

Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 23, 2026 - 4:00pm-5:30pm

MEETING NOTICE/DRAFT AGENDA

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

Join us on Zoom:

<https://ggrc.zoom.us/j/83436815541?pwd=6CHlJqOaMYoaBtltbsen5j04N9EGYD.1>

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

Partners:

Greg Gonzalez, State Council on Developmental Disabilities - present
Chris Aguirre, Department of Developmental Services- present
Olga Maldonado, SFF - present
Sonia Valenzuela, FRC – present
Pragnya - absent

GGRC Partners:

Eric Zigman (Executive Director) - present
Jayashree Nathaniel - present
Juliet Esperanza (Supervising Social Worker, SDP) - present
Meghan Reynard - absent
Janika Jamarillo (Participant Choice Specialist, SDP) - present
Lop Hou (Chief Financial Officer) – present
Aria Alokozai (Recording Secretary)

Guests:

Tina Ewing-Wilson, DVU
Bianca Magallon-Flores, PPL
Sonia Valenzuela
Beth Martinko
Kristianna Moralls
Rosie Lasca
Andrea Bonner

The Committee had a quorum to conduct business after roll call and approve the minutes from last month's meeting and agenda.

I. Welcome/Call to order (Walsh) (10 minutes)

- a. Roll call (Aria)
 - i. Guest introductions are optional
- b. Approval of Agenda (Walsh) M/S, Sascha, Allyson
- c. Approval of Minutes (Walsh/All) M/S, Liz, Ken

II. Public Comment Highlights

- Beth shared a new FMS selector tool: single URL to compare all FMSs and narrow down by individual needs
- Tina (DVU): shared SDP resource website; DVU offers free meetings for participants
- Bianca McGallan-Flores (PPL): community liaison, introduced PPL as an FMS
- Kristiana (Self Determination Institute): shared free “Complete Guide to SDP” walkthrough; also recruiting IFs for PhD dissertation survey

- Rosie Lasca (IFTA/IF Hub): announced new university launch and updated academy courses
- Andrea (Neural Nav): IF agency with no waitlist, seeking new clients
- Sonia (FRC San Mateo County): FY27 training calendar in development, serves birth to 22 in San Mateo County

III. SDP Team Update (Juliet)

- Total enrolled: 529 (not including those actively enrolling)
 - Ages 0-22: 66% of participants; youngest enrolled is 4 years old (18 individuals at age 4)
 - Ages 23+: ~159 participants; oldest is 65; ~9 participants aged 50+
- Ethnicity breakdown (self-identified):
 - Chinese: 81, Multicultural: 58, Spanish-speaking: 31, African American: 15, Asian Indian: 13
 - Spanish-speaking community noted as underrepresented relative to GGRC catchment area population
- Team capacity under strain: only 4 SDP social workers and 2 participant choice specialists (Janika Jaramillo, Angelina Demetry) handling budgets
- Spending plan process issues flagged:
 - Plans need to reach accounting ~14 days before start date for review
 - Allowability of services often unclear; team needs earlier conversations about planned spending plan items
 - Start dates frequently misunderstood: FMS confirming “8/1 start” does not guarantee funding is processed
- Juliet’s proposed fix: earlier front-end conversations about spending plan contents before submission
- Success story: SDP participant group formed a bowling team with an IF, won first place

IV. New Committee Member: Olga Maldonado

- Olga (Support for Families, community navigator) appointed as full SDAC member
 - Appointment is a GGRC/Golden Gate Regional Center appointment; no vote required under 2013 self-determination law
 - Next appointment will rotate to SCDD
- Olga’s background:
 - 17-year-old daughter has been in SDP for one year
 - Supports Spanish-speaking community; has witnessed firsthand how difficult it is to find Spanish-speaking IFs even for the first enrollment step
- Eric (GGRC) noted Olga also has sensitivity to Cantonese-speaking and other underserved communities

V. Committee Plan and Working Group Structure

- Four active goals: SDP participant onboarding, outreach and equity, IF capacity building, data coordination
- Key ongoing initiatives:

- Support for Families contract extended: monthly support groups, 1:1 and group coaching for SDP-oriented participants
- Shared SDP Bay Area website: relaunch in progress, will host IF directory and resources
- Resource fairs: planning county-level fairs again; exploring partnership with SF Autism Society (San Mateo) and seeking a Marin County partner
- Translation gap: leaning toward recruiting multilingual IFs rather than standalone interpretation services
- Succession planning flagged as a priority:
 - Vice chairs needed for each working committee
 - Co-chairs (Ken, Jennifer) actively seeking others to step into leadership roles
 - Sascha suggested consolidating committees to reduce meeting load and improve collaboration
- Fall special session planned: revisit priorities and structure once DDS implementation funding guidance is clearer

VI. IF Capacity Building RFP: Recommendations and Vote

- RFP covered five areas; committee split them into two tranches:
 - Tranche 1 (voted on today): directory, training/handbook, ongoing resources, scholarships
 - Tranche 2 (returning to market): community database, resource fair partnership, meeting moderator
- Recommendations approved by committee vote:
 - 1A (searchable IF directory): IFTA (Rosie Lasca's organization)
 - Selected for accessible website, equity of access for both providers and self-advocates
 - 1B and 1C (training/handbook and ongoing resource/office hours): GuideLight Group
 - Selected for collaborative approach, willingness to pivot as SDP evolves, and use of locally embedded IFs
 - 1D (Spanish and Cantonese capacity): scholarships to train bilingual/bicultural IFs through Guide Light
 - Shift from interpretation-only model to training facilitators who can work in participants' languages
- Key theme from RFP process: not more static training materials, but ongoing collaboration and capacity building
- Open item: 099 PDS vendorization
 - GGRC is the only regional center without a mechanism for 099 PDS
 - Lop (GGRC): solvency requirements are a barrier for many FMS applicants; at least one FMS currently in process
 - Guidelight has compiled a list of FMSs already vendored for 099 PDS at other regional centers
 - Eric committed to a community services report on vendorization status at the August meeting

- Ken flagged this has been an open item since August 2025; pushed for progress before the August meeting

VII. SCDD and Budget Updates

- SCDD events (Greg Gonzalez):
 - ADA Day film festival: Sunday July 26, Roxy Theater SF, 1-4pm (Section 504 sit-in footage + Vivian's Wild Ride documentary)
 - Town hall with SCDD Executive Director Erin Carothers: Thursday August 27, San Mateo County FRC; includes special education basics seminar
 - Bay Area RAC autism survey: seeking Californians with diagnosed or undiagnosed autism; 10-15 min online survey, focus group option available
- Budget trailer bill language (Eric):
 - Governor's May revision proposed eliminating \$2.4M for SDP local advisory committees statewide
 - Advocacy reduced the cut to \$1M total remaining
 - FY2627 funds restricted to: statewide standardized training and local community resource fairs (DDS directive language; statute may allow broader interpretation)
 - GGRC committee allocation estimate: \$30,000-\$35,000 (down from ~\$75,000/year)
 - Higher end of range possible given GGRC's strong per-capita SDP growth
 - RFP approved today is unaffected (funded through FY ending June 30, 2026)
 - Further DDS guidance expected within ~one month before funds can be deployed

Next Steps

- **Send full SDP enrollment data with percentages to committee** (Juliet)
 - Includes ethnicity breakdown and county split; Ken and Jennifer to receive first.
- **Begin contracting with IFTA and GuideLight Group**
 - Committee vote approved; Eric and Lop to confirm allocation before funds are deployed.
- **Progress 099 PDS vendorization before August meeting** (Lop)
 - At least one FMS in process; Eric to coordinate with community services and report status in August.
- **Investigate GGRC's 099 PDS requirements vs. other regional centers** (Lop)
 - GuideLight has a full list of FMSs already vendored elsewhere; gap analysis needed.
- **Plan fall special session on committee restructuring and DDS priorities**
 - Revisit working group structure, succession planning, and funding priorities once DDS guidance is issued.

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

IX. Adjourn

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 27, 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

***** Should you need or require interpretation services or any other accommodations to participate, please contact SDP@ggrc.org at least seven days in advance of the meeting.*****