

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

**Opening:**

Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) was called to order at 6:08 PM on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, via Zoom.

Quorum was established.

**Committee Member Present:**

Deaka McClain – Individual Served, Committee Chair

Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate

Miriam Kang – Parent

Wendy Clutterbuck – Parent

Shirlys Gruber – Parent

Mayra Garcia – Parent

Kyungshil Choi – Parent

**Harbor Staff Present:**

Antoinette Perez – Director

Ricardo Orozco – PCS

Bernice Perdomo – CSM

Bryan Sanchez – CSM

Jimmy Silvestre – CSM

Erika Castillo – CSM

**Visitors:**

Lucy Paz – Interpretar

Natima Nelly – OCRA

Albert Feliciano –SCDD

Sonni Charness – Guidelight Group

Debra Jorgensen – Guidelight Group

Kim Sinclair - ASLA

Adelayda Sanchez

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Adriana Ortiz

Alejandra Calderon

Aracely Lopez

Cesilia Ortiz

Lisa Sorenson

Mandy's iPhone 13

Maria Poblete

Reiko Umeda

Reyna Reyes

Rubi Saldana

Shelia Jones

Tamara Pauly

Yolaid Roque

Judy Marks

Yolanda Gomez

Jazmin Chandler

**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

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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

**Welcome:**

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat. Present committee members opened camera and introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes:**

October 1, 2025 minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Miriam Kang, seconded by Mayra Garcia.

Minutes were approved.

**Committee Members Responsibilities and Agreements:**

Mission Statement (read aloud by Wendy Clutterbuck)

Committee Responsibilities (read aloud by Miriam Kang):

- 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 Tim'an Ford):

- 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

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- 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:**

Deaka McClain reported that she has no updates. Chair reported the next meeting will take place in April of 2026 and will provide updates accordingly.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

- Ricardo Orozco reviewed current FMS at Harbor
  - 18 FMS vendored with Harbor
  - 18 offering Bill Payer (315)
  - 15 offering Co-Employer (316)
  - 15 offering Sole Employer (317)
  - Frequent updates to the FMS list on Harbor's website were noted. Families were advised to contact service coordinators for support.
- Antoinette Perez presented the RFP funds for the 2024-25 year
  - FY 2024-25 funds total \$71,888.91
  - FY 2025-26 funds total \$99,917.00
  - Potential candidates need to submit proposals no later than 1/31/26
  - The evaluation period will take place the month of February.
  - Candidates will be notified March 4, 2026
  - Questions regarding if an IF can submit and staff informed that only could submit a proposal and guidelines are posted on the Harbor website.
  - Question regarding how funds will be used and staff informed community that the LVAC committee voted for

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more IF training/support with a focus on the d/Deaf and hard of hearing community.

- Question about who will evaluate the proposals and staff informed the community it would be Harbor staff and two committee members. A scorecard will be given per proposal.
- Questions if funds may be used for mentorship and staff informed the community that the committee did not include mentorship in the guidelines.
- Questions about timeline for funds to be used and staff informed the community that there is no date for funds to be used at this time but will update accordingly.
- Ricardo Orozco presented and reviewed the role of the FMS and support offered to participants.
  - What is the FMS:
    - Helps manage the administrative parts of SDP
  - Why is it required:
    - State law requires it
    - FMS does not control the budget
    - Supports individual/family with managing the budget
  - Role of the FMS:
    - Manage the individual budget
    - Assist with hiring employees
    - Verify employees
    - Background checks
  - Bill Payer (315)
    - Pays for good and services
    - Agency hires only
    - Cannot hire employees such as friend family etc.
    - Pay taxes maintain insurance
  - Co-Employer (316)
    - Participant and FMS work together to hire and fire employees
    - Can hire employees and agencies
    - Covers employee insurance
    - Make sure employment laws are followed
    - Carries liability insurance

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- Sole Employer (317)
  - Direct employer of workers
  - Compliance with employment laws
  - processes payroll
- Who pays for the FMS:
  - As of July 1, 2022—Regional Centers pay for the FMS
  - Based on the model and # of employees/providers
  - Monthly rates are paid to also support preferred languages of participants
  - Employer Burden Rates apply under 316 and 317.
  - Harbor website has all of the FMS information.
- Upcoming Events and Workshops
  - Harbor Transition Event – 11/8/25 at Ability First in LB
  - ILS & SLS presentation in person 11/13/2025 from 6-7pm in person and 11/15/25 9-10:30am via Zoom
  - Peer Hangout ages 18+ 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month from 3-5pm
  - Different Thinkers Learners: Challenges in Emotional Development 12/2 @ 5:30pm.

**Partner Updates:**

- OCRA – Provided updates on rights advocacy services.
  - Offered support with RC services, IEP, disability rights free legal services to RC individuals eligible for services.
  - Change in IHSS hours
  - In a public school and you are requesting new services through IEP
  - IF you receive SSI notices such as denial, they can review
  - Appeals for RC services denied
- State Council (SCDD) – Shared available resources and statewide updates.

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- Technical assistance such as a new family RC services and need information on what the IPP is what services are available etc.
- If family receives a NOA through RC and or school and provide resources on how they can appeal.
- Appeal process and Anti Bullying
- Various trainings for family members, such as supported decision making
- They cannot do direct representation
- Answer questions provide resources and refer to other agencies
- Information on the new parent academy for 2026 was shared, there is an application process that can be vigorous and there are many applications being submitted.
- Guidelight Group:
  - Guidelight shared the current grant/scholarship is to help train new IF's who can work with RC individuals who are deaf and/or hard of hearing. The deadline for the grant is 11/6/2025 and there are currently 22 applicants. By Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> they will announce who the 12 spots will go to.
  - Training will start in January
  - Certificate of comprehension was had at 95% of IF's
  - Language capacity was 9 Spanish, 1 Korean, 6 Mandarin, 1 Japanese, and 1 French.
  - Survey Responses were reviewed regarding IF's training and continuation of services within RCs, underserved and diverse communities.
    - IF's need for individuals to support
    - Can Harbor assist in pairing individuals with new IF's for Mandarin, Chinese, and other languages
    - An opportunity to provide new IF's with 099 trainings
    - Questions regarding how many individuals graduate and how much funds they received.

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They can train 40 individuals during the first training in Jan. and next 40 in July totaling 80. Guidelight stated that individuals graduate and they could continue to provide support, coaching calls to help them with their first participants. They offer group-coaching calls after the cohort finishes. They have an online community.

**Public Comments:**

- LVAC Chair reviewed how public comments would be addressed. First, resource announcement will take place; next, the public can make comments or questions. If support is still needed – reach out to your service coordinator.
- Disability Voices United (DVU) shared they took part in developing SDP law. DVU has monthly meetings with SDP Connect, and think outside the box. DVU has recording on their Youtube channel. DVU has a sold out conference-taking place on Nov 19<sup>th</sup> in DTLA with speakers for SDP and Supported Decision Making. DVU has two published books for purchase on Amazon. DVU expressed concerns with how Harbor is handling Rate Reform/Increases.
  - Harbor Staff reviewed Harbor's current stance on Rate Reform/Increases. The community was informed that rate increases are not automatic and are only applied when a participant is using a vendor provided in the Spending Plan, or when there is a circumstance due to change in needs. DDS is aware of Harbor's practice and until clear instructions are given by DDS—Harbor will not change its practice.
- DVU stated they are not in agreement with Harbor's rate Increase practice. Further comments about the time limits to public comments was stated. DVU expressed concerns for the SDP training being provided for the public during the LVAC meetings.



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- Public member expressed a request for timelines on how long it takes to process a spending plan, a budget, etc. Public member was not in agreement with the time limits for public comments.

**SDP Success Stories:**

Ricardo Orozco shared two SDP participants' success stories and noted the positive impact of the program.

**Closing:**

- Upcoming Orientations:
  - November 15, 2025 (English) 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- Next SDAC Meeting: January 7, 2025, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Erika Castillo/David Hernandez