

Self-Determination Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

Opening Comments and Roll Call of Attendees: Nancy Alterio, Ex. Director DPPC, SDAB Chairperson

Nancy brought the meeting to order. Jaclyn Grant completed roll call- see attached attendance sheet.

Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes: Nancy asked for a motion to approve the 12/2025 minutes.

First Motion: Robin Foley

Second Motion: Deb Flaschen

Vote: Unanimous to accept the minutes of December 3, 2025, as received.

DDS Updates: Sarah Peterson, Commissioner

The Commissioner reviewed updates to the leadership team at DDS.

- Kelly Lawless- new Deputy Commissioner of Operations.
- Kabrillen Jones joined as the Chief Administrative Officer
- Colleen Mulligan Assistant Commissioner of Assessment and Community Services
- Chris Klaskin, Associate Commissioner of Complex Cases

FY27 Budget Overview:

- Approx. 3% increase proposed
- Includes funding for Turning 22 cohorts
- Increased investment for individuals with Autism Only
- Expansion and centralization of transportation funding
- Funding for workforce stability (Chapter 257)

Board Membership:

- Meghan McKenzie (OIG) welcomed as a formal member
- Ongoing recruitment efforts, with a goal of balanced representation between family members and participants

Board Functioning:

- Emphasis on maintaining respectful and constructive dialogue
- Discussion of potentially establishing a code of conduct

Self-Direction System & Budget Planning Update

Presenter: Kelly Lawless, Deputy Commissioner of Operations

- Overview of ongoing work with HSRI using SIS-A assessment data
- Preliminary cost corridor estimates anticipated summer 2026; final by September
- Data will inform FY28 budget development

Discussion Highlights:

- Anticipated need for additional funding across service models, including self-direction
- Self-direction budgets are currently funded across multiple accounts (not a standalone line item)

- Continued work to project future funding needs

Self-Direction Budget Project Findings

Presenter: Jaclyn Grant, Director of Self-Direction Models

Summary of statewide review of PDP and AWC budgets:

- **PDP:**
 - 30% of participants have received increases; 31% have not
 - 39% are underutilizing budgets (minimal portion newly enrolled)
 - Increased frequency of budget adjustments in recent years
- **AWC:**
 - 24% underutilization rate
 - 35% have received budget increases
- **Additional Findings:**
 - 25% of participants receive both self-direction and traditional supports
 - Underutilization drivers include staffing challenges, medical/behavioral issues, and use of traditional supports in addition to self- directed supports
- **Next Steps:**
 - Further review of participants without budget increases
 - Continued assessment of fiscal conditions and potential interim approaches

Discussion Themes:

- Importance of improving data tracking and transparency
- Consideration of funding structure visibility
- Need to strengthen engagement with participants, families, and support brokers
- Interest in elevating participant voice and storytelling

Independent Facilitator Initiative

Presenter: Jaclyn Grant

- RFQ responses received for development of Independent Facilitator curriculum
 - Subcommittee to review proposals
 - Anticipated progress update at next meeting
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Public Comment

- Questions raised regarding:
 - Consideration of inflation in staffing budgets
 - Budget adjustments related to underutilization
- Clarification Provided:
 - Temporary reallocation of unused funds may occur on a one-time basis
 - Participant consent is required; funds are not permanently removed

Closing Comments and upcoming meeting date: Wednesday, June 3, 2025 @ 10am

Minutes and Slides will be posted on the website.

Nancy requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

First Motion: Margaret Abrams

Second Motion: Deb Flaschen

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Mulligan