



Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Minutes

Online Meeting Through Zoom

August 14, 2024

Approved 9/11/2024

Meeting Start Time: 6:08 PM

Meeting End Time: 7:35 PM

Committee Members:

Present:	Absent:	Vacancies:
Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair Armida Ochoa Santiago Villalobos Veronica Moser Erica Clark – Clients’ Rights Advocate Sofia Cervantes – State Council Representative Magali Ochoa – Representing Board of Directors	Terrence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair Luz Hernandez Raul Muñoz Alberta Moore Alnita Dunn Crystal Smith – FRC Representative	(1) SCLARC appointed spot available

Guests:

SCLARC:	State:	Public:
Jenice Turner – Director of Childrens’ Services Kiara Lopez Odulia Juarez – Chief of Case Management Ayana Shepard – Chief of Case Management Teodoro Bilbao – Chief of Case Management Cynthia Rivera – PCS Edna Robles – PCS Rocio Rodriguez Kaiesha Lockhart Beatriz Perez Eduardo Kogan - Interpreter Sonia Hernandez – Interpreter	Marianita Mendez – DDS Xochitl Gonzalez - DDS	Karina Saldana, María Becerra, Jaqueline Casas, Angelina Anguiano, Shelia Jordan Jones, Guadalupe Angel, Lulu A., Anel Gonzalez, Marisela Arroyo, Aisabel Curz, Marisela Melgoza, Cecilia Salmeron, Maria Verdugo, Maria Hernandez, Tania Rivera, Angelica Lizardi, Maria Huerta, Maria Lopez, Griselda Maldonado Rodriguez, Fanny Paz, Mariana Guerrero, Odilia Bamaca, Ana Batres, LaShaun Golden, MJ, Daniel Antunez, Leticia Vidaca, Sara Martinez, Angelica Orellana, Rubi Saldana, Irma Rojo, Irene J, Lourdes Diaz, Isaura Sainz, Kelli Marsh, Katya Rodriguez Saldaña, Cristal Nunez, Mercedes Martinez, Lourdes Lopez, Rosita Hernandez, Carmen Ortiz, Letty Lopez, Monserrath Herrera, Monica Torres, Yolanda Gracia, Patricia Campos, Faviola Cruz, Maria F., Daysi F., Tere Lara, Tamra Pauly, Maria M., Rosa Velazquez, Dora Contreras, Delfina Reyes, Maria Ramirez, Ana Pineda, Leticia Anaya, Veronica Venegas, Rosie Lasca, Rosalia Lopez, Faviola Alvarado, Graciela Marquez, Valerio B., Georgina Leon, Rosa Velazquez, Mercedes, Alicia Flores, Blanca Pasaran, Cynthia Torres, Claudia Velasquez, Socorro Martinez

- **Welcome/ Introductions**
 - Co-Chair Sherry Johnson called the meeting to order.
 - Quorum is not established
- **SCLARC Participant Updates: DDS Directive Updates**
 - Individuals Receiving Services in Self Determination at SCLARC
 - 121 individuals in SDP as of July 1, 2024 (43 children under 18 and 78 adults over 18)

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- 124 individuals in SDP as of August 1, 2024 (42 children under 18 and 81 adults over 18)
- Introduction to Self Determination Orientation
 - The orientation is now offered via LMS (Learning Management Service), it covers all 8 modules, and it is self-paced.
 - It is offered in English, Spanish, and Korean.
 - The orientation is still offered via State Council.
 - It is offered via Zoom multiple times a month and in various languages.
- DDS Directive: July 2, 2024 – Initial Person-Centered Plan and Pre-Enrollment Transition Supports Guidance
 - Key changes from December 22, 2023, guidance are included in the following topic areas;
 - General Self-Directed Supports are now available through Participant Directed Services
 - Timeline of availability for the different options of pre-enrollment transition supports has been extended
 - 024 reimbursement for \$2,500 has been extended until December 31, 2024
 - Regional Center reporting requirements have been revised
 - Requirements for accepting payments.
 - Enclosure C has been provided as an invoice template
 - Role of General Self-Directed Supports in Self-Advocacy
 - All directives and enclosures can be found on the DDS website under Self Determination.
- DDS Directive: June 14, 2024 – Updated SANDIS Reporting Requirements
 - Effective June 17, 2024, the following reporting elements will be available in SANDIS
 - Date orientation was completed
 - Orientation provider
 - Date of initial budget meeting
 - Date individual budget certified by regional center
 - Any Budget adjustments
 - ❖ Date of change
 - ❖ Reason for Change
 - ❖ Budget Change (increase, decrease, no change)
 - Regional centers are required to retroactively enter this information by October 31, 2024.
- DDS Directive: November 22, 2023 – Updated Goods and Services
 - Deciding if a Cost may be Included in the SDP Budget

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- As noted in DDS Directive: January 11, 2019, SDP funds can only be used for goods and services that.
 - ❖ Have been approved by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and
 - ❖ Are not available through other funding sources (e.g. Medi-Cal, School, In-Home Supportive Services, etc.)
- Enclosure B provides guidance on goods and services that can be funded by an individual budget in the spending plan and outside the spending plan.
- **Questions**
 - Can families pick someone that is non-vendored to help them transition?
 - Families have always been able to pick who they want with the 024 reimbursement, but DDS has been backing away from this. DDS has extended the 024 deadline as a lot of Independent Facilitators are still working on clearing 099 certification.
 - What is the difference?
 - Self-directed services had always been an option but the biggest difference between self-directed services and SDP is that families can choose their employees for only a limited number of services. Whereas with SDP family can hire for any services on their IPP.
 - Regarding purchasing/leasing a car, what is the reason you will deny the service? Can you share the directive?
 - Enclosure B from DDS Directive: November 22, 2023, Updated Goods and Services states that purchasing or leasing a car is not allowable.
 - Are modifications to the vehicle for disabilities acceptable?
 - Enclosure B states that it is acceptable. There is a process to follow, there would need to be a denial letter from medi-cal.
- **Public Comment**
 - Faviola Cruz - First, is there anything new with SDP that families should know about? FMS have long waiting periods and that's been a huge struggle. Are there any new FMS that you would recommend?
 - SCLARC does not make any FMS recommendations. Families need to continue to interview and try to find someone that fits their needs as best as they can.
 - Mariana Guerrero (Independent Facilitator) – Is driver's ed a service that can be purchased via SDP? How long does it take after we have the budget (to transition into SDP), what is the protocol of the process?
 - It depends. Some families realize they have to hire workers after they receive their budget. Some families have budgets that exceed the maximum budget

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for an FMS and so the FMS won't take them. DDS is addressing the FMS issue by trying to make more FMS available to all areas of California.

- Angelina Anguiano – Was not informed that case was unenrolled from FMS.
 - Participant Choice Specialist, Cynthia Rivera, asked for them to reach out via email.
 - Participant Choice Specialist, Edna Robles, FMS had not informed SCLARC either. DDS has been made aware of this current trend as it has happened to other regional centers, and they will be addressing it with the FMS.
- Lulu A. – What is the requirement to act as an Independent Facilitator?
 - You need to be certified to act as an Independent Facilitator and let the service coordinator know that you will be acting in that capacity.
- Sheila Jordan Jones (Independent Facilitator) – Has met 10 new IFs in the area and was wondering if SCLARC was willing to vendorize new IFs coming into the area.
- Rubi Saldana – How long is the process for new FMS?
 - Within 15 days if they have all their paperwork.
- Sofia Cervantes – State Council continues to offer SDP Orientation. We offer trainings every Monday via Zoom at 10 AM. One Monday the topic is in English and the following Monday the same topic is repeated in Spanish. Currently in August and September we are doing a back-to-school special education series. Proposed informing people on how to join the committee and even applying so that if and when spots become available on the board then there are people ready to step in. Commended the committee and SCLARC staff on their commitment to inclusivity after the previously scheduled meeting was cancelled due to an issue with interpretation.
- Cynthia Rivera – SDP Resource Fair will be held on October 25, 2024. Registration is required.
- **May 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes**
 - Quorum was established.
 - Veronica Moser moves to approve minutes as written. Magali Ochoa seconds the motion. Minutes have been approved as written.
- **Self Determination Implementation LVAC Funds**
 - Categories: Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 (\$120,920)
 - Meeting/ Training Interpretation Services
 - Armida Ochoa – can this funding be used to train the FMS how to work with the regional centers and families.
 - Cynthia R. – we will have to see if the funds can be used for this per DDS guidance.
 - Magali O. – Can the committee provide a workshop for the parents to learn the process of the FMS.

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- Veronica M. – Can we invite FMS to come to our meetings so they can address some of the issues that have been raised?
 - ❖ It is the responsibility of the parents and independent facilitators to stay on top of the deadlines for when the budget and spending plans will expire. SDP Participants have taken on that responsibility by being a part of SDP. It is not totally the responsibility of the regional centers.
 - ❖ As a committee it is we should concentrate on educating our parents and participants on how these programs work. Bringing in different vendors and getting familiar with their procedures. Some FMS send out Quarterly reports showing how much has been spent but it is up to us look at these reports.
 - ❖ It is up to us to request that information, so that we know when our budgets expire, but the issue won't be addressed by using these funds because that is on the FMS, and they are being paid to do a job. But we need to know what their job is and how they're to perform it.
 - ❖ Believes the categories should roll over to the next year due to a constantly changing environment. Feels that the goal of the committee is to educate.
- Resource Fair
- Guidebook Printing/Translation
- Workshops
- Intern and Coaches
- Video and Website for SDP
- Sherry J. – Should we hold different topic workshops or have someone come in to facilitate training?
 - Magali O. – Workshops should be broken up into different parts and should include the contract with the IFs because most families have no idea how to hire one.
 - Armida O. – These trainings should be held in collaboration with support groups. Not just virtually but in different settings because some families do not attend these committee meetings, but they go to support groups and receive information at these meetings.
 - Veronica M. – A separate support group for SDP should be set up. And you would want to organize it by where you need support, such as, dealing with FMS. Or maybe we can set up an education corner during the committee meetings where we dedicate 15 minutes to giving an overview on different topics.

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- Armida O. – We can set up an SDP Support Group but it needs to be out in the community.
- Veronica M. – The community needs to let the committee know topics they need further clarification on. Is this an issue common to everyone then we can address it in these groups and if it is something impacting that specific individual then we can direct them to the Participant Choice Specialists and other resources.
- Sherry J. – Sounds like we need a space where our community can go and voice their concerns and troubleshoot if needs be.
- Cynthia R. – Isn't that what Sofia offers?
- Sofia C. – Trainings are provided on a variety of topics but what is being discussed sounds like an SDP clinic and that is not what we provide on Mondays at 10am.
- Sherry J. – Yes, like a monthly drop-in clinic or group
- Cynthia R. – Would that be run by the committee?
- Sherry J. – Using the implementation funds maybe we could put out an RFP to hire a community-based organization to facilitate these groups. We did that a few years back but it was more one-to-one coaching. We would vet and vote on who would provide the service.
- Veronica M. – Putting out an RFP sounds like we're on the right track and we can use the education and training funds.
- Sherry J. – Would the committee like to reconsider the categories?
 - Veronica M. – Changing the Intern and Coaches to Community Outreach and Training.
 - Cynthia R. – We can add to the category name or add another category, but the intern is helping with the resource fair.
 - Fiscal year ends in March.
 - **Up to Vote: Addition of a Community Outreach and Training Category**
 - Magali O. – Motion to add Community Outreach and Training Category
 - Veronica M. – Motion Seconded
 - Motion passed.
 - *Magali O. is attending the committee meeting as a representative of the SCLARC Board of Directors.*
 - SDPLAC vacancy is reserved for an African American individual.
 - Cynthia R. will bring the exact amount of the budget that is left over to the next meeting.
- Categories that DDS prioritized in their directive.

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- Recruitment training of Independent Facilitators, Collaborative group workshops, Joint training/ coaching for transitioning into SDP, Initial spending plan development, and additional identified needs
- 2024 – 2025 Implementation Fund amount shall be announced at the next committee meeting
 - Santiago Villalobos – Will these workshops be held in person?
 - Sherry J. – Yes
 - Santiago V. – Once the RFP goes out how long will it take to start the workshops?
 - Sherry J. – Unknown, it might take a while. People will apply and present to the committee and then the committee will vote on who would be the most appropriate.
 - Daniel Antunez – Disagrees with this idea because if someone, like him for example, needed help they would need it on a more one on one basis.
 - Magali O. – If there is any one-on-one training it is up to the IF to help identify this need for the training to the regional center. These trainings are a way for families to get more information. Parents oftentimes do not know where or how to request something like this.
 - Rubi S. – How are these trainings supposed to help parents? How will it be measured? There are many trainings but obviously they don't help. One on One training will be more effective.
- **Upcoming Local Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda and Date**
 - Next meeting on Wednesday, September 11, 2024
 - The committee will send agenda items to Participant Choice Specialist for next meeting.
 - Cynthia R. will reach out to invite the new FMS for upcoming meetings.
- **Announcements**
- **Adjournment**
 - Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm

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