



**Self-Determination Local Advisory  
Committee Minutes**  
**Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19**  
**April 8, 2020**  
**6:00pm – 7:30pm**

---

**Present:**

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair  
Terrence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair  
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member  
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member  
Sofia Cervantes – State Council  
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)  
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)  
Teodoro Bilbao – Chief of Case Management (Staff)  
Oduvia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)  
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

**Absent:**

Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member  
Jose Gudino – SD-LAC Member  
Luz Hdez Gutierrez – SD-LAC Member  
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member  
Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member  
Lorena Morales – SD-LAC Member  
Megan Buckles – SD-LAC Member

**Public in attendance:**

Veronica Moser  
Casey Ricketts  
Yvette Torres  
Olivia Gonzalez  
Gloria Torian  
Armida Ochoa  
Herlinda Rodriguez

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 pm

**I. Welcome**

- The co-chair called the meeting to order and started introductions. After welcoming everybody, the presenter began the updates.

**II. Updates on current SDP participants**

- SCLARC has currently 112 spaces but 14 participants withdrew, 80 of them completed orientation, 28 individuals need completion; we've contacted them
- We did an informational meeting through GoToMeeting. On April 17th is a second webinar. We are finding ways to provide these training efficiently during the COVID-19 crisis.
- Trying to move forward, we mailed participants a list of person-centered planners, independent facilitators, and financial management services.
- Seven participants completed their PCPs; five individuals selected their FMS, and seven others are working on their spending budgets. SCLARC first budget certification was on March 25<sup>th</sup>!
- No one has completed the spending plan or begun receiving services under Self-Determination.
- Following the committee request, we increased email communication and invited all participants as well as some community partners. Texts and Facebook posts have also increased.

**III. COVID-19 Response: SD/SCLARC/DDS**

- From March 11th, 90% of our staff are working from home. DDS allows us to use technology to conduct virtual meetings. SCs return calls the same day to support the individuals we serve.
- SCs send families letters asking if they agree to have virtual meetings and services.
- DDS extended the time-frame for reporting complaints; temporarily relaxed respite requirements and increased the respite hours during the crisis.
- To avoid congregate settings, DDS encourages regional centers to keep individuals in their homes or to move them into independent supported living services settings.
- DDS is currently approving or denying all requests for residential placements.

- Regional centers are required to report any COVID-19 exposures in cases to the state. DDS also temporarily increased access to Self-Directed Services.
- SCs have access to a constantly updated list of generic community resources for a variety of useful sources like food, unemployment; free Internet, etc.
- We created a case management helpline and e-mail, which is on our doors of the buildings; Facebook Page; website mailed and emailed to families.
- A clinical helpline and e-mail exist for families to use if they have any concerns. We redirect calls to a physician or practitioner nurse.
- Our new electronic POS enables us to reduce paperwork and approve services faster. In addition, there is an email for vendors' concerns.

#### **IV. Discussion of SCLARC's Funds Allocation**

- DDS allocated \$65,000 for Self-Determination; SCLARC decides how to spend it with the committee's advice and agreement. DDS allows fund backdating to July 1st, 2019, but documentation is needed by June 30th, 2020. Any expense after June 30th needs invoices.
- Ideas to utilize those funds are offsetting some of SCLARC expenses that already did; covering for our Spanish interpreter; purchasing translation and recording equipment, facility rentals to have our meeting in the community. Also, creating an orientation handbook will be useful for the participants.
  - *Committee Request:* Would it be possible for the committee to obtain a form of stewardship to grasp better how the funds are being invested?
  - *Staff Response:* We can discuss it with our leadership and get back to you.

#### **V. Discussion of items for May meeting**

- Update on SCLARC/DDS response to the COVID-19
- Updates on participant status
- SCLARC's Allocation of Funds from DDS for SDP
- Bagley Keene Rules/Use of Technology for Meetings After COVID-19
- *Committee Suggestion:* An action-item is determining how to convey concerns to the State. Statewide participants, who rely on the regional centers to pay their rent, could be excluded from SDP. This expense is ruled out under SDP because it is not federally reimbursable. DDS must realize how a general ruling affects the principles of Self-Determination.
- Discussion of Independent Facilitation/Training

#### **VI. Miscellaneous**

- *Committee:* Will this orientation be held online? Does it have to be live, or can it be through a presentation allowing viewers to go on their own pace?
  - *Staff Response:* Both, we plan an orientation as a webinar, but we may split it up into sessions. Furthermore, our technology enables us to detect if somebody has seen the entire presentation.
  - *Comment from Committee:* It would be motivating for all Self-Determination participants if the advisory committee encourages them to share their obstacles with the group to take them to the next level for possible solutions. If SCs could provide area reports, the committee could come up with solutions to present to the state committee.
  - *Inquiry from Committee:* Regarding the Bagley Keene Act, would it be possible to follow this rule without violations but still allow for remote access to the future when the COVID-19 crisis is over?
- *Council Response:* To our understanding, some of Bagley Keene's requirements are waved just during

the COVID-19 period. Abiding the Act's teleconference requirements allows the Committee to continue remote meetings after this crisis.

- *Council Response:* The teleconference requirements are enlisting all remote places on the agenda, providing physical and verbal access to the public, and a committee member might need to be at each locations.

- *Inquiry from the Public:* Regarding the outreach, how is SCLARC ensuring consumers know where to go to if they suffer symptoms; or have the necessary tools to undergo this crisis?

- *Staff Response:* We encourage consumers to call their SCs for specific assistance. Our website has a COVID-19 tap with information, or call SCLARC main phone number.

- *Request from the Public:* Having the material before the meeting would be greatly appreciate.
- *Comment from the Public:* We need changes to improve the communication between the committee and the public, especially with the Spanish-Speaking community. It's motivating to see there are initiatives on this matter.

## **VII. Meeting Closing**

- Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:36 pm. Next meeting will be May 13, 2020.