

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
January Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2026

Opening:

Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) was called to order at 6:10 PM on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, via Zoom.

Quorum was established.

Committee Members Present:

Deaka McClain – Individual Served, Committee Chair

Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate, Individual

Miriam Kang – Parent

Wendy Clutterbuck – Parent

Shirlys Gruber – Parent

Mayra Garcia – Parent

Kyungshil Choi – Parent

David Gauthier – Individual Served

Jamie Zoellner – OCRA

Harbor Staff Present:

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director

Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescents

LaWanna Blair – Director

Ricardo Orozco – PCS

Wendy Velazquez – PCS

David Hernandez – CSM

Kelsey Machado – CSM

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Bryan Sanchez – CSM

Jimmy Silvestre – CSM

Erika Castillo – CSM

Becky Garduno – CSM

Maria Suarez – CSM

Visitors:

Lucy Paz – Interpreter

Albert Feliciano –SCDD

Sonni Charness – Guidelight Group

Debra Jorgensen – Guidelight Group

Kim Sinclair – ASLA

Adelayda Sanchez

Adriana Ortiz

Austyn Perez

Ana Davaa

Alejandra Calderon

Aracely Lopez

Cesilia Ortiz

Lisa Sorenson

Maria Poblete

Reiko Umeda

Reyna Reyes

Rubi Saldana

Shelia Jones

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SE

Naomi Hagel

Lety

Tamara Pauly

Katherine Rivas

Heidi Swan

Yolaid Roque

Judy Marks

Yolanda Gomez

Joana Kent

Jenniferr Prindle

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

CSM: Client Services Manager

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Welcome:

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat. Present committee members have camera on and introduce themselves verbally.

Committee Members Responsibilities and Agreements:

Mission Statement (read aloud by Maria Elena Walsh)

Committee Responsibilities (read aloud by Kathy Maye):

- 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 (read aloud by Wendy Clutterbuck):

- 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

Open Forum / Sharing:

- Austin Perez (FMS – PPL) provided an overview of Financial Management Services, including explanations of how individuals utilize FMS and the differences between Sole Employer and Bill Payer models.
- Cecilia Ortiz shared information regarding family support services.
- Katherine Rivas provided an overview of life coaching services.

Questions:

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- Evelyn Rodriguez, a parent and Independent Facilitator (IF), asked questions related to program participation. No further questions were raised.

Committee Chair Statewide Updates:

Chair reported no updates and advised that the next meeting will take place in April of 2026 and will provide updates accordingly.

- Committee members discussed agreement for earlier access to reports.

Approval of Minutes:

November 5, 2025, minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Wendy Clutterbuck, seconded by Tim'an Ford.

Minutes were approved.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

- Antoinette Perez provided announcements and facilitated introductions.
 - Wendy Velazquez introduced as new PCS member
- Ricardo Orozco reviewed current FMS at Harbor
 - FMS vendor with Harbor: 18 total
 - Bill Payer (315): 18 total
 - Co-Employer (316): 15 total
 - Sole Employer (317): 15 total

Frequent updates to the FMS list on Harbor's website were noted. Families were advised to contact service coordinators for support.

DDS Directives:

- Harbor presented information on the DDS directive regarding large changes in SDP budgets and shared information about the 2026 reporting sample requirements.

Partner Updates:

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- OCRA representative Jamie Zoellner shared updates regarding HCBS Waiver training, general training opportunities, and upcoming Zoom webinars.
- State Council representative Albert Feliciano shared information regarding upcoming orientation sessions.

SDP Success Story:

- Harbor shared a participant success story highlighting the positive impact of the Self-Determination Program.

Orientation Updates:

- Harbor provided updates regarding upcoming SDP orientation sessions.

Closing:

- Upcoming SDP Orientation
 - January 31, 2026, from 9am – 12pm (Spanish)
 - February 18, 2026, from 1pm – 4pm (English)
- Next SDAC Meeting
 - February 4, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Kelsey Machado (CSM)