

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

Opening:

Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) was called to order at 6:06 PM on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, via Zoom.

Quorum was established.

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

Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate

Marelini Pineda – Parent

David Gauthier – Committee Member

Jamie Zollener – Committee Member

Harbor Staff Present:

Antoinette Perez – Director

LaWanna Blair – Director

Ricardo Orozco – PCS

Wendy Velazquez – PCS

Bryan Sanchez – CSM

Kelsey Machado – CSM

Jimmy Silvestre – CSM

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

Erika Castillo – CSM

Becky Garduno – CSM

Osvaldo Sanchez – CSM

Savannah Pio – CSM

Visitors:

Lucy Paz – Interpreter

Albert Feliciano – SCDD Advocate

Naomi Hagel – Phoenix Facilitation

Kim Sinclair – ASLA

Preselah Seymore – GT Independence (FMS)

Tina Ewing-Wilson – Disability Voices United

Roslyn Gray – The Garden

Gina Woodruff – AIM Living Services

Jake Woodruff – AIM Living Services

Aastyn Strandberg – IF

Tina Ewing-Wilson – DVU

Raina Killingsworth – IF

Evelyn Rodriguez – IF with Latino Parents mentor LLC

Austyn Perez – PPL FMS

Usuario de Zoom

Taylor Roppa – Davids' Place Long Beach

Maria G Santos

Livier Perez

Lourdes Gomez

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

Aastyn Strandberg

Agnes Pitlik

Ara Lopez

Camen Silva

Carmyn Wyrick

Carmen Vasquez

Cesilia Ortiz

Flerida Meza

Heeli Kim-Jeng

Irma P

Delia Fernandez

Junko Kubo

Tina Ewing-Wilson

Teresa Hernandez

Letecia Espinoza

Flerida Meza

Adelayda Sanchez

Lisa Sorenson

Marina Roman

Jeanise

John Bravo

JaNae Waterfield

Abbreviations:

Harbor: Harbor Regional Center

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

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

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 Kathy Maye and Maria Elena Walsh)

Committee Responsibilities (read aloud by 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

Committee Agreements (read aloud by Deaka McClain):

- We agree to be respectful of each other

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- 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:

- Cesilia Ortiz (Padres for Ninos) – Offering SDP information for free to the community at Tichenor every third Saturday of the month.
- Preselah Seymore (GT Independence) –FMS that is interested in educating the community with SDP, no budge cap, no waitlist.
- Ana Davaa – can help with translation and interpretation shared her contact information. They can support families who speak Russian, Korean and Mongolian.
- Austyn Perez (PPL) – community liaison
- Tina Ewing-Wilson Outreach Specialist (Disability Voices United) – community liaison

Public Comments:

- Mayra – wants more details of how many IF from Guidelight Group, ASLA, and State council. Also clarified she wanted all the IF who have graduated in the state of California. She also stated she believes she has been asking for 6 months.
 - Harbor clarified that they could work with the recipients of Implementation Funds (Guidelight and ASLA/Pheonix) to gather IF's trained under the funds however, data on all IF trained statewide would be a bigger ask and State Council will have to be added to the conversation.
 - A total of 117 IF's have graduated with SDP Implementation Funds.
 - Trainings were provided in English, Spanish and ASL.
- Guidelight Group – requested ASL interpretation at all SDAC meetings moving forward since some of her IF need it to attend.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- Translation needs to be requested within 5 days of the meeting. Will be added to the flyer moving forward.
- Deaka – clarified Harbor is no longer hosting orientations. State council is now hosting.
- Marleni – wanted to clarify informed decision making. Starting SDP has allowed them to make informed decisions. The IF can also share a small presentation of what to expect before starting the process.
- Shirlys – commented on the IF and knowing they can fire them if they are not a fit. They requested the presentation to educate families to know what the limits and the rights are. Would like to add to bad practices with sharing of personal information.
 - Harbor shared that this is something that can be added to the presentation and the IF should be sharing and including family throughout the entire process.
- Debra – continues to educate what the individuals needs are and the wide range of support the IF can provide.
- Mayra – Some IFs are not pushing back when services are being removed from the budget. How can we stop that.
 - Harbor clarified by interviewing the IF before hiring them.

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 with committee members by next SDAC meeting.

- Deaka received a response from the letter that the committee agreed to send to SSDAC. It was positive and they liked the detailed information that was provided.

Approval of Minutes:

April 1, 2026, minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Tim'an Ford seconded by Kyungshil Choi.

- Mayra Garcia – asked questions about how many IF's graduated from each program and what language they speak.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- Shirlys Gruber – also would like the information shared about the IF's and the graduation rate not just from ASLA and Guidelight
 - Harbor shared that they were unable to go over last SDAC because they ran out of time, but it will be shared today during the implementation funds portion of the agenda.

Minutes were approved by all committee members in attendance: Deaka McClain, Kathy Maye, Maria Elena Walsh, Shirlys Gruber, Mayra García, Kyungshil Choi, and Tim'an Ford.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

- SDP Resource Fair
 - 178 in attendance
 - Had providers such as IF, FMS, and Community Providers
 - Total providers invited 25, 22 attended
 - Improvements
 - IF Presentation
 - FMS Presentation
 - More diversity with providers
 - Bigger space to allow more to attend
 - Photos of the event were shared
 - Deaka – shared she attended the resource fair and was very happy with the turn out and quick thinking with the weather.
 - Shirlys – would have liked more providers and asked if they can have a copy of the list of providers who attended.
 - Marleni – enjoyed the event and thinks it should be held more often because it was such a success.
 - Mayra - requested ASL interpretation and stated it should be at all the events. Harbor clarified that if interpretation is requested Harbor will provide it. Harbor also had an ASL service coordinator to translate, if needed.
- *Best Practices for an Independent Facilitator*
 - *Support Person-Centered Planning*
 - *Educate and Empower Participants*
 - *Assist with budget and Spending Plan Development*

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- *Improper Practices for an Independent Facilitator*
 - *Making Decision for the Participant*
 - *Controlling the budget*
 - *Provide Direct Services*
 - *Misinterpret SDP Directives and Guidelines*
 - *Duplicate Regional Center Responsibilities*
 - *Provides Low Quality Documentation*
- List of Independent Facilitators and SDP Ombudsperson
 - <https://www.thecasdpnetwork.org/independent-facilitators>
 - <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/office-of-the-ombudsperson>
- Questions
 - Shirlys – asked why the IF cannot be listed as anything other in the spending plan.
 - Harbor clarified that they can only be an IF or somewhere else in the spending plan, not both.
 - Deaka – why would the IF not share information with the family
 - The IF should want to empower the individual, but some want to make the individual reliant on them to collect funding.
 - Shirlys – asked for clarification on improper practices and asked for clarification on pre-transition services and the IFs.
 - Harbor clarified what pre-transition services are and encouraged families to interview the IF to ensure they can support the individual in the way that meets their needs.
- Pre-transition Supports (099)
 - Single invoice reflecting 099 services
 - Single invoice reflecting 099 services
 - What should be included:
 - Service code
 - Date a service was rendered
 - Specific task worked on
 - Time spent
 - Rate (\$50.48 per hour – DDS rate)
 - Total cost for the task

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- Family will need to verify that they have reviewed and agree with the invoice.
- SDP Implementation Funds
 - FY 2022 – 2023
 - Guidelight Group had 19 received certificates
 - ASLA 28 received certificates
 - Deaka – asking if they are all serving Harbor RC families. Asking for a survey to see how many IF serve Harbor RC individuals specifically.
 - Guidelight Group – clarified each IF they are training will work with two Harbor RC individuals within a year. Some have already set up a business and have been working with more than two individuals.
 - Shirlys – asking Guidelight Group how many language they have serving other languages.
 - Guidelight Group responded they have shared in the past and will share the slides again for language.
 - ASLA – Will add it to the program and gather data to see how many IF serve Harbor RC specifically
 - Kathy – shared she was not suited to be an IF after she completed the course but now feels confident to manage her sons SDP budget effectively.
 - Marleni – shared she took the IF course to help her children but now has started a small business to help others. She does see we are lacking coaching after they have graduated from the program.
 - Guidelight Group – shared they are taking the 19 that received that certificate would receive in depth mentoring and shadowing IF who have been doing the work for many years.
 - ASLA – also provides training with advanced topics and coaching before they go out on their own
 - Mayra – stated she has been asking for this information for months about IF and the graduation

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

rate not just from ASLA and Guidelight Group but everyone. Statewide was mentioned.

- Antoinette – clarified that ASLA and Guidelight Group do submit reports quarterly. In the upcoming awarded funds, both programs will include an IF mentoring/coaching component.
 - Shirlys – also took the IF training and does want the IF coaching and training
- FY 2023 – 2024
- Guidelight Group currently training 12
 - ASLA currently training 14

Partner Updates:

- OCRA
 - Jamie Zoellner shared a link to upcoming trainings on the fair hearing process and IHSS. They are also able to support with IEP, IPP, and any issues with Regional Centers.
 - <https://www.disabilityrightscalifornia.org/events>
- State Council (SCDD)
 - Albert Feliciano could not attend.
 - <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
 - 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.
- ASLA
 - If training has been completed, total of 8 modules and 48 hours of training. Additional training occurred as natural opportunities arose.
 - Accepted 25 Harbor individuals and 43 non-Harbor.
 - 9 Harbor completed the training, and 16 non-Harbor completed the training
 - 1 Harbor individual and 9 non-Harbor individuals missed a session in this cycle and will not receive a certificate, if the opportunity is available, will allow them to make up sessions

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER
Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
February Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2026

- Additional 5 graduates from previous training (4 English, 1 bilingual) who made up sessions
- IF's shared via survey:
 - PCP module was the most important
 - Lectures in preferred language was important to Harbor population
 - IF as a business and employment was the most valuable
 - IF's had to complete a PCP as homework, trainees had positive feedback regarding this assignment.
 - Trainees shared that peer interaction will help them become better IF's
- Shirlys – requested clarification on the funds that were approved and adding coaching or advanced training.
- ALSA confirmed they offer coaching and advanced training on multiple topics.

SDP Success Story:

- Harbor shared a participant success story highlighting the positive impact of the Self-Determination Program for a pair of siblings with different needs.

SDP Orientation:

- Calendar and QR code was shared in the chat
 - <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation>

Closing:

- Next SDAC Meeting
 - June 3, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

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