



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Zoom due to COVID-19
June 9, 2021
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Present:

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
 Terrence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair
 Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
 Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
 Luz Hernandez – SD-LAC Member
 Armida Ochoa – SD-LAC Member
 Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member
 Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
 Sonia Tostado – OCRA Representative
 Bhumit Shah – OCRA Representative
 Sofia Cervantes – State Council
 Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative
 Naomi Hagel – SD Program Manager

Present:

Odulia Juarez – Program Manager
 Crystal Chavez-Washington – Program
 Manager
 Erika Anguiano – Diversity Case Management
 Specialist
 Jenice Turner – Assistant Director
 Desiree Boykin – Consumer Representative
 Eduardo Kogan – Eng/Span Interpreter
 Shelley Hash – Eng/Span Interpreter

Absent:

Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member
 Guadalupe Barrera – SD-LAC Member

Public in attendance:

Caycee Ricketts
 Shelia J. Jones
 Linda Andron
 Josefina Nieves
 Judy Mark
 Lara Okinubi
 Pia Hernandez
 Cindy Vazquez
 Alma Morales
 Coleen Kaiwi
 Ana De Silva
 and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:02 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The Co-Chair welcomed the public. There was a closed caption request. The Spanish interpretation was explained on Zoom.
- Introductions and roll-calling were brief. The new Office of Clients' Rights Advocate (OCRA) representative, Bhumit Shah, introduced himself.
- Ms. Moore motioned to approve the minutes from the May 5th, 2021 Special Meeting as written; Mr. Jones seconded it. There were no corrections.
- Ms. Moore motioned to approve the minutes from the May 12th, 2021 Meeting as written; Ms. Ochoa seconded it with no corrections.

II SCLARC Update on Participants

- The Committee asked staff to reveal the number of participants and updates on orientation only. Time was limited on this occasion.
- As June 1st 2021, SCLARC has 16 participants receiving services under Self-Determination.
- There are monthly orientations in English and Spanish. The SCLARC website lists the dates and times.
- SCLARC will accept participants who have taken SCLARC's orientation entirely to move forward into the Self-Determination Program. It is to ensure the participants know the mechanism of the program at SCLARC.

- The recording of the orientation is in process. This recording will be available online as a reference for the participants.

III. Independent Facilitator Presentations

Education Spectrum: Withdrew their proposal

Ochoa's Consulting: This company is well versed in the Spanish Community and generic resources.

The agency is composed of four professionals who have children with special needs. Their experience is in special education, regional center, IHSS, and SSI. It has been 14 years of helping the community with the mentioned systems in collaboration with some mental clinics. In addition, they offer training on a variety of topics to help the community understand the programs and benefits out there.

- *Committee Inquiry:* On the budget plan, how much assistance do you provide?

- *Ochoa's Response:* We verify codes, modify the plans, and communicate with the FMS and the regional center.

- Ms. Ochoa excused herself from the meeting to avoid Conflict of Interest.

Linda Andron-Ostrow: This agency offers mentoring services from the beginning of the transition into the Self-Determination Program to its end. The CEO is knowledgeable about the Lanterman Act and Person-Centered Plan structure. With over 55 years of experience and helped more than 1,000 families in numerous aspects, she and her team will empower families to succeed in Self-Determination. This agency projects the five principles of Self-Determination!

- *Committee Inquiry:* How would you advise overprotective parents to let their teenage children go to face life?

- *Team Response:* Although safety is a big concern for parents, everyone wants their kids to have a happy life. Balancing safety and happiness carries risk; thus, the individual has a team to mitigate risks and support the individual. Everyone takes risks, so people with different abilities should not be different from taking those chances.

NestDan: It was founded in 2017 to provide services to train and empower Latino families to navigate all the aspects of Self-Determination. The proposal is to provide services to explain in detail the mechanism of the program to the families who do not know the program. It also includes matching families with the appropriate independent facilitator and creating a one-page profile of the individual to reveal exactly how he/she is.

- *Committee Inquiry:* How would you advise overprotective parents to let their teenage children go to face life?

- *NestDan Response:* It's a great question! If parents know that their children are safe, it changes their perspectives. Knowing that Self-Determination has the tools that ensure their safety is the key factor to let them go and face life.

- *Committee Inquiry:* Can you expand on your past personal and business experience when working with individuals with different abilities?

- *NestDan Response:* I'm a member of the local advisory committee at Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC), which has the Self-Determination Pilot Program; I've heard about the program for many years. Even though I have written a few Person-Centered Plans

professionally, my knowledge and experience are solid in the field.

Shelia Jordan-Jones (JJA Impact Solutions): CEO is a retired Special Ed. Educator of 38 years working in the field of transition and supporting individuals and families. Her qualifications are certified Person-Centered Trainer and Independent Facilitator, and earned a certificate from Cornell University as a Practitioner Work Incentive (help those who receive SSI/SSD). The coaching services are to provide leadership training for families to succeed in Self-Determination. In addition, sharing resources and affective communication represent value aspects that are included based on the five principles of Self-Determination.

- *Committee Inquiry:* Have you seen the systematic issues that SCLARC's community faces, and how would you help our community to move into Self-Determination?

- *JJA Impact Solutions:* Yes, I've dedicated 20 years to this community. Everyone has different needs and means to find resources. My team and I will provide tailored services to meet the individual's needs. We will use a step-by-step process in finding services for the individual to reach their goals in Self-Determination.

- *Committee Inquiry:* We are in a pandemic. How has this impacted your ability to assist families in their decision-making?

- *JJA Impact Solutions:* Good and bad! Good because, through social media, I've talked with more families more than ever, which is my favorite part. The bad part is that I can't meet them in person.

Jocabed Garcia: The agency is to educate and provide quality services for immigrant and Latino individuals. As a parent of two individuals with autism, the CEO understands the issues and rewards that there may be. Services include providing parent support and guidance, educational transition support, and social skills. There is also guidance on relationships for adults who want to start their own families. Self-Determination Program is the main tool for individuals to reach their self-determined life; thus, Person-Centered Plan writing and Independent Facilitator services are offered too.

- *Committee Inquiry:* Have you worked with any other regional centers?

- *Jocabed Garcia:* Yes, I have worked with San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center, and Lanterman Regional Center.

- *Committee Inquiry:* When did you establish the agency?

- *Jocabed Garcia:* Although my agency was established this year, I have 18 years of experience working with families in the community.

Words from the Committee

- The Committee thanked every presenter for their dynamic and thorough presentations. Each Member selected three agencies, and the agencies that got the most votes will get the contract to guide SCLARC's participants into Self-Determination if the participants wish to do it.
- For clarification: It is not only three for the entire SCLARC community. Three coaching agencies will provide services for the participants selected by the DDS and that have not transitioned yet.
- The Committee asked Linda Andron-Ostrow, NestDan, and Jocabed Garcia to answer the following question: Have you seen the systematic issues that SCLARC's community faces, and how would you help our community to move into Self-Determination?

Linda Andron-Ostrow's Team Response: We can meet where the individuals or their families are, and from there, go step-step vanishing barriers to reach each goal. One needs to satisfy their immediate needs to focus on the next one.

Jocabed Garcia: Working in collaboration is important to detect barriers and solve them to move forward in any system. Giving the appropriate guidance is how my agency will empower individuals and their families to succeed in Self-Determination.

NestDan: From personal experience, I know that every consumer is different; thus, my agency will focus on every individual with an open mind. It's about listening, understanding, and taking action. My agency offers that to coach the participants' transition into Self-Determination.

IV. Public Comment

- *Public Comment:* How many coaching companies will there be after your selection of three? In addition, I appreciate the information disseminated at the meetings; I learn something at every meeting. I like all presenters, and I think that Ms. Nieves and Ms. Garcia should join forces to work together. I also think the staff's perspective on the candidates should be heard.
- *Committee Response:* We will have three coaching companies on our team. Unfortunately, time is limited at this particular time; the Committee must vote today to decide on the coaching companies
- *Public Comment:* It's super important that the Committee take public comments. The role of the local advisory committees is to hear from the community with enough time and provide oversight. Secondly, the barriers have been consistent to get into the Program, and there has been misinformation provided. I'm knowledgeable of the law, and I want to help. Please encourage the Program Manager to meet with me. There are weekly meetings on the Self-Determination Program on Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:00 PM called SDP Connect. Here, we can learn together.
- *Committee's Responses:* Thank you for your comment. We apologize for smashing people's comments together this meeting; we ran out of time. Last month, we had three meetings we took public comments. The Committee acknowledges your expertise and knowledge. The points would be addressed. Thank you for trying to help the Committee and participants.
- *Public Comment:* At meetings, people always talk about autism and rarely mention other conditions. I would like to hear about a variety of diagnoses. The Committee has three members with disabilities; thus, I'd like to hear from them. How were their Person-Centered Plan processes for them?

V. Committee Voting

- Sherry Johnson's voting: Linda Andron-Ostrow, Jocabed Garcia, and JJA Impact Solutions
- Alberta Moore's voting: Linda Andron-Ostrow, JJA Impact Solutions, and Jocabed Garcia
- Alnita Dunn's voting: Linda Andron-Ostrow, JJA Impact Solutions, and Ochoa's Consulting
- Antwan Jones' voting: Linda Andron-Ostrow, JJA Impact Solutions, and Jocabed Garcia
- Diana Ugalde's voting: NestDan, JJA Impact Solutions, and Jocabed Garcia
- Bhumit Shah/Somia Tostado's voting: Linda Andron-Ostrow, JJA Impact Solutions, and Ochoa's Consulting
- Luz Hernandez could not vote due to technical issues on Zoom

- Terrence Payne's voting: Jocabed Garcia, Linda Andron-Ostrow, and JJA Impact Solutions
- The top three coaching companies are:
 - JJA Impact Solutions (Shelia Jordan-Jones) with seven votes
 - Linda Andron-Ostrow with six votes
 - Jocabed Garcia Tools for Legacy with five votes
- The above companies will help participants selected in the soft rollout to transition into Self-Determination.

VII. Meeting Adjourning

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM. The Committee thanked the companies for their presentations and SCLARC for its support. The next meeting is on July 14 from 6 PM to 8 PM.