

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
Self Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 7, 2025

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 PM on Wednesday, May 7, 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  
Mayra Garcia – Parent

**Harbor Staff Present**

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services  
David Hernandez – Participant Choice Specialist  
Bernice Perdomo – Client Service Manager  
Bryan Sanchez – Client Service Manager  
Kelsey Machado – Client Service Manager  
Jimmy Silvestre – Client Service Manager  
Erika Godoy – Client Service Manager  
Becky Garduno – Client Service Manager

**Visitors**

Lucy Paz, Spanish Interpreter  
Kim Sinclair, Autism Society of Los Angeles  
Naomi Hagel, Phoenix Facilitation  
Monserrat Palacios, DDS  
Albert Feliciano, SCDD  
Adriana Ortiz  
Tomas Mendez  
Yolanda Gomez  
Adelayda Sanchez  
Alejandra Calderon  
Alexandra Law  
Allan Bravo  
Amelia Castellanos  
Araceli Hernandez  
Carmen Vasquez

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Cynthia Lombardi  
Debra Smith  
Evelyn Rodriguez IF  
Heba Dwaik  
Jennifer Shelton-Frates  
Junko Kubo  
Lulu A  
Maria Poblete  
Maribel Pena  
Matoria Filipovich  
Marizela Arroyo  
Mark Radville  
Paula Martinez  
Silva  
Suzy Tebbetts  
Tamra Pauly  
Wendy Velazquez  
Zoom User

**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. Present committee members opened camera and introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:**

April 2, 2025 minutes were posted for review. Minutes were approved.

Committee Members went over the Committee Responsibilities and the Committee Agreements to ensure the meetings remain orderly and efficient:

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Committee Responsibilities:

- attend meetings regularly and commit to being on time
- be mindful of participants' time by helping keep meetings on track
- listen attentively
- maintain an open mind towards others
- support the actions and efforts of the committee

Committee Agreements:

- We agree to be respectful of each other
- We agree to respect privacy by not sharing any personal information
- We agree to only ask questions and share comments related to the SDP
- During public comments, raise your hand and wait to speak until called
- One comment per person, unless there is time for additional questions or comments
- If your questions were not answered during the meeting, email your Harbor service coordinator or Harbor PCS team

**Committee Chair Statewide Updates:**

- None to report.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Antoinette Perez presented the SDP data in a pie graph format via a “Harbor SDP” Power Point presentation shared via Zoom.

- Number of fully oriented participants: 1,335 (190 are in progress, 385 have chosen to not move forward, 367 are unsure and 393 are live in SDP).

SDP by Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	161
Latino	85
Asian	77
Black	31
Other	20
Multicultural	16
Biracial	2
Native American	1

SDP by Language:

English	332
Spanish	47
Japanese	7
Korean	2
ASL	2
Tagalog	1
Chinese	2

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**Committee Comments/Questions:**

- Committee member wanted to know what was being done to support individuals/families with SDP.
- Committee member noted that she is noticing an increase in numbers and Harbor is moving in the right direction with SDP. Member noted that she was partnered with Naomi Hagel to connect with IFs, become an IF, and learn more about SDP. She thanked her SC.
- Committee member noted there are families that decided to not move forward and would like to get more information as to why they decided to not move forward.
- Committee member would like to see the information from the survey recently conducted.
- Committee member wanted to know the time line for budget and spending plan review. Staff stated that the timeline varies, as staff have to ensure that an assessment is done correctly. The SDP team ask 5-7 business days to review and certified. The timeline depends on the family/individual and if they are in agreement with the budget or spending plan.
- Committee member wanted to know with the IFs Guidelight has trained, how many are supporting the Hispanic community? Guidelight will work on gathering more information on these stats.
- Committee member wanted to share that it is important to share your stories regarding Medicaid funded services are a need for many people to live happy and supported. Member noted that if support is needed to reach out to state council for support to navigate the website.

**Guidelight Group Updates: Debra Jorgensen**

- With the funds ending in June they are continuing to work with the 20 IF trained.
- They are helping them connect to individuals and mentoring with them for them working with their first individuals.
- Guidelight is informing IF of how to get vendored and receive payment.
- Guidelight provided a her email to be able to allow the public to reach out to her for support if they are looking for an IF.
- Guidelight is trying to support Harbor's deaf and hard of hearing community with the new award implementation funds. They are working with an SDP participant who is deaf and hard of hearing to ensure the training is able to meet the needs of Harbor.
- Guidelight shared that with the previous funds was focused on training bilingual and multilingual IFs.

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

- Some of the trainees are working on catching up to learn the materials to finish the training.

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- 9 Latino IF's were trained that were Spanish speaking and will receive their certificate.
- 6 Latino but English was their primary language and will receive their certificate
- Individual that spoke English and non-Caucasian there were 10 trainees
- English Caucasian there were 3.
- A total of 28 IFs were enrolled in the course for training.
- An increase in support and knowledge in the areas of budgets, principles of SDP, and spending plans.
- The trainees were asked to provide feedback about the training and support from the program. Guidelight presented their data with trainees reporting good feedback.
- Guidelight present results of IFs will support participants; 14% stated yes, 24% no they will not, 59% they are planning to support, 3% said they are not planning to. Guidelight is focusing on the 59% to ensure they have what they need to support participants and move forward as an IF.
- Phoenix stated that they are looking to provide coaching sessions and remove office hours to ensure that trainees are supported.

**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](mailto:OCRA.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org)
- Free legal assistance with IEP, IHSS, regional center services and SDP questions.
- No updates of upcoming meetings.

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano Updates:**

- State council shared that they are collecting stories from Californians to share with lawmakers what the impact of Medicaid cuts due to the budget will have on families and individuals. They would like to inform decision makers that people of all individuals depend on Medicaid services. By sharing your story about Medicaid fund services on how this supports you, you agree with sharing your story to the public.

**Provider Comments:**

- No provider comments stated.

**Public Comments:**

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- Public participant noted that she would like to see the timelines for the entire process of SDP.
- Public participant wanted to gather information on IF and FMS services.
- Public participant wants Harbor to consider authorizing all services for a full year.
- Public participant would like to acknowledge the hard work that Harbor is doing, but many families are dealing with many other barriers that they are encountering. Participant noted having challenges with providers not wanting to work with her individual due to being non-verbal.
- Public participant wanted to share that are challenges with schedules in a spending plan with social recreational activities. Participant shared that her individual may like to switch activities or add new ones, but they have to go through an entire modification process to do so and this take times.
- Public Participant would like to thank the SDP team and community partners for the support with the Self Determination Program. Participant shared that SDP has been helpful for her son and expressed gratitude to Harbor to her son's freedom. Participant has no negative comments with SDP. Participant would like to share that SDP is a team effort and not just Harbor, IF, or parent – but a team effort.
- Public Participant would like to thank her SDP service coordinator for his amazing work and support.
- Public participant shared that after 4 months of working on the SDP individual budget and she is working on the spending plan, however, many of her request required a Notice of Action.
- Public participant shared that this is her first time attending this meeting and hearing many barriers with the SDP. Participant would like to know how to get started and how to become prepared for this program
- Public participant shared that the orientation be considered for update as when she started the process it was noted to be complicated. Participant noted that the trainings be more detailed and informative.
- Public participant noted that they would like to be offered advocacy during fair hearings as this could be challenging to navigate.

**Next meeting:** June 4, 2025 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM

Minutes submitted by David Hernandez