



Self Determination Advisory Committee Meeting (SDAC)

Date: Thursday, October 15, 2026

10:30 – 12:00 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. 20 minutes	Public Comments *
III. 5 minutes	Approval of minutes
IV. 10 minutes	Committee Updates: • Independent Facilitator Investment Options • Large Spring Event – Creating a Committee • Guideline Revision
V. 30 minutes	Reports/Updates: • DDS Directive Updates • SARC Report/Updates • SCDD Update
VI. 20 minutes	Member Questions and Discussion • Committee/Workgroup Check-Ins • SDP Bay Area Website Updates: https://sdpbayarea.org/ • Proposal adjusting the date and time of meetings
VII.	Adjourn. Next Meeting: Thursday, November 19, 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
August 20,2026**

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	Kavita Sreedhar
Members Absent:	Jean Jihong Chen	Shamim Punnilath
Staff:	Mike Keeley	Lourdes Gonzalez
	Grecia Magana	Lisa Hartley
	Evelyn Contreras	Jennifer Huntley
	Anna Wall	
Community:	Jennifer Lucas	Kelly & Barbara
	Doug Pascover	Raelyn Marshall- SDPIF
	Arlina Padilla	Ricardo Del Hoyo, PPL
	Ha Tran	Marjorie
	Kayley Proenza	Special Kids Connect
	Maria Martinez	Olaf Luevano, Ritz FMS
	Bridgette Raney	

The Self Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) commenced at 10:31 p.m. presided by Ms. Joanna Kent , Committee Chair followed by introductions.

1. Public Comments

Community Introductions

- Ricardo from PPL provided an update:
 - PPL serves all 21 regional centers.
 - They offer sole employer and bill payer models.
 - There is no budget cap.
 - Their new CRM system, "My PPL at Home," was launched to let clients view IPP budget and spending.

- He acknowledged there are still some technical kinks in the new database.
- He said PPL sent emails to clients about required document re-uploading and noted a grace period extended to October 1st.
- He also thanked San Andreas Regional Center for summer events and the 5K run.

2. Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the July Minutes.

M/S/C Moved to approve the July minutes (Forderer/Venkatesh). No further discussion. The ayes have it. Motion carries.

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

3. Committee Update

State-wide meeting update:

- Ms. Kent summarized statewide SDAC priorities from the last statewide meeting:
 - Increase accessibility and participation in local advisory meetings.
 - Create more direct work opportunities with DDS outside quarterly meetings.

- Share best practices across LVACs and create a best-practices guide expected around spring 2027.
- Conduct roundtables for LVAC leadership and community with DDS.
- It was reported that a Service Equity Project research effort had been completed, though equity gaps remain evident.
- The LVAC support collaborative is on hold while SCDD works through Bagley-Keene concerns and waits for analysis expected in fall 2027.
- It was noted unused 2023–24 funds were returned and reappropriated by DDS, including roughly \$90,000 tied to their group.
- Public charge rules were changing federally and that DDS is considering statewide training options and cost-effective definitions.
- SDAC/Ombuds data showing 10,279 SDP enrollees statewide and said SARC was listed at 449, which differed from what the local group had seen.
- Ombuds Office now handles both SDP and traditional cases, and that if people receive a closure email they believe is premature, they should reply to keep the issue open.

Vendor Workgroup Update

- Ms. Francisco raised the idea of a workgroup focused on provider ethics and best practices.
- There should be guidance for providers regarding ethics, rights, and expectations when serving people in SDP.
- The discussion expanded to include labor laws and related topics such as workers' compensation, employment implications, and the responsibilities of families acting as employers or co-employers.
- Ms. Krol proposed hosting an SDP-related labor law event, focused on issues families encounter when employing staff or using FMS/co-employer arrangements.
- The committee voted

M/S/C Moved to approve to Host a Labor Law Event (Krol/Mr. Sreedhar). No further discussion. The ayes have it. Motion carries.

Member Present	Voted
Stephanie Krol	Aye
Kavita Sreedhar	Aye
Joanna Kent	Aye
Lori Luzader	Aye
Mary Tang	Aye
Kishan Sreedhar	Aye
Uma Venkatesh	Aye
David Forderer	Aye
Suzanne Francisco	Aye
Laura Harris	Aye

Spending Money Process

- Ms. Kent proposed restarting a finance committee, modeled after a prior committee structure.
- She described it as a member-only group that would make proposals for how funds might be allocated and suggest possible RFP opportunities.
- The committee idea was presented as a way to help prevent future budget reversions like the recent \$90,000 returned to DDS.

4. Reports/Updates

SARC, DDS and Statewide Self-Determination updates

SARC Report- Ms. Grecia Magana

Overview:

Total Active cases: 500

Active Pilot cases: 53

Average Age of Participants: 22.9

De-activated cases: 0

New cases: 18

Avg Timeline – Orien. to POS: 14 months

Avg Timeline - IPP to POS: 5.5 months

Detailed Breakdowns:

Ethnicity Breakdown (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	Ethnicity Breakdown (Current Report)	
White	160	+4	White	164
Spanish/Latin	54	+2	Spanish/Latin	56
Vietnamese	28	+2	Vietnamese	30
African American	4	---	African American	4
Indian	10	---	Indian	10
Chinese	71	+3	Chinese	74
Korean	19	---	Korean	19
Multi	9	---	Multi	9
Japanese	2	---	Japanese	2
Other Asian	20	+2	Other Asian	22
Russian	4	---	Russian	4
Asian Indian	65	+5	Asian Indian	70
Other or Unknown	36	---	Other or Unknown	36

Language Breakdown (Last Report)		<u>Difference</u>	Language Breakdown (Current Report)	
English	378	+13	English	391
Spanish	16	---	Spanish	16
Vietnamese	22	+2	Vietnamese	24
Mandarin	34	+2	Mandarin	35
Cantonese	4	---	Cantonese	4
Hindi	10	+2	Hindi	12
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	+1	GT Independence	64
Mains'l	51	---	Mains'l	51
Acumen	7	---	Acumen	7
Essential Pay	9	---	Essential Pay	9
FMS Pay	7	---	FMS Pay	7
Ritz FMS	48	---	Ritz FMS	48
Cambrian FMS	37	+2	Cambrian FMS	39
Action FMS	6	---	Action FMS	6
Ace FMS	46	+1	Ace FMS	47
Public Partnerships LLC	4	---	Public Partnerships LLC	4
Arch FMS	5	+1	Arch FMS	6
Fact FMS	7	---	Fact FMS	7
Sentinel Four	6	---	Sentinel Four	6
Accura FMS	72	+11	Accura FMS	83
Dromen	6	---	Dromen	6
Sequoia SD	3	---	Sequoia SD	3
AAA	9	+2	AAA	11
HR Alliance West	8	---	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	442	---	Family Home	442
Independent Living	18	---	Independent Living	18

Supported Living	19	---	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	193
19 to 29 yrs	237
30 to 39 yrs	54
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](#)

July 14, 2026

2026 Budget Trailer Bill for Developmental Services:

Self-Determination Program Administrative Cost Funding

SB 163 Section 36: (Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4685.8 was amended) This section maintains the existing requirement that the federal financial participation funds generated by former participants of the self-determination pilot project must be used to support the costs of criminal background checks, administrative activities necessary to operate the program, and related program support, including support for the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC). Amendments to this section now authorize up to one million dollars per year, from July 14, 2026 through June 30, 2030, for allocation to Local Volunteer Advisory Committees (LVACs). These funds may be used only for statewide standardized training and local community resource fairs. Starting July 1, 2030, continued funding for these activities will depend on a new appropriation by the Legislature. Allocations to LVACs of existing funding from prior fiscal years, including the 2025-26 fiscal year that just ended, are not impacted by these changes. Implementation: LVACs will continue advising regional centers. The Department will issue guidance to regional centers and LVACs regarding these changes. Prior to finalizing and issuing guidance, the Department will consult with community partners, including the SSDAC.

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

5. Member Questions and Discussion:

End of Life Planning

- A substantial discussion focused on what happens when parents or primary supporters age, become ill, or die, and how self-determination can remain stable afterward.
- A concern was raised that many self-determination participants depend heavily on parents, and families worry about who will continue to support the individual if a parent dies or can no longer serve.
- Mr. Sreedhar suggested a forum or group discussion that would help families and self-advocates plan for continuity and identify backup supports.
- Ms. Kent noted that this could fit well within a larger event, because many families may not attend a meeting solely on end-of-life planning but would benefit from it being one topic among several.

6. Adjournment:

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.