HARBOR
REGIONAL CENTER

Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC)
September 02, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Committee Members' Present:
Deaka McClain-Individual Served, Committee Chair
Kathy Maye – Parent
Mayra Garcia – Parent
Miriam Kang – Parent
Shirlys Gruber – Parent
Kyungshil Choi – Parent
Marleni Pineda – Parent
Tim'an Ford – Peer Advocate

Harbor Staff Present:
Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director
Antoinette Perez – Director
Ricardo Orozco – PCS
Wendy Velazquez – PCS
Bryan Sanchez – CSM
Jimmy Silvestre – CSM
Kelsey Machado – CSM
David Hernandez – CSM
Yessica Toscano – CSM
Johnny Granados – CSM
Jessica Sanchez – CSM

Visitors:
Fernando Nunez – Spanish Interpreter
Sarah Haw – Korean Interpreter
Aastyn Strandberg – IF
Aaron Mosley
Adaptive SDP
Adelayda Sanchez
Adriana Garcia
Albert Feliciano – SCDD Advocate
Amelia Castellanos
Austyn Perez – PPL FMS
Beth Martinko

Visitors *Continued*:
Carolina Beltran
Cecilia Ramos
Celeste Hernandez
Cendy Topete ICC
Cesilia Ortiz Barajas
Claire Seo
Debra Jorgensen
Don D
Elvia Martinez
Gilberta Castellanos
Ivon Muniz Diaz
Jaquline Casas
JeNae Waterfield
Johnanthony Alaimo
Jose Luis Avalos
Kenghuy Ung
Kim Lewis
Kim Sinclair – ASLA
Laura
Lisa Sorensen
Lisa Walker
Lulu Aguilar
Marizela Arroyo
Michael Velasco
Naomi Hagel – Phoenix Facilitation
Nisha J
Peng Luo
Preselah Seymore – GT Independence (FMS)
Reiko Umeda
Shelia Jones
Sydnee C
Teresa Hernandez
Tina Ewing-Wilson – Disability Voices United
Tyrone Johnson

Abbreviations:

Harbor: Harbor Regional Center	DDS: Department of Developmental Services
IF: Independent Facilitator	RFP: Request for Proposal
PCP: Person-Centered Plan	SDAC: Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee
SCDD: State Council on Developmental Disabilities	OCRA: Office of Clients' Rights Advocacy
SDP: Self-Determination Program	ASLA: Autism Society of Los Angeles
DVU: Disability Voices United	CSM: Client Services Manager
FMS: Financial Management Service	

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Call To Order:

- Harbor Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) was called to order at 6:05 PM on Wednesday, September 02, 2026, via Zoom.

- Quorum was established at 6:06 PM.

Welcome: Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat.

Mission Statement: Read aloud by Maria Elena Walsh and Kathy Maye.

Committee Responsibilities (read aloud by Tim'an Ford):	Committee Agreements (read aloud by Tim'an Ford):
• 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	• 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

Open Forum:

- Kelly Kulzer-Reyes (IF): Taft College, free, online, non-credit. New program at capacity. The program consists of 3 parts, needs at least 2 out of 3 certificates (SDP Foundations & Person-Centered Planning). Third certificate available is SDP IF certificate. https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/K4CF4cpJ88 | kkulzer@taftcollege.edu

Q1: How can a family access these services and how do they fill out an application?
R1: There is a 3-step process. Must be a member of the California Community College to apply, inside of the application you must apply directly to Taft College, and the final piece is you must enroll in the classes at Taft College.

Q2: What are the exact class names?
R2: 3 classes (1: Foundations 9250, 2: Person-Centered Training 9260, 3: IF 9280)

- Armida Ochoa (Ochoa Consulting): Annual conference on November 20. It's an all day conference for families to learn about SDP, special education, and traditional models. Will be in Montebello. https://www.ochoasconsultingllc.com/espanol/ochoa-s-consulting-eventos-especiales

Q1: Are you a vendor with any Regional Center?
R1: Yes, with ELARC, they are willing to do courtesy vendorization with other Regional Centers. You must register to save your spot, even before having the approval from Regional Center.

- Sydnee Campbell (Angel Sense): wandering elopement, two devices. Sydnee@angelsense.com

- Cesilia Ortiz: every third Saturday of every month they offer training for SDP, all are welcome, free for everyone.

- ASLA Summit and Regional Center https://conta.cc/4gMQzAB?fbclid=IwcGRvZgFleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFtZlAzcW5LR3N4TGt6N0U0c3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHr82cdQVezD2U9eEk6UWZ_Ai3Mh0BurDSox-YD25Tm47jJrOjfba1c-tnNrI_aem_t7dRhY6IK1gn9N25sbSgCg

Public Comments:
- None

Committee Chair Statewide Updates:
- Deaka attended the statewide committee chair meeting on August 10, 2026, she has her notes but has not had a chance to update them. She will have them ready for the October meeting.

- Thoughts about going back in-person, would like to have a conversation. Meetings would be in person every other month, beginning January 2027, alternating between the Torrance and Long Beach campus.

Questions:
Q1: Will the meetings still be on Wednesday at the same time? What if a committee member cannot make it due to the commute in either direction?
R1: Yes, same time. There are 10 SDAC meetings per year (5 remote, 5 in-person), members have to make it to 8. Do not have to decide tonight.

Q2: Will these meetings be hybrid for the public to join?
R2: Will have to work out accommodations, if needed. There is also an option for flexibility.

Q3: Suggestion to be hybrid because many of the parents have appointments, therapies, or are working. We must ensure the public is included and we take them into account.

Q4: Will come back to this topic in October or November. Can Harbor assist with additional support for people to attend SDAC?
R4: Harbor can assist with additional childcare, or for our adult individuals we can offer transportation.

Q5: Committee might have a hard time establishing quorum because it is possible no one would show up to the in-person meetings.
R5: Committee members have already made a commitment to these meetings but no decision is being made yet, this is just a dialogue.

Q6: As members yes, we made the commitment, but what about the public? How are they going to be able to attend? Other committees offer hybrid; this is something that should be considered.

Approval of Minutes:

- August 05, 2026, minutes were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes made by Kathy Maye seconded by Maria Elena Walsh.

Minutes were approved by all committee members in attendance: Deaka McClain, Kathy Maye, Mayra Garcia, Miriam Kang, Shirlys Gruber, Kyungshil Choi, Marleni Pineda, Tim'an Ford.

Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:

SDP Enrollment Survey:

- SDP Enrollment Survey 2025 – 2026 Report of Results https://www.harborrc.org/services/self-determination-program-sdp/

Updates:

- Current SDP enrollment: total of 676 SDP, there has been an increase in SDP enrollment roughly about 200 participants

- SDP Enrollment Numbers:
  - Early Childhood – 29
  - Children and Adolescent – 388
  - Adults – 259

- Current FMS – 19 in total; one new added (Balanced FMS)
  - Bill Payer (315) – 19
  - Co-Employer (316) – 15
  - Sole Employer (317) – 16

- IF Round Table:
  - Quarterly Zoom meetings for certified IFs. First meeting: December 9, 2026, 10:00–11:00 AM. Interested IFs may email PCSpecialists@harborrc.org.

- Available IF List:
  - Harbor is compiling a list of IFs accepting participants. The list will be available to service coordinators and families upon request, with the goal of posting it on Harbor's website. Interested IFs should email the PCS team with their contact information and languages support.

- Spending Plan Template:
  - Piloted with five Harbor teams in August. Staff and community training planned for September; rollout anticipated in October 2026. The Harbor template will be required.
    https://www.harborrc.org/events_detail/spending-plan-review/

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SDP Advisory Committee (SDAC) Bylaws:

- Welfare & Institutions Code (WIC) 4685.8 (w)(1)
- Committee Members
  - 50% members are appointed by the Regional Center, 50% by SCDD.
  - Includes individuals served, advocates, community leaders, Client Rights Advocate, and a Family Resource Center representative.
  - Majority of members must be individuals served.
  - Members should reflect the diversity of the Regional Centers catchment area.
- Purpose
  - Reviews SDP implementation and ongoing progress.
  - Ensures SDP advances SDP principles and complies with statutory requirements.
  - Make recommendations to Regional Center and DDS.
  - Regional Center must annually confirm LVAC compliance and report membership information to DDS.

Resources for SDP Participants

- Information about Resources
  - Current utilization of SDP Implementation Funds
    - For FY 24/25 and 25/26 Harbor's SDAC committee voted to use SDP implementation funds for training of independent facilitators, specifically in providing additional support and coaching to current IF's that have received their certification though previous SDP implementation funds.
    - This was agreed upon as IF's have received their certificate; however, they feel they still require additional training to support participants in the SDP.
    - This is with the intention of supporting families transitioning into SDP and supporting them through their SDP journey.
  - Available resources through Harbor's website https://www.harborrc.org/services/self-determination-program-sdp/
    - How to Enroll – steps to transition to SDP
    - History of SDP
    - FMS – Information about FMS vendored with Harbor
    - Frequently Asked Questions
    - Feedback Findings – SDP survey results
    - Resources – Links for DDS, Ombudsperson, DDS Directives, OCRA, DVU and Implementation updates
    - SDAC
  - Future Resources
    - Harbor will be uploading training materials related to SDP by next year.
    - Harbor will have their second SDP Resource Fair in the 2027 year

Accessing an FMS

- Role of the Regional Center:
  - Share FMS options, support enrollment steps, issue POS authorization, and coordinate with the FMS and participants.
  - https://www.thecasdpnetwork.org/independent-facilitators/

- Role of the Participant/Family
  - Compare and select an FMS and model
  - Communicate directly with the FMS

- Role of the Independent Facilitator
  - Help participants understand budgets
  - Compare FMS options
  - Assist participant in making informed choices
  - Assist with coordination/communication between supports and services

- Role of the FMS
  - Explain available models
  - Enrollment & employer responsibilities
  - Payroll, billing, rates, and fees
  - Assist with account setup and coordination

Questions:

Q1: Committee members raised concerns about spending plans and FMS delays and survey participation.
R1: Harbor reported receiving 65/327 surveys (roughly 20% response rate) and will review outreach and presentation of future results.

Q2: Members requested clearer reporting of dissatisfied responses and survey percentages.
R2: Survey response options ranged from strongly agree to strongly disagree. This will be considered for future result reporting.

Q3: The committee requested improved survey participation and clearer results.
R3: Harbor will continue to announce upcoming surveys during SDAC meetings.

Q4: Members asked how surveys were distributed.
R4: Harbor shared via email, mailed copies, and outreach during IPP meetings.

Q5: Supports that Harbor can offer through implementation funds.
R5: These are being funded through the implementation funds to help support IFs in the community.

Q6: Would like to know how many negative responses were in the survey. How many individuals are in SDP at Harbor.
R6: Harbor clarified that the presentation included positive responses out if 100%, the percentage remaining would then account for negative responses. We will take the feedback into consideration when we present data in the future. The presentation will not be redone at the next meeting.

Q7: Would like clarification on the numbers explaining the percentages but it was already presented.
R7: Harbor understands the committee would like to see the data visually.

Q8: Would like more respect and not have her mic cut off.
R8: No mic was closed and clarification was provided to the community.

Q9: Participants asked about FMS selection, communication, and the new spending plan template.
R9: Harbor confirmed that all participants will use the new Harbor spending plan template.

Partner Updates:

1. OCRA | https://www.disabilityrightsca.org/events
   - No representative

2. State Council (SCDD) | Albert Feliciano | https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/
   - Back to School resource guide
     - Promote inclusion, information on IEP, and school services
     - https://scdd.ca.gov/back-to-school-month/
   - Regional Center service codes and details who is eligible to receive which service. It also lists if it is under the traditional model or SDP.
     - https://scdd.ca.gov/regionalcenterservices/

SDP Success Story:

- Harbor shared a participant success story highlighting the positive impact of the Self-Determination Program and the flexibility it allows for specific staffing.

SDP Orientation:

- Calendar and QR code were shared in the chat | https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation

Proposed Future Agenda Items

1. Would like to vote in October or November to move the SDAC meetings in-person.
2. Would like clarity on how families receive support from Harbor.
3. Asking for a percentage for the families who are not satisfied. What can we do to achieve satisfaction. (Refer to Q6|R6 under "Harbors Presentation".)

Next SDAC Meeting:

- October 7, 2026, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM via Zoom.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kelsey Machado and translated by Wendy Velazquez.