



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes Summary**
Online Meeting Through Zoom due to COVID-19
January 13, 2021
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Terrence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member
Luz Hdez Gutierrez – SD-LAC Member
Armida Ochoa – SD-LAC Member
Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative
Megan Buckles – OCRA, SD-LAC Member
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Ted Bilbao – Chief of Case Management (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)
Odulia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)
Erika Anguiano (Staff)
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

Absent:

Public in attendance:

Fernando Gomez
Judy Mark
Adrian Jimenez
Carl Gonzalez
Caycee Ricketts
Danita Blanco
Diane Bernstein
Olivia Gonzalez
Rick Wood
Shelia J. Jones
Sonni Charness
Tamra Pauly
Terrasel Jones
Vicenta Martinez
Yvette Torres
and 42 more

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The meeting began by greeting everyone and wishing them a Happy New Year! Introductions proceeded, then a couple of polls were offered to identify the groups attending the meetings.
- Noting that this poll is in a testing phase, the results were the following: 33% were service providers (FMS, Independent Facilitators, and PCP Planners), and the other was 67%. No participants in SDP were present, no participants completed or in the completion process were present. Participants who are having barriers were not applicable 100%.
- Introductions preceded, and the Committee reviewed the minutes from December 9. There was a correction about the header of the minutes, and the document was approved.

II. SCLARC Update on Participants, Outreach Effort

- The SDP has six participants receiving services and 90 active individuals in the Program.
- There are 88 out of those 90 individuals who completed orientation, and 12 budgets certified.
- Six spending plans are certified, and 22 PCP completed.
- There has been no Fair Hearing regarding the budgets so far.
- The COVID-19 extra hours have been added to the individual budgets, and the families have been explained that this increase is temporary.
- The SDP is operating the FMS waiver - SDP families don't have to pay the FMS from the SDP budgets. It will be in effect as long as the waiver lasts.
 - *Committee Inquiry:* What's the average time that the spending plan has been pending?

- *Staff Response:* Anywhere from two weeks to eight months, all depends on the family. If individuals need accommodations in traditional services, SCLARC makes sure that they receive the services, regardless of the service delivery system.
- *Committee Inquiry:* Have we had any Fair Hearings?
- *Staff Response:* Not regarding the budgets, but there have been some Fair Hearings related to non-federally reimbursed services.

Outreach Efforts

- As part of outreach, all SDP cases will be transferred to specially trained Self-Determination Service Coordinators this month. These SCs have a lower caseload; therefore, they have more time to assist families transition to SDP.
- The SDP Manager has been meeting with all units at SCLARC to provide awareness about SDP for SCs can let the community know that the Program will be available in June.
- SCLARC is providing intensive training for our SD Service Coordinators on every step of the process to make sure that they are comfortable answering questions as time goes on.
- The SDP developed a one-page description of how you get from here to there for participants. It's in the Spanish translation process.

III. Questions/Public Comment

- *Public Comment:* Self-Determination is wonderful. A young man is here very interested in the program. Can you explain to him what it's about?
- *Committee Response:* In the Self-Determination Program, the participants are in charge of their life. It gives them the decision power to choose the service providers to satisfy their individual needs. Service providers don't need vendorization or approval from the regional center. It is a federal waiver program through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Unfortunately, rent is not a federally reimburse service; thus, it is not permitted under Self-Determination.
- *Public Chat Comment:* There were barriers to Self-Determination. She was told that she first had to go to an SD Meeting, but she'd been waiting for information for the next meeting for a year from her SC.
- *Staff Response:* That shouldn't be happening! Staff will give you my contact information, as well as the Self Determination email information and the case management information.
- *Committee Comment:* Rick Wood has been in the pilot program for 21 years . He was going to address the Committee but he had to leave. However, he made his contact information available for consumers/family. His email is rick@woodlawgroup.com
- *Public Comment:* The informational session was required for the first 2,500 people who were going in the pilot. It was done like this to select those 2,500. When the Program opens up in June, the participants are only required to attend the orientation.
 - The second thing, SDP does not start at the age of three. Children under three are actually eligible for the SDP if they're eligible for services through the Lanterman Act.
 - Announcement. Disability Voices United is holding a statewide virtual SD conference from April 16 through 18th. I'll give the information to your chair so he can distribute it. One of the goals of the Statewide SD Advisory is that every committee member transitions into the program by March 1 statewide.
 - Lastly, we are developing a new orientation because the one from DDS does not work. We want your committee to be part of it because your committee should be the one who provides it, not the staff.
- *Public Comment:* How can staff be navigators in the regional system if parents are the best support for parents? What is SCLARC doing with the navigators between now and June when

SD starts for everyone?

- *Staff Response:* The Parent Navigator Program is a program funded through disparity funding. Its objective is to work with people who do not have regional center services. It helps connect people with generic resources. Having navigators assist with SD is a new thing to see if it's successful. SCLARC is training navigators and people interested in SDP to be ready for June.

IV. Discussion/Ideas Between the Committee and SCLARC Staff

- The Committee recognizes that it needs to increase its efforts to engage the participants in SD. It's open for creative ideas on how to reach the general public.
- An idea is facilitating a real matchmaking session because, as we see it, there's a chasm between the consumer and services. Creativity is the way to find out exactly what the parents and the consumers need. It's more important than us acquiring services from any vendor.
- What we will do is set up a process of bringing into integration the business at hand. At this point, we're at one-half of 1%, and it's not acceptable.
- A committee member would like to see what's working for people. To her, one essential component is an independent facilitator to guide them through the process. How can we move people into SD?
 - *Public Comment:* I feel like I'm in that movie Groundhog Day when I come to your meetings; it's the same thing every month. You're empowered as a committee to decide how you spend your money. Make a decision. It's the reason why I come to your meetings because I see the struggle.
 - *Committee Response:* We need the support of the regional center. We don't have access to contact the families/consumers; so we heavily rely on the regional center. There is something that we're not doing right, but we need to understand what is needed so that we can make this happen. Maybe it's the direction of the Chairs.
- At this point, we don't have that many parents in the program. Sometimes you have to ask forgiveness instead of permission. I want to make a motion that we get one of the organizations that the Westside has used in terms of client engagement and see how it works.
- The Committee voted on this motion and moved. However, it was noted that the January agenda didn't list it as an action item; therefore, the February agenda will have it as an action item to vote on at the meeting. The Committee would look at the three options during the meeting.
 - *Public Comment:* Congratulations! It's what moving forward means. The only way the voting would be a problem is if somebody challenges it and makes it null and void. However, it was unanimous, and it is a public meeting.

V. Training Topics

- This agenda item was tabled for next meeting.

VI. Ideas for February Agenda Topics

- The Committee asked for a list of client engaging companies before next meeting.
- Putting ideas on the agenda was suggested.

VII. Closing Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM. The Committee recognized the Latino and Black Community for the great support shown to SCLARC. The next meeting is February 10, 2021 from 6 pm to 8 pm.