



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19
June 10, 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
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)
Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative
Odulia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

Absent:

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

Public in attendance:

Veronica Moser
Raul Munoz
Mark Altieri
Alma Morales
Guadalupe Eaton
Terrasel Jones
Joe Martinez
Linda Andron
Shelia Jordan Jones
Tamra Pauly
and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:17 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Review of Meeting Minutes from May 2020 Meeting

- The meeting started with a warm welcome to all attendees. Committee members proceeded to review and approve the minutes from May 13th, 2020. There were no corrections needed.

II. Update on SCLARC/DDS Response to the COVID-19/Coronavirus

- Staff continues working from home, but SCLARC considers bringing them back and opening to the public.
- SCLARC has contacted over 85% of its 17,000 individuals it serves to verify their well-being and offer funded as well as generic resources.
- As a reminder: if someone knows of consumers/families having difficulties, advise them to call their SCs. If SCs don't respond quickly, they should contact the Case Management helpline at (833) 725-2721 and email is CMHelp@sclarc.org
- DDS waivers continue to July giving service flexibility. Waivers include Self-Directed Services that are different but have some similarities with Self-Determination.
- Some employment and day program services began remote or socially distance services. SCLARC holds a weekly work-group meeting to assist other programs transitioning to safe services.
- DDS indicated to incorporate COVID-19 funds into the consumers' next year budgets because of ongoing needs related to the pandemic for the immediate future.
- Sending a survey via text-message enabled SCLARC to get feedback on the quality of service delivery. SCLARC has sent this survey over 13,000 individuals so far.

**III. Updates on Participant Status/Orientations/Informational Sessions/Communications
With Individuals/Families/Barrier Reports From Individuals**

- DDS has not dropped the ten participants who did not complete orientation by December 2019. SCLARC's records show 122 participants on its list. However, 15 of them have withdrawn, stating

that SDP is time-consuming and happy with traditional services. This totals 107 participants in SDP.

- SDP has 22 orientation completions pending. In May, five participants completed orientation by GoToMeeting.
- Online meetings increase accessibility for individuals and their families; thus, there will be more of these in June.
- Once safe, L.A. and South Gate offices will host SDP orientations for those who prefer in-person meetings. SCLARC would invite a few participants to give them simultaneously access.
- In June, recording the informational session would enable SCLARC to create a webinar for those who prefer learning at their own pace and most convenient time.
- To determine barriers, SCLARC is surveying all participants who completed orientation but have not yet moved forward. Twenty participants stated that they have questions about the program, lack of knowledge about an independent facilitator, FMS, or a person-centered plan. Others said that they were no longer interested, or have not heard from the resources. They expressed the desire to connect with others in the program to see how they manage the program.
- In vanishing barriers, staff contacts participants to encourage them to attend orientation a second time, but the staff also clarifies their concerns. SCLARC provides resources for person-centered planning, independent facilitator, and FMS via email as well as mail. Inviting participants to the committee meetings represents an opportunity for them to connect with others sharing experiences.
- Some exciting news! As of June 1st, SCLARC has its first participant in Self-Determination! Three more participants are working on their budget certifications.

III. SCLARC's Allocation of Funds from DDS for SDP

- SCLARC received \$65,000 from DDS to assist with the implementation of the SDP. Previously, SDP-LAC agreed on many items but requested specific amounts for those suggestions; thus, SCLARC presented the following data.
- \$7,000 for Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting interpretation. (\$2,200 covers the fiscal year 2019 – 2020, then \$4,800 to be encumbered for the next two years.) DDS allows back-expenditures from July 1, 2019.
- SCLARC seeks a \$482.36 reimbursement related to the SD Resource Fair held in February 2020.
- A proposal encumbers \$4,848 for interpretation costs for SD Informational Sessions, which will be held monthly in the fiscal year 2020 – 2021. Also, three more orientation sessions costing \$800 per orientation. It is \$2,400 for informational sessions and \$2,400 for orientations.
- The SD Handbook requires \$6,000 for editing, printing, and producing 300 copies (150 in English and 150 copies in Spanish). Using the book-skeleton of Tri-Counties Regional Center offers consistency in delivery services. Once SCLARC receives the Disability Voices United Book, our handbook may use any ideas to enhance its content.
- A sum of \$17,000 is requested to purchase translation equipment for SDP. This purchase is for two sets, one for the L.A. office and the other will be for the South Gate office.
- Another recommendation is spending \$8,000 for technology that includes two laptops (one for each office), one iPad for each office, and all the applicable insurances. The reason for this is SCLARC realizes that technology empowers it to do more outreach, and offer greater service accessibility to the individuals it serves.
- A Zoom membership: Although using Zoom without a membership is a useful generic resource, it doesn't have breakout-rooms, which will be necessary to conduct Person-Centered Thinking training online.
- Lastly, a reimbursement of \$268.60 spent for document translation related to the letters mailed out in March 2020. These were to either invite participants to orientation or encourage them to

complete their Person-Centered Plan.

- A new suggestion is training two Spanish-Speakers on the Person-Centered-Thinking model. This learning will improve SCLARC's capability to guide and improve the train of the participants.
- Using mentor trainers enhances the certification of our future Person-Centered-Thinking trainers. Due to their affiliation with regional centers and learning community of PCT, mentors have a better understanding of specific challenges, cultural and community needs. Such training was approximately \$13,000 per person last time when the staff was certified, but SCLARC is checking current prices.
- SCLARC would like to use the remainder of the funds (less than \$5,000) for sourcing Independent Facilitator training. Many parents indicate that they want to be the Facilitator but don't know where to begin. Having a source for independent facilitators training solves the cultural and linguistic problem of our community. It will also increase the capacity of independent facilitators targeting the needs of our community.

- **Action Call:** SCLARC requested approval for the allocation of funds for the Self-Determination Program to comply with the DDS deadline, which is June 30, 2020. However, the committee could not reach an agreement to approve the suggestions; thus, a special meeting was set for June 24, 2020, to continue discussing the allocations.

IV. The tabled for the Special Meeting on June 24, 2020

- Committee Report on June 9th, 2020 State Advisory Committee Meeting
- Committee Attendance Policy Discussion/Flyer Approval

V. Continued Independent Facilitator Training

- In May, the Independent Facilitator's roles explained that supporting the person and “thinking outside the box” represent essential tools to assist the individual reach his goals.
- Some of the Independent facilitators' duties are to assist the individual define goals, find resources, and implement the plan, among others. All these are to create a path for someone based on their interests, not their limitations.
- Independent Facilitators can be paid or unpaid, and that fee would come out of the individual's budget.
- As long as the person gets the certification, the participant may choose anyone he wishes to become his Independent Facilitator. However, the parents of minors or spouses cannot get paid. A person who provides services for the participant, or works for a service provider agency, cannot be the Independent Facilitator of that participant.
- The certification must be in line with the core of the Self-Determination Program.
- Independent Facilitators must keep in mind that they are an amplifier to the voice of the participant. Facilitators must retain their interests away from the participant's needs and wants.
- The goal is looking at the person's preferred future from the angle of abilities, and find supports that enable the participant to fulfill that future.
- A person-centered plan is the master-key that guides the Independent Facilitators to find resources and negotiate supports needed for participants to move forward.
- Independent Facilitators must understand how the Developmental Services System and the Lanterman Act work before assisting the participants to continue the necessary services. This knowledge will help them put all the pieces together for the PCP to work. The regional centers are the payer of last resort; thus, Facilitators must exhaust generic resources.
- The Independent Facilitators' creativity is important in finding innovative services for the participants.
- It is the participants' responsibility to choose their Independent Facilitators, and their decision to have one or not.

VI. Public Comments/Announcements

- *Committee Verification Request:* DDS informed SCLARC to add the funds related to COVID-19 into the individual's future budgets, isn't it correct?
- *Staff Response:* The Program Manager contacted DDS to verify this; Jennifer Parsons and Tim Travis confirmed this information. Re-evaluations will take place when the time comes, but regional centers must include the additional funds in year individual's budget.
- *Committee Comment:* Although Self-Determination Program is for consumers, it focuses mainly on families, not consumers. Our meetings have mostly parents, staff, and professionals speaking, but lack consumers' presence. There are only two consumers at the meetings; one's mind can't help to wonder the reason behind this fact.
- *Staff Response:* It is a good point raised before. SCLARC tries to reach out and encourage participants to attend these meetings. Consumer Advisory Committee always posts the SDP-LAC meeting announcements. The plan is to do consumer-friendly informational sessions. This plan also includes going to day-programs to train consumers about Self-Determination Program. Suggestions are welcome on how to get more involved participants.
- *Public Inquire:* Can a IHSS Worker be an Independent Facilitator?
- *Council Response:* They can become the Independent Facilitator for the person they work for because IHSS is a generic resource.
- *Public Comment:* Just to encourage everyone to move forward; Zoom is great for doing PCP!
- *Announcement from Public:* Our agency is planning a Zoom meeting that covers many topics of Self-Determination. We will announce the dates.

VII. Closing Meeting

- Co-Chair closed the meeting at 7:35 pm thanking everyone for their participation. Next, a special meeting will be on June 24th, 2020, to further discuss and approve the fund allocations for SDP.