



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19
August 12, 2020
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Present:

Terence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Megan Buckles – CRA
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (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
Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member
Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member

Public in attendance:

Judy Mark
Cheryl Wilkes
Gladys Lizarraga
Yanci Castro
Mabel Lopez
Geordina Leon
Sara Martinez
Ruth Broyld
Linda Andron
Martha Gascon
and 49 attendees more

Meeting Start Time: 6:14 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Review minutes

- With warm and joyful greetings, the Committee welcomed the public attendance! However, they tabled approving July minutes because of the lack of a quorum.

II. SCLARC Update on Participants, COVID-19, Flow Chart, and Allocation of Funds

- There are 101 active participants in SDP, and 19 withdraws. DDS still has not taken out the ten who did not complete orientation by December 2019.
- The orientation status is as follows: 90 orientations completed, and 11 are pending
- Participants have completed nine PCPs and requested their budgets. Additional PCPs are in the process.
- SCLARC has approved eight budgets, and certified five
- Budget certification barriers are participants not returning the signed budget agreements; it could be to technological issues. There have not been any disagreements on the financial amounts.
- Barriers to spending plan completion are not having an FMS identified, and participants request services that are not allowed, either under the Lanterman Act at all or specifically under Self-Determination. HCBS compliance issues also represent a barrier.
- One participant is receiving services under SDP

COVID-19 Response Update

- SCLARC is trying to figure out how to help with educational needs because these are not funded under the Lanterman Act
- Reaching out to families to check on their well-being is relentless
- Continuing diaper distribution
- The office is not yet open to the public. SCLARC staff continues working from home

- Staff monitor the case management helpline constantly, SCs return calls within two days

Updates on Allocation of Funds

- SCLARC signed PCT Contract, and we are waiting of the selection of staff
- Guide book is still under evaluation and editing
- Translation equipment is in the process of being purchased

III. State-Level Advocacy for Services that are not Federally Reimbursable

This topic was tabled

IV. Update on Attendance Policy *Action item*

- Due to the lack of a quorum, the Committee was not able to ratify this item. Some points were discussed.
- The time-line for responses to verify or decline interest in participating. Records indicate there are four inactive members for several months.
- The appointing party will be responsible for sending the letter of interest.
- Two attendance policy proposals were on the table. One gives the absent members more time to verify their continued interest. The second asks members for a reasonable communication for future their absences.
- SCLARC does have an open committee spot; committee applications will be emailed to everyone invited to the August SDP-LAC meeting. The southeast of our catchment area and Spanish-speaking people are highly encouraged to submit applications.
 - *Committee Inquire:* Based on the continuous absences, would the process be necessary to replace those committee members?
 - *Committee Inquire:* When joining the SDP-LAC, I don't recall an explanation about the importance of attending the meetings. Have members been notified that the Committee needs their presence to reach efficiency?
 - *Staff Response:* The Co-Chair, not here this evening, has made several attempts to contact them without success. SCLARC also has called those members numerous times, but they don't respond or are no-shows to meetings after verifying interest.
 - *State Council Response:* The appointees from SCDD have been reached out. Echoing the given outreach, we may have some new openings in the future.
- This attendance policy attempts to create a participating atmosphere for members to advocate for the SDP participants' goals. To implement this, the committee needs to identify passionate individuals for its seats and set an effective method for recommendations if members' contributions become unavailable.
- The members in attendance unanimously agreed that action is needed to fill the four seats that are held by non-attendant members.
- Committee expectations need to be set in a clear way to avoid misunderstanding and foster collaboration.
- Committee four members agreed to revise proposals to make a draft for the next meeting.
- SCLARC agreed to send a letter to its appointees about the situation.

V. Training Ideas

- This topic was tabled for September's meeting. However, SCLARC upcoming training were

announced.

- On August 18, Financial Management Service (FMS) and a Meet and Greet session will be held via Zoom.
- Training on Advocacy Strategies will be held on August 26. SCLARC is partnering with the State Council for Developmental Disabilities. This will also be via Zoom.
- Lastly, a training on Unmet Needs, and Budgeting are scheduled for September. These are topics of interest to previous committee members.

VI. Questions/Public Comments

- One of the general requests was that the committee meetings be held in only Spanish, not in English with Spanish interpretation. Nevertheless, all committee meetings are in English. Please, send an email at selfdetermination@sclarc.org in English or Spanish to request a specific training (Informational Session, or some other topic) in Spanish.
- To clarify, SDP-LAC meetings are not to express case management issues. However, a staff member will enter into the chatbox both our Self-Determination email and the general case management hotline.
- Comments regarding why the public was muted besides the committee; this action made some parents feel uncomfortable. It is necessary to keep not-speaking people on mute to avoid unintentional background noises. The attendees can hear the meetings better; thus, this intention was not to silence the public.
- *Public Comment:* Some recommendations based on 20 out of 21 local advisory committees are:
 - Spending the first 45 minutes of the meeting allows participants and their family to talk about how things are going with the SDP. These meetings are two hours long.
 - The committee's job is providing oversight about how the regional center implements the program breaking down the bureaucracy.
 - A pattern is that people are not getting the support from the regional centers. Break down barriers from the beginning of the meeting. We're all learning together!
 - Get answers by reaching out to DDS or ask experts like Sonni Charness or ask me. I'm happy to help.
- *Public Comment:* Representing a tremendous number of people, families want to get involved and attend the committee meetings. The inability to integrate expressing individual barriers prevent them from interacting. There is also the lack of guidance on how to move the participants in the process to implement their PCP.
- *Staff Response:* SCLARC has a detailed outline on how to move forward. This will be sent after this meeting.
- *Public Comment:* There's misleading information shared with the Latino Community. Reinforcing what was mentioned earlier, it will be proactively doing more meetings in Spanish.
- *Committee Plea:* Making a passionate plea again, please, Latino Community come and be part of the committee.
- *Public Comment:* I appreciate the way the Co-Chair manages the meeting; you listen to the people. Navigating the system is extremely hard; it goes beyond calling a number. It's about knowing how to request services. We need you to help us assist you; thus, call out for help, get involved, and learn.
- *Announcement:* SCLARC's Annual Disparity Meeting required by law is on August 24 addresses this specific topic. The followup email will include the flyer with the login

information so everybody can attend.

- *Public Comment:* Echoing the previews comment, Latino Community speaks Spanish and never change. Regional centers need to respect our native language at meetings.
- *Committee Response:* The Committee never thought that having the meetings in English was disrespectful to the Spanish speaking community. Thank you for expressing your concern. Are you willing to join our Committee so that you can help us move this initiative as far as respect for the Latino Community?
 - *Parent Response:* Simply. At meetings, we need a level of respect. Yes. I want to be part of the committee.
- *Public Comment:* Would it be possible to connect families that have gone through the process.
- *Staff Response:* Due to privacy laws, SCLARC cannot disclose consumers'/families' information. In July, there was a QA Session with our first family that went through the process. I'll certainly reach out to them to see if they would be willing to either have another session or connect on a more one on one basis.

VII. Closing The Meeting

- The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm. He thanked every comment and dialogue. The Committee wants to have the Latino Community fill the vacant seat. They would become more inclusive and help change the dynamics. The next meeting is on September 9, 2020.