



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar doe to COVID-19
July 8, 2020
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Present:

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
Anita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Megan Buckles – SD-LAC Member
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)
Desiree L. Boykin – Consumer Advocate (Staff)
Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative
Oduvia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

Absent:

Jose Gudino – SD-LAC Member
Luz Hdez Gutierrez – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Terrance Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair

Public in attendance:

Veronica Moser
Shelia Jordan Jones
Sandra McElwee
Ruth Broyld
Mabel Lopez
Linda Andron
Leonor Dinas
Diane Bernstein
Adrian Jimenez
Claudia Wenger
and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:04 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Review minutes

- Introductions and warm welcomes began the meeting. The presenter stated the housekeeping rules, and the committee proceeded to review the minutes from June 10th, 2020.
- Exciting news! On July 27, as part of the SCLARC Advocates Advisory Committee meeting, there will be an Informational Session on Self-Determination to bring it to more consumers.

II. SCLARC's Update on Coronavirus Response and Participant Status

- Over 14,000 calls have been made for wellness-checks. By doing so, SCLARC has successfully reached over 90% of the individuals it supports.
- Approximately 4,000 individuals have been provided with additional services.
- SCLARC staff continues to work from home; not holding any face-to-face meetings.
- DDS extended the directives and waivers into July. These allow flexibility in service delivery.
- Concern was the budget for regional centers after the original budget proposal in May. It included about \$300 million in cuts, but the tremendous advocacy prevented those cuts.
- SCLARC has 103 active participants. Seventeen participants withdrew SDP. Eighty-one completed orientation, but fourteen need orientation.
- Eight participants completed their PCPs, and requested the budgets. SCLARC has provided six budgets; four have been certified. One participant receives services under SDP.
- Orientations are online monthly. SCLARC uses all forms of communication to invite participants in need of orientation.
- Orientation barriers are health challenges, childcare due to COVID-19, and lack of technology.
- Addressing barriers includes followup calls to check on their health. Our summer orientations, at different times during the day, overcome the technology unavailability due to schoolwork. Orientation call-ins are welcome; the callers will receive the material by mail.
- PCP barrier is the pandemic hesitation. To overcome this, SCLARC shares the Zoom PCP completion benefits. On July 29th, there will be a virtual Meet and Greet event for participants to meet PCP planers and understand the process.

- Summer 2020 Self-Determination Training Series includes an SD Question and Answer session; an Independent Facilitator Meet and Greet. Its topics will have a Financial Management Services (FMS) training, and Meet and Greet session.
- A spending plan barrier is a lack of knowledge after participants get the budget; thus, participants should get help from the independent facilitator.
- A concern is the request for services not permitted in either under the Lanterman Act or under Self-Determination. SCLARC has meetings to explain to people the reasons for the denials.

III. Report on the June 9th, 2020, State Self-Determination Advisory Committee

- During this meeting, the attendees were divided into four groups to work with the DDS on recommendations to implement the program.
- A barrier was the implementation delay, which loses enthusiasm for Self-Determination.
- Some recommendations were the Council Self-Determination Advisory Committee should establish benchmarks; each local advisory committee should monitor them.
- DDS should issue clear and consistent guidance and directives to regional centers as well as local advisory committees.
- DDS should prioritize the systemic oversight requiring accountability by regional centers. Translating standards, directives, training, materials, and information must be done into Spanish in other languages.
- The lack of training, another recommendation was for DDS to develop mandatory consistent training for regional centers. DDS should provide oversight of the training and the outcomes.
- The recommendations were provided to the State Council for approval.
- DDS invited regional centers to this meeting for the first time. They followed up with SCLARC for feedback. Connecting to other regional centers will help the implementation consistency.

IV. State-Level Advocacy for Services That Are Not Federally Reimbursable

- Under Self-Determination, all services must be federally reimbursable. This rule doesn't change even if individuals receive non-federally reimbursable services under traditional services.
- SCLARC is very clear to state that rent funding is incredibly rare for regional centers to do under traditional services. However, there is a specific exception to the law for only adult consumers who do not have access to other living arrangements that allow regional.
- As for right now, the individual who qualifies for this exception of the law cannot transition into Self-Determination. For this reason, SCLARC had to issue a Notice Of Action regarding this issue. It is very upsetting for everybody involved.
- The individuals have the right to appeal this decision through a Fair Hearing process.
- The SDP-LAC asked if they would advocate at a group during the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting to see if there could be an exception to that generalization.
- SCLARC staff brought it up during the last statewide meeting, but more advocacy is required. Not everybody at the statewide committee meeting is even aware of that exception.
 - *SCLARC Staff Inquiry to Committee*: Is the SCLARC Statewide Committee Representative willing to advocate a change to the statewide committee, at least point out the impact that it's having on individuals and families? DDS said that they would give SCLARC written a statement, but they took a long time to send an unclear email.
 - *Committee Response*: Yeah, absolutely! For a better understanding, under the traditional services, rent and food can be paid in extremely rare circumstances. Nevertheless, under Self-Determination, there is no flexibility for this exception; thus, the committee needs to advocate for changes in the law. Is this correct?

- *Staff Response*: Yes. The law for Self-Determination says all services must be federally reimbursable. Although the Lanterman Act states rules, it provides some exceptions permitting individualization in services. Self-Determination omits flexibility leaving regional centers with nothing to work.
- *Committee Suggestion*: An idea is presenting a brief video about the participant's abilities for DDS to see how Self-Determination would enhance those abilities. Just reading and hearing about cases lead to generalizations, and this is not Self-Determination!

A Little Announcement

- To recognize a Spanish question as to why committee spaces are not giving to people that can attend, SCLARC is addressing it right now with attendance policy.
- A reminder, SCLARC has a committee opening available. Please, e-mail us at selfdetermination@sclarc.org, in English or Spanish, if anyone wants to be part of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee. Applications will be available soon.
- The committee consists of individuals supported by SCLARC, their family members, and other interested community members in the catchment area. Applicants need to reflect the geographic and cultural diversity of the catchment area itself. SCLARC encourages anybody who resides in the South Gate or Lynwood to consider applying.

V. Update on Attendance Policy

- The Co-Chair contacted seven other regional center Chairs verifying that their committees have an attendance policy, but they didn't share ideas about the dynamic of the policies
- Last month, the committee discussed an example where if somebody missed two meetings without communication, the committee could send them a letter. If the committee didn't receive a response after a certain number of months, they could make a recommendation to either State Council or SCLARC depending on who had appointed the individual to have them removed.
 - *Committee Comment*: That attendance policy is a generous example. I believe this is very sensitive to our situation.
 - *SCLARC Suggestion*: Would there be a volunteer to write down this point? This way we can put it on next month's agenda as an action item. The committee may want to consider whether it's retroactive.
 - *Committee Response*: Yes, I would.

VI. Items for August, 2020 SDPLAC Agenda

- Welcome / introductions / minutes review
- Update on COVID-19, and the SDP participants
- Review and vote on the attendance policy
- Update on the fund allocation for SDP
- Updates on non-federally reimbursable services
- Share training ideas

VII. Public Comments

- *Committee Comment*: To compliment the great effort from the SD Program Manager to reach the participants to help them move on into the program.
- *Public Comment*: Yeah, there is a need to connect to other regional centers to have consistency.
- *Public Inquiry*: Can SCLARC provide a flowchart on the process of SD?
- *Staff Response*: Yes! I will make sure it's available at the next meeting.
- *Public Inquiry*: Why could a budget not be certified before the Person-Centered Plan completion?

- *Staff Response:* A Person-Centered Plan is needed to determine the unmet needs. Participants don't want to have a certified budget without first analyzing unmet needs.
- *Public Inquiry:* If a service does not exist under traditional services, then can participants access this need under SDP?
- *Staff Response:* Sometimes. It depends on the needs, but it might be possible. That's the beauty of Self-Determination!

VIII. Closing The Meeting

- The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm. The next meeting is on August 12, 2020.