



Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) August 5, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present:

Deaka McClain-Individual Served, Committee Chair
Kathy Maye – Parent
Maria Elena Walsh – Harbor Regional Center
Resource Center Manager
Shirlys Gruber – Parent
Mayra Garcia – Parent
Kyungshil Choi – Parent
Marleni Pineda – Parent
Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate
David Gauthier – Committee Member
Courtney Mangus - OCRA

Harbor Staff Present:

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director
Antoinette Perez – Director
LaWanna Blair – Director
Wendy Velazquez – PCS Member
Bryan Sanchez – CSM
David Hernandez – CSM
Jimmy Silvestre – CSM
Johnny Granados – CSM
Kelsey Machado – CSM

Visitors:

Lucy Paz – Interpreter
Jane Sakurai – ASL Interpreter
Aaron Mosley
Albert Feliciano – SCDD Advocate
Alicia Coleman-Clark
Amy Canal
Ana Davaa
Austyn Perez – PPL FMS
Candelaria Juarez
Claudia Wenger
Debra Jorgensen

Visitors Continued:

Della
Fiaz Shah
Irina Nemseva
Ivon Muñiz Diaz
KeAndra Okeke
Linda Chan Rapp, IF
Linda Wind
Lisa Sorensen
Lívier Pérez
Lulú Aguilar
Maria Lopez
Preselah Seymore – GT Independence
(FMS)
Shelia Jones
Sydnee Campbell
Tracy Lambertucci
Ty Johnson

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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Call To Order:

- Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) was called to order at 6:10 PM on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, via Zoom.
- Quorum was established.

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

Mission Statement: Read aloud by Maria Elena Walsh and Shirlys Gruber

• 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	<u>Committee Agreements (read aloud by Kathy Maye):</u> • We agree to be respectful of each other • We agree to respect privacy by not sharing any personal information • 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
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Open Forum:

- Gavi Gershov (TrueCare FMS) - Courtesy vendor with Harbor and working for over a year and a half. They pay providers within 24 hours. They do not have budget caps. They are utilizing a new platform. They offer Spanish speaking employees, staff, and a Spanish platform option. <https://app.truecarefms.com/interest>
- Linda Chan Rapp (IF) - Offers support to individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing. BenisseTDL@gmail.com
- Ty Johnson (VIP) - Hosting an Open House on August 18 from 10am – 4pm. Contact Ty for more information, no registration is required. Phone: 310-420-2723. Address: 141311 Cerise ave #207, Hawthorne, CA. 90250. They offer services such as social skill enhancement, money management, conflict resolution, basic life skills in a form that is engaging through entertainment. Serve individuals 21 years and older, do not service individuals with behaviors.
- Preselah Seymore (GT Independence) - pseymore@gtindependence.com or 626-718-6733.
- Austyn Perez (PPL) - <https://hubs.ly/Q042tLmm0>

Public Comments:

- Irina Nemseva – Question in chat: Family should not sign contracts with the IF about services and supports that harbor will fund. How can they find an IF. The list was provided in the chat of how to search for and vet an IF.



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- Shirlys Gruber – Question for VIP, Ty Johnson: Inquiry about whether or not VIP offers support to adolescents with money management.
- Ty informed they are not able to at the moment, looking into that in the future.

Committee Chair Statewide Updates:

- Deaka McClain reported on the SSDAC meeting where all regional center chairs attend at the state level for a statewide gathering. Deaka attended the meeting on May 5, 2026, she is pending her notes and will share them during the next SDAC meeting.
- Deaka shared the information can be shared on the DDS website.
- 2026 Trailer Bill and affect it will have on the LVAC and how the funds will be implemented. The DDS directive released July 14 stated the Department will issue guidance to the regional Centers and LVAC's, but they have not received an update. They do know the implementation funds for the previous year 2025 – 2026 funds will not be affected.
- The next SSDAC meeting where all the LVAC chairs attend will take place August 10, 2026, from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. During this meeting updates will be provided on implementation funds. This meeting is also open to the public.
- Shirlys Gruber – will the previous years funds be affected and have they been assigned with no RFP. The 2025 – 2026 funds have been awarded. Those funds have been approved and will not be affected.
- 2024 – 2025 went to Guidelight and ASLA
- 2025 – 2026 went to Guidelight and LPN

Approval of Minutes:

- June 3, 2026, minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tim'an Ford seconded by Mayra Garcia.
- Miriam Kang – needs her name added to the minutes since she attended.
- Minutes were approved by all committee members in attendance.
- Courtney Mangus obstante from the minutes since she is a new member to the committee.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

- Current SDP Participants
 - Early Childhood – 26 individuals
 - Children and Adolescents – 377 individuals
 - Adults – 255 individuals
 - Total at Harbor – 658 individuals
- Out of State Funding
 - Welfare and Institutes code (WIC) Section 4519:
 - Outlines that funding must remain within the state of California.
 - If an exception is requested and DDS approves an out of state service, services can be approved for 6 months at a time.
 - Subdivision D



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- Outlines that the decision to approve or deny out of state services can be made by the regional center's director, when the service is taking place in a bordering state of CA.
- **Bordering States**
 - Welfare and Institutes code (WIC) Section 4519, clarification on subdivision D. Bordering State with CA.
 - DDS Directive: Purchase out of State Services (7/14/25)
- **Non-Bordering States**
 - Welfare and Institutes code (WIC) Section 4519
 - Request for out-of-state providers must receive approval from the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
- **What is needed for a request**
 - Individual's needs and required services/supports
 - Requested service dates (maximum 6 months)
 - Payment breakdown, including family contribution
 - Provider name, location, services, and why they meet the individual's needs
 - Why services are unavailable in California and efforts made to find them
 - Confirmation the provider was informed about Special Incident Reports
 - Supporting documentation
 - When the approval timeline is up, a new request will need to be submitted

Questions:

- Q1. Miriam Kang – Expressed concern with the timelines associated with requesting out of state funding. As well as the need to receive DDS Approval. Specifically for situations where the service is being delivered in CA but the billing address is out of state. Would like to see a change.
- R1. Harbor shared that if they have a business license in CA there should not be an issue. Patrick will provide clarification as new information is received.
- R2. Courtney (OCRA) shares FMS agencies also have out of state billing addresses and work in CA.
- R3. Deaka will ask for clarification at the next SSDAC roundtable.
- Q2. Shirlys Gruber would like to know if a service can follow someone outside of the state.
- R2. Yes.

• SDP Timelines

- **Starting SDP**
 - Inform Service Coordinator (SC) of interest in SDP
 - Attend both parts of SDP Orientation
 - Choose an Independent Facilitator (IF) – optional
 - Create a Person-Centered Plan (PCP) – optional
 - Choose a Financial Management Service (FMS) and target start date
 - Pre-plan with SC
 - Develop SDP Budget
 - Create Individual Spending Plan
 - Complete Harbor Spending Plan
 - Communicate with FMS
 - Go live in SDP
 - Timeline varies based on the individual/family's understanding of SDP



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- Spending Plan in SDP
 - Spending plans/modifications can take up to 3 weeks after Harbor receives them
 - Delays may occur if the following required information is missing: Provider name, Rate, Frequency, and Total
 - Delays may occur if Harbor needs additional consultation for: Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), ABA Therapy, Speech and Language
 - Out-of-state providers may cause delays
 - Spending plan must stay at or below the approved budget
- Updates
 - IF E-Billing Training
 - September 1, 2026, from 9:30 am – 10:30 am on zoom. Email the PCS team PCSpecialists@harborrc.org for the zoom link and meeting ID.
 - IF Roundtable
 - December 9, 2026, from 10 am – 11am on zoom. Email the PCS team PCSpecialists@harborrc.org for the zoom link and meeting ID.
 - Meetings will occur quarterly.
 - Available IF's
 - Email the PCS team to be added to the list of available IF's
 - Spending Plans
 - New Harbor spending plan template in development
 - Positive feedback received from IFs
 - August 2026 – Pilot with 5 Harbor teams
 - September 2026 – Internal Harbor Training
 - September 2026 – Community Training
 - October 2026 – Community rollout

Questions:

- Q1. Deaka – Is the IF Roundtable open to the community?
R1. Only for practicing IF's.
- Q2. Shirlys – How are we working with specialized services to ensure timelines allow services to be accessed in a timely manner?
R2. It is best to inform the service coordinator as soon as the family is aware they will be adding a new specialized service or provider. Meetings and documentation may be required before approval of the specialized service or provider.
- Q3. Linda – Will the excel spending plan replace the word spending plan.
R3. Yes.
- Q4. Kyungshil – Does the three weeks turnaround time apply to those who are already enrolled in SDP.
R4. Yes

Partner Updates:

1. OCRA | Courtney Magnus| <https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/events>
 - Courtney Mangus did not have any updates but introduced herself.
2. State Council (SCDD) | Albert Feliciano



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- Albert Feliciano shared SCDD has created a back-to-school resource guide bringing together trusted resources regarding special education. <https://scdd.ca.gov/back-to-school-month/>
- SCDD New resource for types of regional center services that are offered. <https://scdd.ca.gov/regionalcenterservices/>
- SDP Orientation is held through State Council and broken up into two parts (Part A and Part B) based on feedback from the community. Each part is two hours long. Will receive a certificate after each part is complete. <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

SDP Success Story:

- Harbor shared a participant success story highlighting the positive impact of the Self-Determination Program from a mother's perspective.

Topic Suggestions- Future Agenda Items:

- Deaka – request to change the title to Future Agenda Items
 - Committee agreed to the name change
- Shirlys – request coaching for the families who are transitioning into SDP.
- Deaka – explain who is on the committee and the number of people from each organization.

Additional Questions/Comments

- Q1. Shirlys – Who prepares the SDAC Agenda?
- R1. PCS creates the agenda based on requests made by the committee via email with at least a 2-week notice.
- Q2. Albert – Does the committee approve the agenda?
- R2. Yes, the minutes and agenda are shared 10 days before the SDAC meeting for committee members to review. Confirmed by committee member via chat.
- Q3. Linda – What kind of support can the SC give to families who want to start SDP and are looking for an FMS.
- R3. Harbor shared a presentation has been done on this in the past and will be something that can be done again.

Next SDAC Meeting:

- September 3, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Machado (CSM) and translated by Wendy Velazquez (PCS).