



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19
September 9, 2020
6:00pm – 7:30pm

Present:

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Jose Gudino – SD-LAC Member
Armida Ochoa – SD-LAC Member
Luz Hdez Gutierrez – SD-LAC Member
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:

Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member
Terence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Megan Buckles – CRA

Public in attendance:

Veronica Moser
Shelia Jordan-Jones
Olivia Gonzalez
Yvette Torres
Juana Avila
Maria L. Dimas
Linda Adron-Ostrow
Jeanetta Burton
Adrian Jimenez
Beatriz Casas
Caycee Ricketts
and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:06 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Review Minutes

- The Committee cheerfully welcomed the public attendance! Having a quorum enabled the Committee to approve July and August minutes. A committee member recorded a bilingual video to explain the conduct rules of the meeting; it was played at the beginning of the session.

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

- There are 100 active participants in SDP, and 20 withdraws. DDS still has not taken out the ten participants who did not complete orientation by December 2019.
- Eight participants are pending orientation, and 92 individuals completed it.
- SCLARC uses text messages, phone calls, and sends certified letters to invite participants to complete orientation. At this point, a one-on-one orientation is offered to accommodate them.
- Eleven people completed their PCP, and 16 more are in the process of completion.
- Ten budget requests have been submitted, and nine budgets have been provided to families. Five certified budgets, plus two spending plans completed and certified. There are two IPPs completed. Two participants are receiving services under Self-Determination.
- The Committee requested data about the ethnicity of people who had withdrawn from the program. That information is as follows: From November 2018, 66% of the SDP withdrawals are Hispanic, the Caucasian withdrawals are 5%, and African Americans are 30%. This counting includes withdrawals and transfers to another regional center; thus, some individuals are counted twice.
- Overall since 2018, 51% are Spanish speaking and 46% are English speaking of the withdrawals.

- Reasons for leaving SDP are the lack of time, satisfied with traditional services, didn't need SDP, and don't want to change SCs.
- SCLARC has several self-advocates who withdrew the SDP because it's too much to manage. Others were not able to access the services that they need under Self-Determination. Some withdrew the Program for health issues. Finding service providers was a concern for some others. Lastly, a couple of them passed away before SDP started.
- There is a vacant seat for the committee. The applications were emailed to possible members after the last meeting. The Spanish-speaking community is encouraged to join,

COVID-19 Update

- SCLARC staff is still working from home
- SCLARC deeply encourages them to contact their SCs or the management helpline. It is monitored by staff who speaks both English and Spanish. The phone number is 1-833-725-2731 and email address is cmhelp@sclarc.org. Or use the selfdetermination@sclarc.org email to contact SCLARC.
- *Committee Inquiry:* When it was mentioned, ten budgets requested, does that mean the consumer requested their previous 12 months? How long does it take to get back to the participant?
- *Staff Answer:* It is the formally request. When SCLARC receives the PCP and the participant's confirmation of satisfaction, SCLARC requests the last 12 months' budget from its Fiscal Department. This is the beginning of the budget certification process. It takes approximately two weeks to have a meeting with the participant.
- *Committee Inquiry:* Does SCLARC have enough PPE? There is a possible donation.
- *Staff Answer:* It has been an ongoing effort; thus, just depending on when SCLARC gets the supplies in. If supplies are available, it's an option for SCLARC to help more individuals.
- *Committee Inquiry:* Regarding the families that have completed the PCP, is it possible to make them aware that any funds left over from the \$2,500 can go towards hiring an independent facilitator?
- *Staff Answer:* SCLARC makes that suggestion right away,

III. Public Comment

- *Public Inquire:* How do we request PPE?
- *Staff Answer:* Contact the SC, he/she has a list of resource near you.
- *State Council Comment:* Since this update was not on the agenda, it became a public comment. This evening there is a new member of the State Council. Her name is Armida Ochoa.
- *New SDP-LAC Comment:* Thank you for this opportunity! I'm here to offer my experience with the community. Let's make a difference

IV. Update on Attendance Policy

- The Committee opened the floor for discussion on the attendance policy proposal.
- Some specific corrections were made and noted.
- The Committee opened the floor for public comments, but no comments were made.
- The attendance policy was moved and seconded to approve. The Committee adopted an attendance policy. Members will receive a copy of the SCLARC SDP-LAC Attendance Policy.

V. Advocacy for Services that Are Not Federally Reimbursable

- An idea is drafting a document to the State Council to state how this ruling affects the participants. It prevents flexibility on rent, food, shelter, utilities, and other services.
- Such regulation has excluded participants at SCLARC from Self-Determination Program.
- The Committee opened the discussion to see how to advocate for participants at the State Level.
- The SD Law can be changed if a local advisory committee and the State Council Advisory Committee make the recommendation.
- The Committee would research the subject before a solid discussion at the next meeting; thus, it requested the specific section of the SD Law.
- Another suggestion was to create a video explaining the points. Visual advocacy would be more persuasive than a document alone.
- The Committee would request a change in the SD Law to allow flexibility in services not federally reimbursed.
- Under the Lanterman Act, a very narrowed window exists for flexibility. It allows unique individuals to access services not federally reimbursable under traditional services. However, this flexibility is prohibited in SDP.
- Another recommendation was to include stories of hardships to families result from this policy.
- Summarizing for the next meeting, reviewing the ideas, and deciding what to include on the document and a video.
- The floor was opened to public comments. There were no comments on the matter.

VI. Training Ideas

- To receive information about the SDP, send an email to selfdetermination@sclarc.org. You will be added to the mailing list.
- On September 16, there is training on Budgeting and Unmet Needs from 6 pm to 8 pm. On September 24, at the same time, there will be another Q&A requested by the community. Lastly, an FMS training session will take place on September 30.
- A committee member gave SCLARC an idea about a useful presentation on How To Request Services Under SD and Traditional Services.
- All of these training sessions will be available in English and Spanish.
- Creating short videos defining keywords related to getting services and living with a disability was also an idea.
- Although SCLARC is increasing the capacity to do training in Spanish only, the committee members are welcomed to use the material and do their training.
- As part of the fund allocation dedicated to PCP Trainer, SCLARC has two individuals for this task. They started their training, and they speak English and Spanish fluently
- A suggestion was to have the workshop in Spanish without translation. Due to massive information disseminated at training, some of this gets lost during instant translation. Detention and comprehension are also factors reinforcing the need for training in Spanish.
- SCLARC cannot fund for experimental treatments even under Self-Determination. These were only allowed to fund research-based and evidence-based peer-reviewed treatments. Does the Committee and Public think that it would be helpful to have training on What Is An Evidence-Based Therapy and What Is An Evidence-Based Service?
- *Committee Response:* It's beyond the scope of the regional center; so, there is no need for further explanation. For information purposes, it would be a great idea to discuss possible

training in the future. Maybe an organization or a parent comes in to do a presentation.

- *Staff Response:* Please let SCLARC know if there are a specific training topic and a cost-related for an organization to come to do the training. No fund allocation was made for this.
- *Public Comment:* Training on how to obtain services during the Winter would be helpful. The reason for this is because of the pandemic, finding service providers is difficult. Maybe it's possible to invite some exiting vendors to present their services through Self-Determination.
- *Staff Response:* There is a DDS directive just released about the alternative provision of non-residential services; thus, SCLARC is looking into it to provide services.

VII. Closing The Meeting

- The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:27 pm. The Committee thanked everyone for attending the session. The next meeting is on October 14, 2020.