



**Self-Determination Local Advisory  
Committee Minutes**  
**Online Meeting Through Zoom due to COVID-19**  
**July 14, 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  
 Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member  
 Guadalupe Barrera – SD-LAC Member  
 Bhumit Shah – OCRA Representative  
 Sofia Cervantes – State Council  
 Christofer Arroyo – State Council

**Present:**

Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative  
 Naomi Hagel – SD Program Manager  
 Odulia Juarez – Program Manager  
 Erika Anguiano – Diversity Case Mgmt.  
 Specialist  
 Ted Bilbao – Chief of Case Mgmt.  
 Jenice Turner – Assistant Director  
 Eduardo Kogan – Eng/Span Interpreter  
 Shelley Hash – Eng/Span Interpreter  
**Absent:**  
 Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member

**Public in attendance:**

Shelia J. Jones  
 Linda Andron  
 Jaime Marquez  
 Nannette Meldrum  
 Ruth Broyld  
 Julie Snyder  
 Sheila Payne  
 Regina Hayes  
 Brenda Pelayo  
 and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:03 pm

**I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- The Co-Chair welcomed the public, then the Spanish interpretation was explained on Zoom.
- Introductions and roll-calling were brief.
- Ms. Moore motioned to approve the minutes from June 9th, 2021, as written; Ms. Johnson seconded it. There were no corrections.

**II SCLARC Update**

- Now that the Self-Determination Program (SDP) is open to everyone, there was a presentation about the program, which was emailed to the SDP email list. The followings are highlights.

**Informational Session**

- These sessions, required to be on the wait list, started in 2015 and went on through the years. The Sessions were a brief Program overview, but they are no longer offered because they were duplicate to the orientation.
- Some completion barriers were lack of knowledge of the Program, language, and COVID-19.
- Solutions were reviewing the sign-in sheets and verifying their SD knowledge, adding attendees to the wait list, and following up with interested people, to mention some. SCLARC trained staff on Self-Determination.

## Orientation

- It is the mandatory orientation after being selected or to begin the Program.
- Orientation completion: 81 out of 84 participants from the soft roll-out completed the orientation. Additionally, 60 individuals completed orientation in May and June.
- Barriers to completion have been scheduling and lack of response from individuals, length of time to complete it, and technology during COVID-19, among others.
- Solutions have been contacting attempts, in-person sessions if it's safe, and trained Spanish-speaking staff, to mention some.
- If people are interested in SDP at SCLARC, they must take orientation at SCLARC.

## Person-Centered Planning (PCP)

- The Person-Centered Plan (PCP) is the next step to receiving services under SD. It's an outside comprehensive plan that looks at all areas of the individual's life to identify strengths, needs, and changes, among other aspects. It helps identify unmet needs and address the disparity.
- Half of the participants of the soft roll-out, which is 42, have completed their Plans. At least three individuals who were not in the soft roll-out completed their Plans. There are nine plans in progress.
- Challenges to completing the PCP have been not understanding its purpose, COVID-19, and time commitment, to mention some.
- Solutions are Self-Determination Training Series, virtual meet and greet, and the benefits of Zoom in PCPs. Developing a resource list is also a solution, among others.

## Demographic of Completed PCPs

- In total, there are 42 PCPs completed. English-speaking is 24 (57%), and Spanish-speaking is 18 (43%). SCLARC encouraged the Committee to decide how many participants each coaching company will have to move forward and start working with those families.

## Budget Certification

- It is the process in which the number of funds to be available for a participant's Self-Determination Year is agreed upon. The budget certification is the next step after the PCP.
- After the budget certification meeting and within two business days, the family receives a summary of the points and specifications agreed at the meeting.
- There are 28 budget certifications completed and 14 in progress.
- Some barriers have been families not understanding permitted and prohibited services, and services requests requiring clinical evaluation, among others.
- Solutions are training sessions, Zoom meetings, a list of specific generic resources, and more.

## Spending Plan

- It's a document identifying how a participant's budget will be spent over a year.
- There are 27 spending plans completed and three in progress.
- Some barriers to completion are inappropriate service requests, misunderstanding of the rates to be paid, COVID-19/life circumstance, among others.
- The regional centers can review spending plans to verify services comply with the Lanterman Act and are permitted under Self-Determination Program.
- Solutions have been assistance from community support, training, Zoom meetings, and more.

## Service Commencement

- Service commencement is when the participant starts receiving services under Self-Determination.
- One of the challenges includes the fiscal department running on systems from the 1970s, but SCLARC has overcome it overall.
- A struggle is complying with the Home Community Based Services (HCBS). It is a requirement for the regional center and the FMS to ensure that services are provided in an integrated setting.
- Some solutions are staff recruitment, lowering caseloads, partnership with Management Information System (MIS) and other regional centers.

## Demographic

- As of July 1st, SCLARC has 24 participants receiving services under SDP. Anticipation is that three more participants will transition in August.
- English-speaking participants are 15, and Spanish-speaking participants are nine.

## State Budget

- Due to funding that has stayed stagnant since 1999, and the lack of staff, there is not having enough money to pay competitive wages to provide consistency and quality services.
- Expectations are to hire more people to help out with what is to come.

## After Services Start

- Among others, challenges are hiring staff via FMS, vendor payment, service availability due to COVID-19, and more.
- Solutions are encouraging participants to engage with the FMS early in the process, vendor notification and training, and more.

## Withdrawals

- Overall there are 53 withdrawals since 2018. Of those, 30 participants didn't complete the orientation. 23 participants went through orientation. One participant did the PCP but withdrew.
- English-speaking individuals were 27, and Spanish-speaking participants were 26
- Some people withdrew because they are now satisfied with traditional services; SCLARC is now a person-centered agency. Other reasons are life circumstances, and not-allowable services, among others.

## Timeframes

- Two business days for general communication. In emergencies, call your Service Coordinator's manager or dial 213-744-7000 to speak with the Officer Of the Day.
- After receiving the PCP, payment authorization is completed within ten business days if all parties agree.
- The budget meeting is scheduled simultaneously and occurs approximately ten business days after confirmation.
- After receiving a spending plan, staff reviews and provides feedback within five business days.
- For service commencement, all parties must agree to the spending plan by the 15th of the month.
- For spending plan modifications, after all parties agree, the Purchase Of Service (POS) and addendum will be completed within ten business days.

## Roles of service providers

- The role of service providers are as follows:
  - Independent Facilitator's roles are finding service providers, negotiating rates, preparing and modifying spending plans
  - Financial Management Services (FMS)'s roles are employment and payroll, ensuring labor and tax laws are followed. Entering appropriate numbers and HCBS compliance
  - Regional Center's roles are the completion and amendment of the budget, IPP, addendum, POS, etc., referral to generic resources, HCBS compliance, and overall case management/troubleshooting
- Some other initiatives are adding SDP to New Parent Orientation and the IPP Overview completed by the Navigator Program. Other initiatives include a SD email list, and the COVID-19 Alternative Services related to SDP via traditional services.

## 2019-2020 Allocation

- The Committee allocated funds for meeting and training interpretation and translation equipment. Funds were spent for a guidebook and to train person-centered thinking trainers who speak Spanish, to mention some.

## Some future focuses

- Some of these focus will be the impact of COVID-19 on Self-Determination, the scaling up of the Program, and the Coaching Program, to mention a few.

## A few responses to past public comment are as follows:

- Productive dialogue is welcome and encouraged, but SCLARC will not tolerate attacks against our community or staff in public or private meetings.
- SCLARC cannot speak to outside providers regarding specific concerns and cases. The agency cannot schedule last-minute meeting requests; scheduling meetings takes time because of the people involved and their schedules.
- SCLARC cannot and will not respond to specific comments during public meetings.
- SCLARC believes in and follows Bagley-Keene Rules. In reiterating the Bagley-Keene Rules, it does not require unfettered or unlimited public comment.
- The community has indicated that all people requesting respite must get a doctor's note, which is untrue. There are certain requirements for licensed vocational nurses to complete evaluations in the cases of specific medical conditions.
  - *Committee Inquiry*: If the 024 funds become available, will the families be notified?
  - *Staff Response*: Yes! They will be notified through the Self-Determination email list.
  - *Committee Inquiry*: How can we explain the family's responsibility, especially when they choose the sole-employer module?
  - *Staff Response*: SCLARC has a one-page English and Spanish profile available on the website. It breaks down the roles and responsibilities of each party. It is accessible and not overwhelming for families. It is in English and Spanish.
- The Committee agreed to put on the monthly agenda two definitions of Self-Determination's acceptable service codes and give examples of how the participants benefit from services.

## III. Discussion of SDP Coaching Logistics/Planning

- The Committee discussed the Coaching Program funding per company. One of the company's understandings was that there would not be a specific number of hours set per family. The funding would be divided equally to move all the selected families into SDP. The other two companies agreed to this understanding.
- The idea was to divide the 22 families interested into the three companies. It is an average of seven families per company. The Coaching Program is considered a pilot program; it would reveal how many hours it would take each family. The Committee accepted the suggestion.
  - SCLARC committed to make the divisions of who will go to whom.
  - At the next meeting, the Committee will review the divisions for the companies to start working with the families.
- The Committee motioned the action to approve \$20,000 per company to help the selected participants into SDP. However, public comments were taken before approving the motion.
  - *Public Inquiry:* Will the Coaching Program be open for the 22 families only?
  - *Committee Response:* No. The \$60,000 is not only to coach 22 families.
  - *Public Comment:* As a coach selected, I want to clarify that SD is a volunteer program. We will coach the families and do the documentation, but it must be respected if the family decides not to start services. From my experience, after the family is ready to start SD Service, they drop the Program; I want the Committee and SCLARC to understand it.
  - *Public Comment:* What if we make the contract for less than \$20,000 for the seven participants and see how it goes?
  - *Public Comment:* A suggestion was to check in with the participants after 90 days of being in the program to see how things are going for them,
- The Committee modified the previous motion and approved \$30,000 for the three Coaching Companies to start helping the first phase of the soft rollout participants to transition into SDP. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

#### **IV. Public Comment**

- *Public Comment:* I believe the comments during the presentation are not appropriate. The individuals who wrote this law are parents with children with special needs. They know firsthand what it takes to have children with special needs.
- *Public Inquiry:* I am interested in Self-Determination, but my child does not have a budget. What is the procedure for these cases?
- *Staff Response:* The procedure is to have a Person-Centered Plan done to identify the unmet needs and set a budget.
- *Public Inquiry:* Will the recorded orientation be also in Spanish?
- *Staff Response:* Yes, the recorded orientation online will be in Spanish too.
- *Public Comment:* Thank you for giving the time for my testimony. I'm the first consumer who transitioned into Self-Determination on July 1st. I have autism and did all my paperwork by myself. I believe that we, consumers, are in the best position to help each other. My micro-enterprise focuses on budgets, PCP, facilitating, and peer support. It works as a model for others to show how it is done. I have a Master's Degree in Transformative Leadership. My achievements are: authoring five bills and passed into law in New York,

I'm a lobbyist in Sacramento, and my Ph.D. is in Psychology. My micro-enterprise deserves a chance; thus, I'm requesting to be on the agenda for the next meeting to give you an overview of my business.

#### **V. Meeting Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM. The Committee thanked the public for their input and SCLARC for its support. The next meeting is on August 11 from 6 PM to 8 PM.