



**Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2026 - 4:00pm-5:30pm**

****REVISED/UPDATED****

MEETING NOTICE/DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting is open to the public – all are welcome to attend

PLEASE NOTE

There will be a public comment period at the *beginning* of the meeting to provide guests an opportunity to address the committee.

****We honor confidentiality and you can make public comment anonymously.****

After the public comment period, the committee will be conducting business and will NOT be engaging with guests.

Questions can be submitted to through the “Chat” feature and will be recorded.

SDLAC Members:

Jennifer Walsh (Chair/Self-Advocate) - present
Sascha Bittner (Self-Advocate)
Elizabeth Grigsby (GGRC Consumer Rights Advocate/Self-Advocate)
Kristin Zlogar (OCRA-Attorney/Clients’ Rights Advocate) - present
Alyson Sinclair (Parent Advocate) - present
Christine Kantor (Parent Advocate) - present
Ken Parekh (Parent Advocate) - present
Brenda Bachechi (Community Advocate/Provider)
Sandy Chin (Parent Advocate) - present
Barclay Lynn (Advocate)
Aparna Kommineni (Advocate)

Partners:

Sheraden Nicholau (SCDD-Regional Manager, Bay Area Office) - present
Department of Developmental Services - present

Olga Maldonado, SFF - present
Patricia Idrugo, FRC -
Pragnya

GGRC Partners:

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present
Lisa Rosene (Director, Regional Center Services)
Juliet Esperanza, SDP Team – present
Lop Hou (Chief Financial Officer) - present
Anh Nguyen (Recording Secretary)

Guests:

Debra Adler, parent
Jeanette Castro, PPL
Chris Aguirre, DDS
Tina Ewing-Wilson, DVU
Chelsea Coffin, Adjoin/PCP
Lilian Ansari
Amelia Edellman, IF/Lionheart
Sophia Zhao
Angela Ong
Wendy Reyes Orellana, SFF
Sonia Valenzuela

- I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh) (10 minutes)
 - a. Roll call (Nguyen)
 - i. Guest introductions are optional
 - b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) M/S Ken, Alyson, unanimous consent
 - c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) M/S Ken, Alyson, unanimous consent

- II. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program (Walsh/Hou) (5 minutes)
 - a. Update on GGRC's SDLAC expenditures
Lop provided an update and said there are funds that need to be expended prior to April 2026 from previous years.

- III. SDP Waiver renewal (Walsh) – (5 minutes)
Jennifer provided a prepared statement.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (20 minutes)

- a. Comments are limited to FOUR minutes per speaker on items not on the agenda, 20 minutes total.
- b. We welcome critiques and feedback but ask speakers refrain from personal attacks on individuals or the committee.
- c. The committee will not be responding to comments but may address them further down in the agenda or in future agenda items.

Debra: It's imperative the SDP waiver gets renewed and I'll do whatever I can. Nicole's life would be 100% different if she wasn't on SDP. On Monday, Nicole interviewed SPI Tony Thurmond as gubernatorial candidate at the Lanterman Coalition panel.

Amelia: I will absolutely be submitting public comment in support of the SDP waiver renewal, personally and professionally. Raised at the previous meeting and people were missing, but hoping to tie up a loose end on the new social rec policy, but it's been a positive thing. Thanks to the SDP Team. If there's anything written documented policy, that would be helpful so there's less back and forth with the SDP team – these are the rules, this is how it impacts the spending plan.

Jeanette: PPL FMS accepting new enrollments and no budget caps, model bill payer and new employers.

V. GGRC SDP Team Update (Esperanza) – (10 minutes)

- a. Participant data points: number of persons currently enrolled, number of participants in the process, how long participants have been enrolled

Team has been busy. Currently have 427 active participants. Angelina has 20 people who are being actively onboarded. Janika shared how the increase of cases during her tenure on the SDP team has grown exponentially and it's been positive.

VI. DDS Proposed Trailer Bill language (Parekh) – (10 minutes)

Ken shared the proposed TBL and discussed the proposal for reallocation of SDLAC implementation funding. There's a letter that has been drafted asking the legislature to protect the funding to give the SDLAC opportunities to address disparity, equity and outreach to traditionally underserved populations for SDP.

Jennifer shared funds are being shifted to admin. Sheraden clarified this change might have something to do with fingerprinting requirements.

Chris from DDS suggested the SDLAC reach out to the DDS SDP Team and that this is proposed trailer bill, so there's still opportunity to weigh in on changes. Eric said he understands if feels like a threat to the committee, but the funds already allocated remain open for previous years.

Sheraden shared the SDP TBL fact sheet: https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/4300DDS_TBLFactSheet_SDPAdministrativeCostsFunding.pdf

Alyson would like time to fully evaluate whether this particular language and would like to understand more across all the regional centers what sort of financial impact they will absorb. Is the cost the main driver for putting the language into TBL.

Eric asked Sheraden to share the SCDD's SDP study. <https://scdd.ca.gov/ssdac/>

a. Legislative advocacy letter for SDLAC funding (ACTION) – M/S

VII. Discussion and review of SDLAC Committee Centered Plan (Parekh) – (10 minutes)
Ken shared an update on the plan and is working with Pragnya on IF/service providers on addressing language issues. How are we measuring effectiveness on our two contractors in terms of outcomes? Ken will try and summarize things. All members are invited to join the monthly sessions. Ken requested Juliet to follow up on SDP team's for input on how to proceed with resource fairs. Juliet and Rey are focusing on Spanish-speaking families, difficult to find Spanish-speaking IFs, they're working on this. Wendy: SFF shared <https://supportforfamilies.org/self-determination/>, they'll be doing workshops in Cantonese and Spanish as well. Sheraden: feedback to DDS is important and collaborative attention to an issue can help address issues, for example with FMSs. Another bottleneck to address now is the issue with IFs. Ken: attended Calif launch and there's an effort being made to professionalize the field.

VIII. SDLAC Workgroup Reports (10 minutes)

- Participant Onboarding (Ken/Sascha)
- Outreach and Equity Coordination (Christine/Alyson/Elizabeth)
- Best Practices (Brenda/Sandy)

IX. SCDD Update (Nicholau) – (5 minutes)

Applications for GGRC SDLAC, three applicants have come through and have a few more steps to go through. Ken and Jennifer are serving as an unofficial membership committee. Applicants are both from SF and Marin, family advocate and professional/retired professional.

Earlier shared the SCDD statewide SDLACs, check out the information.

X. GGRC Updates (Zigman) – (5 minutes)

Within two or three weeks of being able to announce a replacement for Lisa Rosene's position, we're not going to lose ground with the transition. Ken asked Eric about TBL on

board composition, Eric thought that there might be a move towards more professionalization of the boards since there is a large amount of funds that flow through some RCs, sometimes upwards of \$1 Billion.

XI. Disability Rights California Update (OCRA) – (5 minutes) – No report

XII. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 26, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM