment.
- Focus on serving the deaf and hard of hearing with new implementation funds.

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

- 62.5 hours of support received.
- 17 certificates provided, not all participants have taken the post-test and evaluation.
- Ethnic breakdown of 17 IFs provided.
- Feedback from participants provided.

Statewide Updates:

- None to report.

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Partner Updates:

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

- Any questions, contact OCRA:
Jamie Temple Zoellner
562-623-9911
OCRA.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org
- Free legal assistance with IEP, IHSS, regional center services and SDP questions.
- Vanessa Juarez - Assistant Clients' Rights Advocate (habla español).

SCDD- Albert Feliciano Updates:

- SCDD Weekly Statewide Trainings on hold from April through July.
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Self-Determination Program (SDP) Statewide Orientation:
<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- Statewide Parent Academy starts on March 3, 2025.

Provider Comments:

- Mario Cristales – provides support for deaf/blind individuals ages 22 and up (<https://dbintervenervservices.com>).
- Bill Greenfield provides IF training in many languages and IF services (Greenfield and Associates, LLC).
- Alejandra Calderon with GT Independence offered FMS services.
- Brianna Viltz with HR Alliance offered FMS services (Infowest@hrawest.com
<https://alliancechoicecare.com>)

Public Comments:

- Individuals should be informed of their options, their choice to explore SDP or remain in traditional.
- Committee is addressing disparity by providing coaching and increasing the number of IFs who speak numerous languages.
- 099 PDS payment updates provided.
- Negative comments are not allowed; everyone is free to share and must be respected.
- Disparity issues brought up with hope that everyone receives the same information.
- Participant shared how working with Harbor is great, makes their IF job easier.
- Participant shared that Harbor is making changes but more work is needed.

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- Participant recommended that all participants go on camera, especially committee members.
- Committee members introduced themselves.
- Participant talked about barriers and the success of her son thanks to the services provided by RC, highlighting issues that are barriers for many.
- Participant shared that Harbor is being a barrier with approving spending plans and authorizations.
- Participant asked when they should start preplanning for the following budget year and if a PCP needs to be conducted annually.
- Participant shared that SDP has been great, even if there are barriers that continue to happen but is overall satisfied.
- Participant shared that orientations should be broken down into two sessions to make it easier to understand all the information.
- Participant asked if Regional Centers collaborate with each other.
- Participant shared that more individuals need to be informed about SDP and decrease the time it takes to approve spending plan changes.
- Participant shared that time limit is to ensure everyone has a chance to be heard.
- Participant shared that time limits exist whenever public comments are allowed in meetings.
- Participant shared that people want to hear about the program and create balance, not just hear complaints.
- Participant asked about rate increases.
- In SDP, the rates in place used to develop budget, are not updated unless it is for a traditional service provider.
- Participant asked about training for service coordinators to learn about SDP.
- Participant asked about federal budget cuts and if SDP will be affected.
- Participant shared funding issues for California due to fires and services provided to undocumented individuals, advising to be ready for cuts.
- ASLA newsletter has SCDD initiative: <https://conta.cc/4jee6tD>
- Participant congratulated Phoenix/ASLA and Harbor for the IF training scholarship opportunity.
- Participant thanked ASLA and SCDD for allowing her to grow and learn.
- Participant asked about DEI initiatives.
- Equity grants may be in danger this year.
- Participant congratulated Deaka for being a great leader.
- Participant shared that parents need to come together to advocate for families.

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Next meeting: May 7, 2025 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

Adjournment, Conclusion

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM

Minutes submitted by Aurelio Lopez