



South Central Los Angeles
Regional Center
for persons with developmental disabilities, inc.

**Special Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Meeting Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Zoom due to COVID-19
May 5, 2021
5:00PM – 7:00PM

Present:

Terrence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Armida Ochoa – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Luz Hernandez – SD-LAC Member
Guadalupe Barrera – SD-LAC Member
Sofia Cervantes – State Council Nidya
Paredes – OCRA Representative Nikisia
Simmons – DDS Representative Naomi
Hagel – SD Program Manager

Present:

Odulia Juarez – Program Manager
Crystal Chavez-Washington – Program
Manager
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director
Carolyn Abrahan – Service Coordinator
Eduardo Kogan – Eng/Span Interpreter
Sonia Hernandez – Eng/Span Interpreter

Absent:

Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member
Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member
Sonia Tostado – OCRA Representative

Public in attendance:

Sabrina Kappe
Jeanetta Burton
Mary Zamora
Alicia Amaya
Shelia J. Jones
Lara Okunubi
Linda Rodriguez
Caycee Ricketts
Pia Hernandez
Regina Hayes
and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:02 PM

I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The Co-Chair welcomed the public. It was explained how the Spanish interpretation works. Introductions and roll-calling were brief.
- The approval of the minutes was tabled. On May 12, the minutes from April 14 and May 5 will be reviewed and approved.

II. SCLARC Update on Composition of Committee

- The Committee welcomed a new member, Guadalupe Barrera, the mother of two consumers of SCLARC and a representative of the Latin Community.

III. Questions / Public Comment

- *Committee inquiry:* Are there any updates on the participants?
- *Staff Response:* There are 15 participants receiving services under SD. It is an increase of two from last month.
- *Public Comment:* I'm an Independent Facilitator, I've seen that some participants have a small circle of support; I wanted to hear your input from experience in these cases. Why are there more regional center staff than people from the community participating in the PCP creation?
- *Staff Response:* It's not has been my experience. Families are encouraged to spend the funds for their PCP and to invite whoever they choose to. The participants know the regional center staff is not required to be part of the creation, but they invite their SC because this person helps

them with services. I've seen that the PCP process is an opportunity to increase the circle of support. There are the IF, FMS, and PCP Planner; families didn't have them before.

- *Public Comment:* A suggestion: We need is to modify how the PCPs are approved. It's not right for me to receive calls asking me if their plans have been approved yet. This approval is a celebration, not just a simple signature. My question is: Will the regional center offer to pay the \$2,500 to write the PCP end on June 30? Lastly, how many participants have done the PCP?
- *Staff Response:* This question has been asked to DDS and State Council, but there is no straight answer. Arca petitioned for the regional centers to continue paying for the plans because it reduces disparity, helps to identify unmet needs, and reveals the changes in circumstances. We are waiting for an answer. I acknowledge your suggestion; I'll make sure it's done. The data that will be presented next has all aspects needed.
- *Public Comment:* It's a good idea for SCLARC to get consent forms from the individuals who have not signed up to share information with the service providers. This way, providers can call them to offer support if they have questions and give them an individualized presentation. Otherwise, it will not work out with generic marketing.
- *Staff Response:* That is the idea of the matching process the Committee is working on. The community needs extra help; this process will help many people.
- *Committee Inquiry:* Will the service providers come and go under SD the same way as traditional services? They help the consumer with whatever he needs; then they phase out; a new one comes.
- *Committee and Staff Response:* In SD, you don't need to wait for the service to end due to a time frame. You can stay with a worker if you like, or end the contract and hire another. You will always be eligible for services from the regional center; as you evolve, the kind of services will also change. However, you have the power to choose those services and who provides them.
- **Public Comment:* In helping move participants into SD is doing three-layer coaching in which the coaching team is the connector with families. Then the IFs are the next layer of assistance that includes guiding the families through the process. Lastly, the FMS would be the final layer that is paying for services under SD.
- *Committee Comment:* I would like to hear more from the community, the consumers, the self-advocates on what's missing? What can the Committee do better? What do they want? When they come to these meetings, what are they looking for at meetings?
- *Public Comment:* I'm a self-advocate. Learning about SD is great, but parents don't have knowledge of the help out there. I'm in SD, I am fortunate to work with a family!
- *Public Comment:* We are looking for more individualized training adequate for our children; so that we can request services.
- *Public Comment:* Why don't families get their spending plan certified in a timely matter?
- *Staff Response:* SCLARC typically responds to a spending plan within two to three business days. Delays start when the participants request services not permitted under SD. It requires lots of explanations, changes to the PCP, meetings, etc.
- *Committee Comment:* I wonder if planners and IFs have a list of non-fundable services under SD.
- *Committee Comment:* If the families don't have the basic knowledge of SD, they need more help going through the process and maintaining services under the program. Thus, we need great planners and IFs for our families to choose from. Also, it's urgent for more support from

DDS!

IV. Meet/Greet (Matchmaking) Discussions and Planning

- Let's separate the participants who are ready from those who need more preparation. The matchmaking will be for those who are ready now for SDP.
- There are approximately 11 companies that can help our participants transition into SD. Now, the Committee needs a count of the participants ready to engage with an IF and PCP Planner.
- In January, I, as a Co-Chair, committed to getting 30 participants in SDP by June. I have failed because just 15 participants are receiving SD services. It's unacceptable!
- SCLARC needs the Committee to choose the companies to coordinate the matchmaking event. The coaching will be in charge of guiding the participants through the transition process.
- SCLARC cannot give the Committee an exact number of people because the selected participants for the soft roll-out are not interested in moving forward right now.
- SCLARC plans a meet and greets event for families to hear about different services and meet service providers. There will be two sessions, one in English and one in Spanish without translation.
- SCLARC urges the Committee to select the coaching companies to give that one-on-one assistance our community needs. SCLARC cannot provide that assistance; thus, coaching is urgent.
- Understanding the mentioned fact, the Committee still needs an approximate number of participants to do the matchmaking. Participants selected need to decide whether they are interested in transitioning into SD or vacate their spot. Many people are waiting to get into the program.
- Many companies have submitted their Capabilities Statements; participants will benefit from a Zoom meeting to meet each other.
- Out of the 11 companies that have submitted their Capabilities Statements, nine of them show both PCP and IF capabilities and the skills needed to guide participants transition into SD. Thus, the reasonable action to carry out is to get those nine companies with 30 or 35 participants to start the matchmaking process.
- At this point, the members must decide and allocate funds for some of these companies to start working with families on a one-on-one basis. This selection would start the coaching services for people on the waiting list, not just the selected participants.
- The community has expressed that they need parent-to-parent support and support outside of SCLARC. In addition, SCLARC should not and cannot give this support. It is Self-Determination, not Regional Center 2.0.
- It was proposed doing a sub-committee of two members to review Capabilities Statements and select, but the proposal violated Bagley-Keene Rules. In addition, a suggestion was to take the matchmaking discussion out of the agenda because the Committee was lacking information. The Committee asked for clarifications from a person who is fully knowledgeable of BK Rules. Sometimes the Committee feel like their suggestions violate the rules.
- There were discussions about Bagley-Keene Rules on what the Committee can and cannot do. The Committee needs to respond to emails from SCLARC, especially about the item on the agenda. Once again, it was clarified that the Committee received every Capabilities Statements; thus, the Committee had the information needed to decide during the meeting.

- SCLARC asked the Committee for clarification on not selecting the coaching companies. The Committee responded that the agenda reads only to discuss and plan as an action item, not voting on the companies. The proposal to remove it as an action item was raised because the Committee does not have any numbers on the families who would participate in the event.
- Members agreed to review the statements once more and be ready to discuss the selection during May 12 meeting. They should focus on cultural background, language, experience with the community, number of individuals that they have helped transitioned into SDP to mention some.
- *Committee Comment:* I can think of 15 families who would be interested in participating in the matchmaking event. I can contact them and set up the connection.
- *Public Comment:* In sharing my perspective as a parent, I agree with the Co-Chair's point of view. Based on the information presented, what will be the solution when SDP opens up for everybody on June 7? The problem will increase, making it even harder for people who are ready now. I also understand that the spending plans have to be certified, but there is much more to it. If there are proves of needs, there must be flexibility in the spending plan.
- *Public Comment:* Program Manager, you're doing a wonderful job! Co-Chair, I love the passion you bring to the Committee! The concept of Person-Centered Thinking applies here. What have we tried? What have we learned? Are we pleased with what we learned? What is the other challenge? We have to tabulate what we have tried. We need to sit with people selected for SD and find out why they don't move forward. Thus, we would reveal the numbers that are involved with everything. My second comment is to create a Zoom meeting, even during the next committee meeting, with rooms with five people and a PCP Planner for five minutes. It would repeat with different people. This would give us immediate feedback to move on. Let's try new things to break the repetitive circle we are on. Lastly, the spending plan should not have any delays. If it shows delays, it means the planner did something wrong. Set a meeting with the PCP Planner to explain and correct.
- *Public Comment:* As a parent, I was overwhelmed to start SDP, but having the IF guide me committed to it. My IF encouraged me to do things piece by piece, and I had the Program Manager explaining procedures. Thus, this kind of support empowered me to transition into SDP.

V. Closing Meeting

- The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:59 PM. She thanked SCLARC Staff for their great support. She showed her gratitude to the Committee and IFs for their participation. The next meeting is on May 12, 2021, from 6 PM to 8 PM.