

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of HRC Self Determination Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:08 PM on Wednesday June 2, 2021 via Zoom. Quorum was established.

**Committee Member Present**

Linda Chan-Rapp, Parent  
Deaka McClain, Client  
David Oster, Client  
Sunghee Park, Parent (BBT)  
Miriam Kang, Parent  
Rosalinda Garcia, Parent  
Johnanthony Alaimo, Office of Client Rights Advocacy Representative

**Committee Members Absent**

Patricia Jordan, Client  
Julianna Martinez, Parent

**HRC Staff Present**

Patrick Ruppe- Executive Director  
Judy Taimi- Director of Adult Services  
LaWanna Blair- Director of Early Childhood Services  
Katy Granados- Client Services Manager  
Donna Magana- Client Services Manager  
Ashley Brown- Intake Manager  
Jessica Guzman-Client Services Manager  
Josephina Cunningham-Client Services Manager

**HRC Staff Absent**

Antoinette Perez - Director of Children's Services  
Liz Cohen-Zeboulon – Client Services Manager

**SCDD Staff Absent**

Brianna Reynoso

**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

**Visitors**

Paul Quiroz	Lucy Paz (Interpreter)	Jamie Van Dusen	Ivon Muñiz
Ronda Kopito	Sandra McElwee (IF)	Sam Eskandari	Guadalupe Esquivel
Angela Robles	Leslie Versfelt	Vianey Gomez	SE
Danielle Alvarado (IF)	Diem Ngyuen	Jordan Feinstock	Canh Vuong

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

Jeanne Wu  
Maria Zavala

Sue Gavin  
Amelia Castellanos

Celia Pena  
Brittany Robinson

**Welcome**

Introductions of committee members and guests – Via Chat on Zoom

**Approval of Minutes**

Quorum was established; 7 committee members present during the zoom meeting. Minutes posted and available for viewing on HRC website. Deaka McClain made the first motion for approval of minutes, second motion was given by David Oster. After further review Linda Chan-Rapp had a comment regarding edits needed to May minutes, after review of minutes edits made, Deaka McClain made the first motion for approval of minutes, second motion was given by David Oster.

**Presentation: Danielle Alvarado – Independent Facilitator**

Danielle provided an overview of her background and experience as an Independent Facilitator. Danielle is a parent of 4 sons with Autism, 2 are currently live on SDP. She shared how much SDP has supported her 2 sons in the program. As a PCP planner and IF she has seen many people put together hope and dreams. She has seen people become very creative, she has seen unique things and it is rewarding to see them live their lives fully included. Danielle has been an independent advocate for over 25 years. She works with all ages, all levels and the sky is the limit.

**Presentation: Sandra McElwee-Independent Facilitator Effective Person-Centered Planning**

Sandra presented on the Benefits of a Person-Centered Plan and examples of creative things people have added to their PCP. Sandra began by sharing the WIC division 4.5. Services for the developmentally disabled [4685] section (k) The IPP team shall utilize the person-centered planning process to develop the IPP for a participant. The IPP shall detail the goals and objectives of the participant that are to be met through the purchase of participant-selected services and supports. The IPP team shall determine the individual budget to ensure the budget assists the participant to achieve the outcomes set forth in his or her IPP and ensures his or her health and safety. The completed individual budget shall be attached to the IPP. Sandra also reviewed the importance of PCP planning which creates goals and determine services needed to achieve their created goals. She also shared the PCP is able to help create the IPP. She explained how the services needed to achieve the goals helps RC create the budget which is also shared with participant. She shared explained the total amount that a participant in SDP will be able to spend per year on needed supports and services. Sandra provided visuals on how the budget is prepared for the 12 months, she provided examples for transitional traditional services to SDP. She also reviewed Unmet Needs, how to identify a need for a service that were not met before or not been addressed in participant prior to IPP. Sandra also discussed change in circumstances and examples of how life changes and have new needs, how unmet needs are identified during IPP. Sandra shared how the budget moves to create the spending plan, however services and items must support goals in the PCP, services must be federally reimbursable, cannot be for rent, food and settings must follow the HCBS Final Rule, (must use generic first). Sandra reviewed in detail the 3 major categories in the Spending Plan: Living arrangements, employment and community participation, and health and safety. Sandra reviewed how to calculate a spending plan for a 12 month period. She also shared possible services accessible within the 3 major categories in the spending plan and unique services participants have accessed. She shared the list of definitions is available in the DDS website for further review. She also reviewed how therapy services are to be accessed through insurance, medi-cal, school district if under 21 years old and reviewed the documents needed in the event service is not covered by the generic entity.

Sandra reminded participants the budget will change as your needs change, services can be added based on change in need and services can be also removed based on changes in need.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

Self-determination services available [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SDP\\_serviceDefinitions.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/SDP_serviceDefinitions.pdf)  
<https://sandramcelwee.com/empower-person-centered-planning-independent-facilitator/empowerpcp@gmail.com>

**Carla Lehman –Independent Facilitator, Represented by Linda Chan Rapp**

Linda provided a copy of Carla's IF biography in English and Spanish.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lje-s6SO7cxevaN3qmRbrxQbcT-n3sod/view?usp=sharing>

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W-IDMCArO1-f65-OQ3urSPsTLq9OB\\_Ap/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W-IDMCArO1-f65-OQ3urSPsTLq9OB_Ap/view?usp=sharing)

**Public Questions for IFs and other Comments**

- Susan Huniu- How do we get our service provider to pay for PCP? Linda shared that PCP planning, may get approved for open enrollment period, but it is not a done deal yet. The decision has not been finalized. Danielle also confirmed that at this time there is no definite as of yet.
- Deaka McClain- How do you deal with clients who do not have the funds in their budget to pay for an IF? And how much does Danielle charge? Danielle shared she bases her support by their individual situation, she does not turn people away. However, she is only able to take so many cases at a time to be able to individualize and focus with each case. If she does come across someone and they need help, 1) if they cannot afford or 2) she does not have the case load room for them: she will not turn them away. She will spend one hour with them, to determine the situation and provide the best advice she can. Encourage them to try the advice she provided and if they need additional support after their attempts she ask they return. Which will allow her time to be able to reduce her case load to support them. Danielle also shared for IF she charges \$125-175 a month, and depending on the level of help provided during the month.
- Linda Chan Rapp- Shared to the new attendees that the advisory committee meetings began to highlight IF that have supported people to be fully enrolled in SDP program at HRC. The minutes from the last meeting are available to review to obtain information of the 5-6 facilitators that presented. The minutes can be found in the SDP Advisory Committee at HRC's website.
- Miriam Kang inquired about the example SDP spending plan Sandra provided. How is We Rock the Spectrum a provided services if it does not fall in line with the HCBS Final Rule? Sandra shared that We Rock the Spectrum a gym that is open to all children, that supports children in the spectrum however open to all children.
- Susan Huniu- I thought an IF is needed to create a PCP. So how come an IF will be needed throughout the year? And is paid throughout the year? Also she has contacted many IF and they do not work with HRC, long wait list, how can she option list. Deaka McClain responded The PCP can be done by anyone (SC, neighbor, someone trained in how to complete PCP) not necessarily an IF. She explained there is no set list and they can obtain the list from State council, DDS website and Sandra shared she can find more information on the Southern California SDP Facebook page for IF. Contact the State Council on Developmental Disabilities for a list of independent facilitators [losangeles@scdd.com](mailto:losangeles@scdd.com)
- Miriam Kang- For those of us in our second year transitioning out of the school district into adult, what is the recommendation to prepare for the unmet needs. Should parents look for services, Sandra explained that there are workbooks to support the transition. The school district has programs to support the transition if you do not receive diploma. Depending if you receive a diploma or certificate of completion have option to exit the school district by starting individualized program ( ex: job coaching).
- Linda Chan Rapp- Encouraged participants to contact State Council to obtain the list of IF/ PCP, because it is a critical piece. HRC is very good at helping people through orientation however there has been a large

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

drop of participants completing orientation and then moving onto completing their PCP. Although you do not need a PCP it is such a powerful tool to help refocus ideas and thoughts to what is possible for the individual to have a meaningful life.

- David Oster- Shared he is a part of the state council SDP committee, he is inquiring if he should share the concern of there not being enough IF around HRC and possible increase IF to speak at HRC SDP advisory committee due to the possible increased need? Linda confirmed it was a good idea.
- Miriam Kang- suggested limiting the amount of presentations of IF due to the immense amount of information being provided and went to long, limited time for additional information.
- Jordan Feinstock- Is HRC doing an IF training for those interested? Judy Taimi- shared that at HRC there are no current trainings available. Katy and Judy confirmed State Council is offering IF training and when they become available HRC families are made aware. Linda shared SCLARC is providing training for IF and will share additional information. Also Tamra Pauly is offering IF training, Linda will provide more information.

**DDS update on Financial Management Service Models**

Linda reviewed in detail the FMS models comparison chart (Bill Payor, Co-Employer and Sole Employer). She reviewed how task and responsibilities are divided between the participant and the FMS provider.

- Comparison Chart: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FMSModelsComparisonChart\\_04272021.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FMSModelsComparisonChart_04272021.pdf)
- List of FMS: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/sdp/financial-management-service-contact-list/>

**2021-2022 Self Determination Implementation Funds Request for Proposal**

RC's has been granted funds for 2021-2022 to help support those who want to go into SDP. The purpose would be to support and mentor people into the program. Linda inquired if there was anyone in the committee who would like to work on a proposal for the next advisory meeting.

- Volunteers: Linda Chan Rapp, David Oster, Miriam Kang, Deaka McClain

**Election of New Chair for HRC Self-Determination Advisory Committee**

Linda Chan Rapp, will be stepping down from SDP Advisory Committee Chair effective July 31, 2021, due to daughter being accepted to a post-secondary program. Linda would like to allow someone who is very active in the SDP program to be chair.

- **Nominations for Chair:**
  - Deaka McClain- Nominated - Rosalinda Garcia for Chair
    - Rosalinda Garcia – Accepted Nomination
  - *Linda initiated motion for Chair.* Deaka M. made the first motion, Miriam Kang seconded the motion.
    - All in Favor: David O. Deaka M.
- **Nominations for Vice Chair:**
  - Deaka McClain- Self nominated for Vice Chair
  - David Oster- Self nominated for Vice Chair
  - *Linda initiated voting for vice Chair: Linda asked for all votes to be sent to her directly via private message on zoom.*
    - Linda confirmed Deaka McClain was elected Vice Chair.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

**Comments Regarding New Chair Election:**

- Rosalinda Garcia- Expressed gratitude for all the support and passion leading the advisory committee.
- Miriam Kang- Also thanked Linda for her leadership during the pandemic and navigating the new platform.
- Deaka McClain- Shared her support and inquired if she will continue to attend the advisory meetings, Linda confirmed her continued attendance.
- David Oster- Thanked Linda for her work and being a great chair.
- Jordan Feinstock- Inquired if the Vice Chair becomes the Chair, who takes over the Vice Chair? Rosalinda G. clarified the Vice Chair is not necessary, it was decided to split the role between Linda and Rosalina. However if anyone would like to be the Vice Chair, they are welcome and can be nominated.
- Oanh Wuong- Nominated- Deaka McClain for Vice Chair. However unable to nominate due to not being on committee.
- Jordan Feinstock- shared the role of the Vice Chair is to step in whenever the Chair is not present.
- Deaka McClain- Asked for clarification regarding the status of vice chair or co-chair. Rosalinda clarified that it is the same just a different name.
- Patrick Ruppe: Clarified only the committee members should be voting.
- Deaka McClain: Asked if Linda can present all members to the meeting. Linda shared the name of all committee members present.

**Harbor Regional Center Monthly Update – Katy Granados – Client Services Manager and Judy Taimi, Director Adult’s Services**

- There are 95 individuals who are part of the SD Program
  - Of the 95: 21 participants are live as of June 1, 2021 (pending 2 individuals for 6/1 start date)
    - 23 live by the end of the week
  - 26 approved budgets
  - 22 spending plans completed
  - 25 completed PCP plans
- Orientations: 2 English and 2 Spanish held in May, 89 families completed orientation.
- 5 orientations in June (3 English- 2 Spanish), 120 are currently enrolled to participate in June orientations.
- Fair Hearings and Outcomes: no changes since May 2021.
- Resource Development: HRC continues to relying on word-of-mouth from families. Families share resources and who they use to do their PCP. HRC is open to new vendor with new PCP planners and FMS. Not vendor new IF. HRC works directly with clients and families to provide feedback with providers they work well to continue partnerships.
- HRC Roll out of SDP: HRC continues to move forward with the next steps for those who attended orientation. If attending orientations at different RC’s please ensure to notify your SC to ensure you are supported throughout the next steps with SDP.
- Deaka M- Asked for clarification of roll out date, due there being different dates (June 7<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>). Judy T- confirmed start date for all RC’s is June 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Linda and Miriam shared they also have heard there was change for start date to be July 1<sup>st</sup>. Patrick Ruppe- shared that there was a possible push back to July 1<sup>st</sup> however it has not been confirmed if that was effective. As of today (June 2<sup>nd</sup> the start date continues to be June 7<sup>th</sup>.)
- Linda Chan Rapp asked Paul Q for clarification information shared during the last meeting in regards to the 70 possible interested clients/ families to participate in the mentor program. Asked for updates if these

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

possible participants still interested or not ready yet? Paul confirmed those clients will be contacted in June to obtain an update on their participation in program.

- Linda Chan Rapp- requested update on HRC Resource Development due to counting votes for the vice chair. Judy T. shared HRC continues to relying on word-of-mouth from families. Families share resources and who they use to do their PCP. HRC is open to new vendor with new PCP planners and FMS, to increase resources for families.
- Linda requested there be a list of vendors that have been recommended by families. Judy T. shared there is no list of IF to provide, however will look into list of FMS providers that HRC and PCP planners. Judy will put a list together to share during next meeting. Although HRC vendor with FMS and PCP planners, they are not vetted and it is important for participants/ families to do their research to ensure they know what works best for them.
- Linda requested a list of IF that have supported HRC families when going live on SDP. Shared she has a list that is used to invite IF to the advisory committees. Judy T. shared a majority of IF helping families move forward with SDP have been a part of advisory committee meetings. Linda shared a group that has not been a part of the meeting is Autism Society of LA and Carla Lehman has been success in supporting participants through SDP.

**Skills4Care – Paul Quiroz**

- Finishing up the hiring process, the finalizing of mentors will be in place by next week.
- Will continue identify families / potential candidates still interested in the mentor program
- Next meeting will provide current data of individuals contacted
- No money spent as of yet.

**Statewide Updates:**

- Statewide Committee- Linda Chan Rapp
  - June 22 – The State Wide SDP advisory committee meeting will be held. It will be focusing on helping moving forward with the SDP Roll out.
- DDS Updated FMS FAQ Page
  - Chart about different options

**Office Clients and Rights Advocacy:**

- Will host a training on June 5, 2021 from 11AM- 12:30PM via zoom, focusing on possible upcoming electricity shut off during fire season and how that will impact individuals that require medical equipment.

**State Council Update:**

- Due to Brianna's absence, there were no updates provided.

**Public Comments:**

- Sunghee Park inquired if HRC is honoring orientations completed outside of HRC, Katy confirmed HRC is accessing outside orientations. Sunghee would like to encourage Korean speaking families to participate in the RCOC SDP Orientation held in Korean.
- Diem Nguyen- Inquired if there is a way to watch the recording of tonight's meeting? Katy explained the purpose of the recording is to help the minutes being taken.

HARBOR REGIONAL CENTER  
**Self Determination Advisory Committee**  
Meeting Minutes  
June 2, 2021

- Deaka inquired if recording can be provided to clients on HRC web site, Judy at this time it has not been considered, however Patrick Ruppe shared it can be considered for the future.
- Patrick Ruppe- shared the corrected state council web page link. <https://scdd.ca.gov/losangeles/>
- Patrick Ruppe- shared the limited FMS agencies limiting their available models, if anyone has updated information from other agencies due to that being a barrier for some families. More information with possible updates will be provided during next meeting.
- Sandra shared most companies have all 3 models, all are doing bill payer, few have co employer (4 have good results GT independence, ARCC, Mains'l, Aveanna) (adding more due to few people wanting to add their own workers comp and liability) and most have sole employer. Patrick shared they have initiated contact with Mains'L to join HRC as FMS.
- Sandra encouraged participants to research FMS and try which works best for the family.
- Danielle A- Cambrian has been supportive to the families that have been accessing SDP. Paul Q confirmed Cambrian is under CFMS.
- Deaka M- Asked for clarification regarding Cambrian being an FMS and provider. Paul Q- explained they are two different companies. Inquired about adding 24 hour home care for more FMS information.
- Jordan F- Shared his budget has been certified however is having issues with the FMS model due to a mutual employee and is now paying overtime due to the extended work hours (both participants accessing service during the same work day). Asked if anyone knows how to navigate the scenario for employee using same FMS to sign in time. Is the only way to go about it a sole employer model or 1099? Sandra – cannot use a 1099 due to California employment law. Yes, only way would be the sole employer due the participant being the employer on file. GT has additional supports to make it easier to use sole employer.
- Deaka M asked for clarification regarding being a direct employee for client and how it can possibly conflict if she works for another participant. Jordan clarified sole employer and co employer.
- Patrick Ruppe- Shared information found regarding July 1<sup>st</sup>, e-mails shared regarding the trailer bill language associated with the \$10.3 million dollars that is in the proposed budget going to the governor. If this is the final version of the trailer bill, then the proposed roll out date is July 1<sup>st</sup>. We would have to wait to see if the governor signs the proposed trailer language bill to determine the change in roll out date state wide. At this time start date continues to be June 7<sup>th</sup> until signed, possibly will be pushed back to July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Linda Chan Rapp- Shared a Self-Determination Parent – Training hosted by Education Spectrum via zoom. It is a weekly training (2x per week) that began April 22 and will be held through June 26<sup>th</sup>. Thursday 5:30 – 6:30 PM and Saturdays 10:00-11AM) / Also Disability Voices United has had ongoing trainings on SDP. SCLARC is offering trainings for those interested in becoming IF, information is online if interested. There are many agencies like Guidelight who also provide IF training.
- David O- Proposed Skills4 Care be a pilot project and then it can be proposed for the state RC.
- Deaka added more information to elaborate on David's comment. She explained if HRC could create a pilot to begin mentor program for all RC's. Discuss a possible bill that makes it that all RC's need to have a mentor program.
- Linda proposed it be discussed outside the committee meeting to further review idea.
- **Next meeting:** July 7, 2021 via Zoom 6PM-8PM

**Adjournment, Conclusion**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes submitted by Donna Magaña