

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
Self Determination Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 6, 2024

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:10 PM on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, via Zoom. Quorum was established.

**Committee Member Present**

Deaka McClain – Individual, Self-Determination Advisory Committee Co-Chair  
Maria Elena Walsh – Harbor Family Resource Center  
Tim’an Ford – HRC Peer Advocate  
Miriam Kang – Parent  
Jamie Temple – OCRA  
Kyungshil Choi – Parent

**HRC Staff Present**

Patrick Ruppe – Executive Director  
Antoinette Perez – Director of Children and Adolescent Services  
Aurelio Lopez – Participant Choice Specialist  
Bernice Perdomo-Chavez – Participant Choice Specialist  
Minerva Prado – Client Service Manager  
Bryan Sanchez – Client Service Manager  
Erika Castillo – Client Service Manager  
Kelsey Machado – Client Service Manager

**Visitors**

Lucy Paz, Spanish Interpreter  
Kristianna Moralls, DVU  
Brenda Gertman  
Kim Sinclair, Autism Society of Los Angeles  
Tamra Pauly, IF  
Santiago Villalobos, Phoenix Facilitation  
Sheila Jordan Jones  
Albert Feliciano, SCDD  
Saul Lara  
Adriana Ortiz  
Brianna Viltz  
Debra Jorgensen  
Elizabeth Tom, DDS  
Jennette Lotrean  
Vanessa Hernandez  
Yolanda Gomez  
Sunghee Park, IF  
Shirlys Gruber, Parent  
Adelayda S, Parent  
Tomas Mendez, Parent

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Mariela  
Janett Yataco, Parent  
Ivon Muniz, Parent

**Abbreviations**

HRC: 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

**Welcome:**

Introductions of committee members and guests via the chat.

**Approval of Minutes:**

October 2, 2024 minutes were posted for review. Minutes were approved.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Updates:**

Bernice Perdomo-Chavez presented the SDP data in a graph format via an "HRC SDP" Power Point presentation shared via Zoom.

- Completed PCPs 306; 25 within the soft rollout and 281 from 7/2021 to 10/2024
- Certified Budgets 358; 37 within the soft rollout and 321 from 7/2021 to 10/2024
- Spending Plans 324; 32 within the soft rollout and 292 from 7/2021 to 10/2024
- SDP Live 314; 32 within the soft rollout and 282 from 7/2021 to 10/2024

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SDP by Ethnicity:

White/Caucasian	124
Latino	69
Asian	63
Black	24
Other	17
Multicultural	14
Biracial	2
Native American	1

SDP by Language:

English	264
Spanish	39
Korean	2
Japanese	5
ASL	2
Tagalog	1
Chinese	1

- Number of fully oriented participants: 1,085 (91 are in the follow-up stage, 326 have chosen to withdraw and 368 in the unknown stage).

**Implementation Funds**

Antoinette Perez presented on the amount of implementation funds available - \$98,116.83 for the fiscal year 2025/2026.

- Committee agreed to use funds to train new Independent Facilitators (IFs) in different languages.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) will be posted the first week in December and remain open for 60 days.
- The RFP will include desired languages.
- Committee would like to have two members be a part of the proposal review and scoring process.
- Look at Harbor’s data and determine what Asian languages are needed by the community.

**Guidelight Group Updates:**

- Debra Jorgensen shared that they are in middle of training their second cohort. The first cohort had 9 of 20 individuals earn certificates and are working with individuals served. Data (including diversity) will be collected and presented after 6 months of practice.
- Graduates will come to SDAC to speak next calendar year.

**Autism Society of Los Angeles (ASLA)/Phoenix Facilitation Updates:**

- Kim Sinclair shared that participants are on Module 4 that is very intensive (Person Centered Thinking).
- Naomi Hagel shared that they are learning specific skills to practice a different way of thinking and incorporate with conversations with others.
- 31 individuals in cohort (1 Mixed, 1 Indonesian, 1 Korean, 2 African America, 2 Chinese, and 4 Filipino).
- Read feedback from IF students praising the program.

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**Statewide Updates:**

- N/A

**Partner Updates:**

**Office of Clients and Rights Advocacy (OCRA) – Jamie Temple**

- Any questions, contact OCRA:  
Jamie Temple Zoellner  
562-623-9911  
[OCRA.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org](mailto:OCRA.hrc@disabilityrightsca.org)

**SCDD- Albert Feliciano Updates:**

- To attend the SCDD Statewide Trainings held on Mondays at 10 am, focused on the Regional Center System:  
Meeting ID#883-2711-3155 Password: 2024  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeU3zu0qt2l9Xg48JPx6sJKTGil6RO0LJALHoDy6q8u3KAqSA/viewform>
- State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Self-Determination Program (SDP) Statewide Orientation:  
<https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
- SCDD reports that many service providers who are charging higher rates to SDP participants, leading to price gouging. Making a recommendation for DDS and/or Harbor to create a policy or directive to maintain rates consistent with traditional rates to help families and ensure integrity of the SDP.

**Public Comments:**

- Participant asked about the process to become part of the committee.
- When and if there are vacancies, half are assigned by Harbor and half by SCDD.
- SCDD has a waitlist and application for individuals interested in joining the SDAC committee.
- Participant shared that IFs are charging rates higher than others are.
- Participant asked if there is a time limit for committee members.
- To be considered for the SDAC committee, person should be committed to the mission statement and committed to attending 10 meetings per calendar year.
- Participant shared that committee members should be time limited.
- Participant asked if participants are allowed to communicate in their preferred method.
- Participant asked committee to establish participation standards detailing protocol for how many meetings could be missed. Harbor will present data in January 2025 on how many times quorum was not met in the last year.

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- Executive Director stated that since meeting quorum has not been an issue, this task is not necessary at this time.
- Participant suggested SDP support/focus groups for parents who want to contribute. Harbor will bring it up in February/March 2025.
- Participant shared they are not yet live in SDP because they are stuck, too many protocols and have contacted the ombudsperson.
- Participant asked how to speak to providers about SDP.
- SDP resource fair in the planning stage for 2025.
- Participant shared they are grateful for all the assistance they have received in effecting a positive change in their child's life.
- Participant shared that service coordinators need help with supporting families in SDP.
- Participant shared they have no issues with Harbor but many with FMS agencies.
- Participant shared that businesses or providers often need to hear from other businesses/providers about taking SDP clients. Those providers speak the same language and can persuade and encourage reluctant providers.
- Participant Yolanda Gomez shared they would like to share their strategies in communicating with providers, providing her email: [Yoli@zemog.com](mailto:Yoli@zemog.com).
- IF shared they have several Harbor SDP participants that are enjoying their activities.
- Participant shared that FMS agencies have issues with paying up front.
- Participant shared they just graduated from the Guidelight IF Training group and her son is doing well starting his second year in SDP. She offered her services and contact information: [Jyataco@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jyataco@sbcglobal.net); 323-578-1970.
- Participant shared they have two individuals in SDP (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year), and experienced a smooth transition with their service coordinator.
- Participant asked about an SDP survey.
- Participant suggested Harbor gather data on individuals who are stuck in the middle phase as well.
- Harbor will present data (February/March 2025) on why individuals are in the undecided phase of the SDP process.

**Next meeting:** January 8, 2025 via Zoom 6PM – 8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Aurelio Lopez