



Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)

Date: Thursday, September 17, 2026

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

San Andreas Regional Center
6203 San Ignacio Ave, Ste 200,
San Jose, CA 95119

Join Via Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83405643674?pwd=kO2FUAYa2MGU2NmOvZHznW1waQ4JWb.1>

Meeting ID: 834 0564 3674

Passcode: 040046

One tap mobile

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To obtain disability accommodations and interpretation, contact Evelyn Contreras, at econtreras@sarc.org one week in advance.

Committee Agenda

I.	2 minutes	Member Introductions (Others via chat)
II.	25 minutes	Public Comments *
III.	3 minutes	Approval of minutes
IV.	5 minutes	Committee Updates: • Revision of Guidelines
V.	10 minutes	Reports/Updates: • DDS Directive Updates • SARC Report/Updates • SCDD Update
VI.	15 minutes	Member Questions and Discussion • Workgroup Updates – Vendor – Finance – Labor Laws • Proposal to adjust the date and time of meetings
VII.		Adjourn. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15, 2026, 10:30 – 12:00 pm

**Public Comment is an opportunity to share feedback, highlight service gaps, and request program improvements. SDAC will use public input to guide its recommendations.*

**Please do not share personal information, keep comments focused on the committee, to share written feedback email econtreras@sarc.org.*

**We encourage local businesses to share their information in the chat, as well as local events and information that is for the community but not relevant to advising the committee.*

**SAN ANDREAS REGIONAL CENTER
SELF DETERMINATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
July 16,2026**

Members Present:	David Forderer	Uma Venkatesh
	Kavita Sreedhar	Stephanie Krol
	Joanna Kent	Lori Luzader
	Stephanie Krol Vieira	Shamim Punnilath
	Laura Harris	Mary Tang
	Suzanne Francisco	Jean Jihong Chen

Members Absent: Kavita Sreedhar

Staff:	Javier Zaldivar	Lourdes Gonzalez
	Grecia Magana	Lisa Hartley
	Evelyn Contreras	Jennifer Huntley
	Irene De La Rosa	Anna Wall
	Karla Cruz	

Community:	Jennifer Lucas	Ha Tran
	Doug Pascover	Natalia Zuberbahler
	Andrea Bonner	Ricardo Del Hoyo, PPL
	David Bloch	Stephanie Park
	Kayley Proenza	Special Kids Connect
	Tyler	Tracie Soder, SLP
	Connie Boyer	Olaf Luevano, Ritz FMS
	Bridgette Raney	Laura Noland

The Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) commenced at 10:32 p.m. presided by Mr. David Forderer, Committee Chair followed by introductions.

1. Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the June and May Minutes with no changes.

M/S/C Moved to approve the June and May minutes (Kent/Forderer). No further discussion. The ayes have it. Motion carries.

Member Present	Voted
Stephanie Krol	Aye
Jean Jihong Chen	Abstain
Joanna Kent	Aye
Lori Luzader	Abstain
Mary Tang	Abstain
Kishan Sreedhar	No
Uma Venkatesh	Aye
Shamim Punnilath	Aye
David Forderer	Aye
Suzanne Francisco	Abstain
Laura Harris	Aye

2. Member and Community Comments

Community Introductions

- Mr. Olaf Luevano of Ritz FMS shared that they provide bill pay, sole employer, and co-employer models, have no wait list, and offer free consultations, including Spanish and Mandarin services.
- Ms. Kayley Proenza, of Disability Voices United shared advocacy and service support information.
- Building Blocks Pathways introduced their adult 24/7-day program focused on community integration and behavioral interventions, mentioning pickups, drop-offs, for self-determination program participants only.

Member Comments

- Ethics for Providers/Best Practices Workgroup Discussion
 - Ms. Francisco brought forward a proposal to develop ethics guidelines for providers or at least explore best practices around provider ethics in self-determination.
 - Mr. Zaldivar suggested that this topic may be more appropriate for the statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee and possibly DDS, and that the local committee should gather examples and questions first.

- Ms. Kent suggested the issue may be better addressed by a temporary work group and that the work group could gather information and return recommendations to SDAC.
 - After the discussion the committee voted to form a workgroup focused on ethics for providers, ethical standards/best practices.
- Ms. Krol Vieira spoke about there being increased questions about labor-law issues in self-determination, especially given the responsibilities families and participants have as employers.
 - She noted that the SCDD orientation is helpful, but participants still need a way to understand complex labor-law issues related to their staff.
 - She suggested the committee may want to explore a community-based resource, sessions, or question and answer format sponsored by the committee.
 - This was tabled for a later discussion due to time limitation.

3. Reports/Updates

SARC, DDS and Statewide Self-Determination updates

- Mr. Javier Zaldivar gave a detailed state budget update affecting the self-determination advisory committee funding.
 - The existing requirement remains that federal financial participation funds from old self-determination pilot must support criminal background checks, administrative activities, and related program support, including support of the statewide self-determination advisory committee.
 - The amendment authorizes up to \$1 million per year from July 14, 2026, through June 30, 2030, for allocation to local advisory committees.
 - He noted that the department is reviewing unspent local advisory committee funds from the prior three fiscal years and may absorb those funds, with future guidance to come after consultation with community partners.

Clarification on Background Checks and FMS Transfers

- Ms. Suzanne Francisco asked how often caregiver backgrounds checks must be repeated under self-determination and FMS processes.

- Members of the committee explained that background checks do not necessarily need to be redone every year.

SCDD Updates - Ms. Jennifer Lucas gave these updates:

- The next statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting would be on August 10, 2026, (open to the public) with materials posted 10 days in advance on the State Council website.
- Shared that August is Disability Pride Month with there being 20 different podcasts with developmental disabilities.
- The SDP orientations continue to be held. You can attend and get more info here: <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>

SARC Report- Ms. Grecia Magana

Overview:

Total Active cases: 482

Avg Timeline – Orien. to POS: 14 months

Active Pilot cases: 53

Avg Timeline - IPP to POS: 5.5 months

Average Age of Participants: 22.7

De-activated cases: 0

New cases: 11

Detailed Breakdowns:

Ethnicity Breakdown (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	Ethnicity Breakdown (Current Report)	
White	156	+4	White	160
Spanish/Latin	54	---	Spanish/Latin	54
Vietnamese	27	+1	Vietnamese	28
African American	4	---	African American	4
Indian	10	---	Indian	10
Chinese	70	+1	Chinese	71
Korean	17	+2	Korean	19
Multi	9	---	Multi	9
Japanese	2	---	Japanese	2

Other Asian	20	---	Other Asian	20
Russian	4	---	Russian	4
Asian Indian	62	+3	Asian Indian	65
Other or Unknown	36	---	Other or Unknown	36

Language Breakdown (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	Language Breakdown (Current Report)	
English	369	+9	English	378
Spanish	16	---	Spanish	16
Vietnamese	21	+1	Vietnamese	22
Mandarin	34	---	Mandarin	34
Cantonese	4	---	Cantonese	4
Hindi	9	+1	Hindi	10
Farsi	1	---	Farsi	1
Korean	8	---	Korean	8
Russian	3	---	Russian	3
Other	6	---	Other	6

FMS Utilization (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	FMS Utilization (Current Report)	
Aveanna	76	---	Aveanna	76
GT Independence	63	---	GT Independence	63
Mains'l	51	---	Mains'l	51
Acumen	7	---	Acumen	7
Essential Pay	8	+1	Essential Pay	9
FMS Pay	7	---	FMS Pay	7
Ritz FMS	48	---	Ritz FMS	48
Cambrian FMS	35	+2	Cambrian FMS	37

Action FMS	6	---	Action FMS	6
Ace FMS	43	+3	Ace FMS	46
Public Partnerships LLC	4	---	Public Partnerships LLC	4
Arch FMS	5	---	Arch FMS	5
Fact FMS	7	---	Fact FMS	7
Sentinel Four	6	---	Sentinel Four	6
Accura FMS	70	+2	Accura FMS	72
Dromen	6	---	Dromen	6
Sequoia SD	3	---	Sequoia SD	3
AAA	7	+2	AAA	9
HR Alliance West	7	+1	HR Alliance West	8
Ridgeline	1	---	Ridgeline	1

*FMS list updated to include transfers between FMS agencies.

Residential Setting (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	Residential Setting (Current Report)	
Family Home	432	+10	Family Home	442
Independent Living	18	---	Independent Living	18
Supported Living	18	+1	Supported Living	19
Community Care Facility	1	---	Community Care Facility	1
Other	2	---	Other	2

Living Codes:

Family Home (11); Independent Living (13); SLS (14); CCF 4-6 Beds (46); Other (98)

Age range	Number of Participants
18yrs and under	186
19 to 29 yrs	228
30 to 39 yrs	52
40 to 49 yrs	12
50 to 59 yrs	4

FMS Updates

Agency	Supported Models	Waitlist	Budget Cap
Acumen	Bill Payer/ Sole Employer	None	None
Aveanna/Premier	Bill Payer/ Co-Employer	None	\$300,000 above \$350k is subject to approval
Cambrian FMS	All-but only accepting Co-Employer	Opens 2025	None
Essential Pay/Casa Fiscal	Bill Payer	1-2 month waitlist	\$80,000
FACT Family	All	No waitlist	None
FMS Pay	Bill Payer	No waitlist	None
GT Independence	Bill Payer/ Sole Employer	No waitlist	None
Mains'l	Bill Payer/ Sole Employer	Waitlist Opens 1/29/2025	\$350,000
Ritz FMS	All	No waitlist	\$120,000- higher is subject to approval
Sequoia SD	All	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Ace FMS	Bill Payer/Co-Employer	No waitlist	\$120,000
Action FMS	All	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Public Partnerships LLC	Sole-Employer	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Arch FMS	All	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
FACT-Financial Management	All	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Sentinel Four	All	Not disclosed	Not disclosed
Dromen	All	No waitlist	None
Accura	All	No waitlist	\$150,000- higher is subject to approval
HR Alliance	Not disclosed	Not disclosed	Not disclosed

Current Transition Supports:

099 Self-Directed Supports (up to 40 hours)

Aveanna is our new 099 PDS vendor.

FTS- FMS Transition Supports (up to 3 months per scenario)

-scenarios: new to SDP, changing FMS agencies, or transferring RCs

Program Updates:

Regional Center Directives: CA Department of Developmental Services

March 24, 2026

Self-Determination Program: Orientation Update

<https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/D-2026-SelfDeterminationProgram-001.pdf>

Officers Chair/Co-Chair Voting

- The committee anonymously voted for Chair and Co-chair with Ms. Joanna Kent being voted to be the new Chair with no Co-Chair.

4. Adjournment:

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.