



Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Agenda

July 6, 2026

5:00 PM to 7:00PM

Teleconference via Zoom Webinar

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82033422256?pwd=TaKCp5feF6i0rO4CrbkaP7VwypGRnq.1>

Passcode: 815825

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

Webinar ID: 820 3342 2256

Passcode: 815825

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82033422256?pwd=TaKCp5feF6i0rO4CrbkaP7VwypGRnq.1>

Pursuant to Government Code Sections 11123.1 and 11125(f), individuals with disabilities who require accessible alternatives formats of the agenda and related meeting materials and/or auxiliary aids/services to participate in the meeting should contact Isis Rasmussen at (661) 873-4575 or email at isis.rasmussen@kernrc.org

AGENDA

1) Call to Order

2) Establish of Quorum

A. A quorum is defined as more than half of the committee members being present, which is required for any official votes to take place. For this committee, at least four members must be present to conduct a vote. However, if a quorum is not met, the committee may still convene to discuss topics and engage in problem solving activities without voting on any matter.

B. There are Six members of this committee

- a. Sandra Van Scotter, chair (SCDD appointee)
- b. Rick Wood, co-chair (SCDD appointee)
- c. Erica Clark (OCRA representative, required by statute),
- d. Norma Tuiasosopo (Family Resource Center representative- Exceptional Families Center, required by statute)
- e. Lorie Stewart (SCDD appointee)
- f. Kelly Kulzer-Reyes (KRC Appointee)

C. If you are interested in serving, please contact KRC's Enrique Roman,

Enrique.Roman@kernrc.org or Nicholas Lutton, Nicholas.Lutton@scdd.ca.gov

3) Additional Items: Discussion items can be added. Items added here cannot be voted on today. You can also mention things you would like to focus on at a future meeting.

4) Public Comment: Comments about items not on the agenda are welcome! If your concern/topic is on the agenda, please join the discussion and add your thoughts there, too.

5) Approval of SDLVAC Minutes **Action**

A. May 4th, 2026 (Attachment 1)

B. June 1, 2026 (Attachment 2)

6) Status of SDP (Wood/ Van Scotter) **Discussion**

A. Updates on SDP at KRC and statewide

a. Celebrations (all)

b. Obstacles (all)

c. Directives (Wood/ Van Scotter)

d. Statewide Committee updates (Wood/ Van Scotter)

7) KRC Updates **Discussion**

A. Self-Determination Program (SDP) Enrollment

B. SDP updates on process and procedures on the website

C. General Updates on the Self-Determination Program

D. Discussion on RFP Topics

E. Discussion on RFP Topics

8) Request for proposal review and discussion. **Action**

9) Topics for Next Meeting **Discussion**

D. Members of the public – suggestions welcome

Upcoming meeting 2026 SDLVAC meeting schedule:

August 3, 2026	August 31, 2026	October 5, 2026	November 2, 2026
December 7, 2026			

10) Adjournment **Action**

Attachment 1

Attachment 1

Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 4th, 2026

1. The meeting called to order at 5:11 pm.
2. Quorum Established: A quorum was not confirmed.
 - A. Members in attendance:
 - Rick Wood (Co-Chair)
 - Norma Tuiasosopo
 - Erica Clark
 - B. Absentee:
 - Sandra Van Scotter (Co-Chair)
 - Kelly Kulzer-Reyes
 - Lorie Stewart
3. Additional Items:
 - A. None
4. Public Comment:
 - A. None.
5. Approval of Minutes for the following months:
 - A. April 2026 (attachment 1). March and April 2026 minutes will be approved at next meeting when quorum can be established.
6. Status of SDP (Wood/Van Scotter)
 - A. Updates on SDP at KRC and Statewide
 - Celebrations
 1. Nick Lutton, Sequoia Branch of State Council on Developmental Disabilities stated they are one month out on the new SDP program on their website, which is now two days rather than one day. They have been responding to questions from DDS and are working on multiple recordings for the site that explain different pieces of information. These recordings do not act in lieu of certification, however. There are 3 or 4 different time slots each day in English and Spanish for classes.

2. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated Aaron Carruthers, the executive director of the State Council, will be making an extensive director's report at the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee and will be including an announcement of the rollout of the new SDP orientation. Rick recommends that all members of the committee take the SDP orientation to see what's new and will make the same suggestion at the State Council meeting.
3. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated that he recently went on a trip and the SDP team supporting his son made it so that everything is fine in his son's life and that is a testament to the SDP program working well.

➤ Obstacles

➤ Directives (Wood/Van Scotter)

1. None

➤ Statewide Committee updates (Wood/Van Scotter)

1. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated that the quarterly State Council on Developmental Disabilities meeting is May 5th, 10:30am to 3:30pm. Aaron Carruthers will be giving a report on the new SDP orientation and a status report on a Medicaid Town Hall that will be held May 4th, 2026. Rick Wood states this is important since the federal government will be making funding cuts to the state for the next budget. It remains unclear whether Medicaid cuts coming are cuts to the upcoming budget or from this year's funding levels. Rick Wood stated he will report back to the committee about this at the July meeting. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated that ICE is apprehending parents while children are in school and there is need to figure out who represents the children when they come home and the parents are not there any longer. There is a process of working through the Senate to address this topic and Aaron will speak about this at the meeting. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated that

State Council is also working on a service code access portal and Aaron Carruthers will speak about that as well.

2. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated LVACS have drafted a letter requesting that the state legislature restore \$1.2 million dollars in funding that goes out to 21 regional centers. Kern Regional Center receives \$75,000 to \$80,000. He stated that the state council drafted their own letter as well. He stated that they requested the state set up a grant program for applicants to receive funds from a grant. He made a proposal to Yang Li in November to setup a roundtable on matters of self determination and 7 people were selected for this roundtable. The first meeting was the prior Friday, and the implementation funding was an important topic for this meeting. Implementation funding is now in the hands of the legislature. The state is going to hire 6 individuals to run the SDP program, and funds will not trickle down locally. The state budget meetings started in April and will conclude by the end of May, and a budget is going to be passed by the legislature by the end of June.
3. Melanie Waters from Kern Regional Center stated that the programs have been great, so are other regional centers mismanaging the budget, causing this change?
4. Co-Chair Rick Wood stated some regional centers, including Inland Regional Center, have not spent any funds until 2 years ago. Every LVAC is different in its activity, tone, and productivity. There are also dysfunctional committees that do not function as well and many of these committees don't operate as well. He does not know what director Peter Svenka thinks in regard to this. One idea is that the state is trying to slow enrollment. The state may be trying to slow down waste, fraud, and inefficiency by recipients of the awarding of funds. The state will hire 6 people instead to more closely monitor efficiency. The good news is that enrollments are going up which helps stabilize the future of the program. It is

unclear to everyone whether cuts will be based on enrollment now or future enrollments. This is different from the Federal Medicaid cuts that are also coming.

5. Rick also stated that his position as co-chair of the SDAC will be up in August and there will be an election in August. Rick Wood stated that he will not be co-chair of this committee any longer after August as well and the committee should hold elections for his co-chair position of this committee in September. He will be working with the State Council as a consultant going forward and will still be engaged in projects.

7. KRC Updates

A. Self Determination Program (SDP) Enrollment

- As of April 2026, there are a total of 359 enrolled in SDP.
- Co-Chair Rick Wood stated that Inland Regional Center enrolls 30 individuals per month but has a much larger catchment population.

B. SDP updates on process and procedures on the website

- None

C. General Updates on the Self-Determination Program

- Co-Chair Rick Wood re-stated from chat that PPL and FMS are currently accepting new enrollments.

D. Monthly report on the awardees of the SDP Implementation

- KRC Employee Melanie Waters stated that the awardees utilized all funds but there is no further reporting due to program conclusion.

E. Discussion of possible topics for 2026 RFP

- There was a discussion over RFP funding timelines between Melanie Waters and Co-Chair Rick Wood. Clarification of RFP funding dates is needed to strategize future spending.

8. Topics for Next Meeting

A. Members of the public- suggestions welcome

- Co-Chair Rick Wood stated possible topics for next RFP should be discussed at June meeting as a priority.

Upcoming Meeting 2026 SDLVAC meeting schedule:

June 1, 2026	July 6, 2026	August 3, 2026	August 31, 2026
October 5, 2026	November 2, 2026	December 7, 2026	

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:14 pm.

Attachment 2

Attachment 2

Self -Determination Advisory Committee (SDAC) Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 1, 2026

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.
2. Quorum Established: A quorum was confirmed.
 - A. Members in attendance:
 - Sandra Van Scotter (Chair),
 - Norma Tuiasosopo
 - Kelly Kulzer-Reyes
 - Rick Wood (Vice-Chair),
 - Erica Clark
 - Lorie Stewart
 - B. Absentee: Rick Wood (Vice-Chair)
3. Additional Items:
 - A. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, reach out to Enrique Roman from Kern Regional Center or Nick Lutton from State Council on Developmental Disabilities.
 - B. Melanie Waters from Kern Regional Center would like to make a deletion on the agenda for KRC updates Letter D. The committee motioned this.
4. Public Comment:
 - A. Kristianna Moralls shared updates on funding for future LVAC meetings.
 - B. Kelly Kulzer-Reyes shared updates on Taft Community College.
 - C. Ricardo DelHoyo from PPL shared that they are taking new enrollments.
 - D. Nick Lutton shared updates from State Council on Developmental Disabilities, shared updates.
5. Approval of Minutes for the following months:
 - A. March 2026 (attachment 1). Erica Clark requested she be listed as present. Motion to approve with amendments by Kelly Kulzer- Reyes, seconded by Lorie Stewart.
 - B. April 2026 (attachment 2). Motion to approve with amendments by Kelly Kulzer-Reyes, seconded by Lorie Stewart, motion carried.

- C. May 2026 (attachment 3). Minutes discussed and committee agreed to table this item until the next meeting.
6. Status of SDP (Wood/Van Scotter)
- A. Updates on SDP at KRC and Statewide
 - a. Celebrations
 - 1. Cindy Cox shared that Iny County Sherriff was helpful and understanding with a KRC participant.
 - b. Obstacles
 - 1. Sandra Van Scotter (Chair) stated that she is hearing from many family members that there are delays in getting extensions and spending plans approved. Enrique Roman, Executive Director, from Kern Regional Center provided updates on internal protocols. He stated that the Regional Center is looking at using various tools to improve ad streamline the process. Discussion continued how the LVAC can support the process.
 - c. Directives (Wood/Van Scotter)
 - 1. Sandra Van Scotter shared update on vendorization request via statewide portal.
 - d. Statewide Committee updates (Wood/Van Scotter)
 - 1. Sandra Vsn Scotter shared information about the Making an Impact Report an be found on SCDD.
7. KRC Updates
- A. Self Determination Program (SDP) Enrollment
 - a. As of May 2026, enrollment is as follows; a total of 366 enrolled in SDP.
 - B. SDP updates on process and procedures on the website
 - a. No updates.
 - C. General Updates on the Self-Determination Program
 - a.No updates.
 - D. Monthly report on the awardees of the SDP Implementation
 - a. The total awarded amount that needs to be spent is around \$80,470.45, funds should be spent on or before March 2027.

- b. Melanie Waters asked for feedback on the draft of the RFP:
- c. Kelly Kulzer-Reyes stated that streamlining the process would be beneficial in maximizing the impact.

8. Topics for Next Meeting

A. Members of the public- suggestions welcome

- a. Sandra van Scotter suggested the entire July Agenda be spent on speaking to RFP applicants. Kelly Kulzer-Reyes and Melanie Waters agreed to this suggestion.

Upcoming Meeting 2026 SDLVAC meeting schedule:

July 6, 2026	August 3, 2026	August 31, 2026	October 5, 2026
November 2, 2026	December 7, 2026		

- 9. Meeting adjourned at 6:52 PM.