



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19
May 13, 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
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)
Teodoro Bilbao – Chief of Case Management (Staff)
Otudia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)
Eduardo Interp – English/Spanish Interpreter

Absent:

Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member
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
Lara Okunubi
Maria Moreno
Mark Atieri
Juana Avila
Atayvia Roberts
Linda Andron
Magali Ochoa
Shelia Jordan Jones
Armida Ochoa
Lilian Kaufman
and more

Meeting Start Time: 6:07 pm

I. Welcome

- The SD-LAC was delighted to witness a considerable increase of people logged in to participate in this virtual meeting. The committee reviewed and approved the minutes from April 8, 2020; the presenter promptly proceeded with the updates after introductions.

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

- SCLARC buildings remain closed to the public, but 95% of its staff is working from their homes to continue services and protection for the individuals we serve. Staff responds to phone calls within 24 hrs.
- Families and consumers have our Case Management Helpline and E-mail in case they have difficulties reaching their SCs.
- Monitoring our consumers' well-being is our top priority; we check on them through phone calls.
- Our Chief Advancement Officer does an incredible job of keeping SCs informed about the different programs and generic resources that are available for individuals that we support.
- Any COVID-19 exposure cases have been reported to DDS. We continue offering additional hours of respite care, services, or items during the pandemic to support parents. It's based on individual needs.
- DDS continues developing wavers to increase flexibility, and direct regional centers help families cope with the situations.
- During this time, there are no audits, no in-person meetings, and the time-frame to report incidents has expanded. Also, there is more flexibility in the Self-Directed Program.
- A working group assesses remote services. Depending on how beneficial these services are, SCLARC would see how to help our providers and the individuals that we support to access remote services.

III. Updates on Participants Status, Communication, and Barriers for Individuals Enrolled in SDP

- SCLARC has 112 Self-Determination spaces. DDS has not removed ten people from our list, which indicates 122. From the 112, 14 people withdrew; 81 participants completed the orientation.
- In April, SCLARC divided the orientation webinar into two sessions. One participant completed it.

Five individuals are completing the webinars, and 22 participants need orientation.

- Considering the committee's feedback, SCLARC achieved a concerted effort to obtain more emailed. An invitation was emailed to every person in need of orientation, but some emails have errors.
- Our Disparity Specialist and a Team Leader called participants who need orientation. They secured some RSVPs for the first orientation session; five participants attended.
- Seven families completed their person-centered plans; seven individuals began the budget development process. No one has a Spending Plan or Individual Program Plan completed under Self-Determination.
- Barriers for completing orientation are childcare, lack of an Ipad or computer, conflicting schedules with online schooling or working, lack to respond to phone calls,
- Plan to follow is doing another orientation online in June when schools are on break and in the evening. For those who lack a computer, the orientation may be via telephone.

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

- SCLARC needs to allocate the \$65,000 granted by DDS before June 30th, 2020.
 - **Action Item:** The committee previously requested specific dollar amounts for the suggested items, but due to the COVID-19 crisis, SCLARC was unable to provide them at this time. Instead, SCLARC prioritized items in order of their importance to reach and educate participants, and requested an extension to June to provide specific dollar amounts. SCLARC requested approval of the items suggested, and indicated they would purchase/provide as many as funds allowed for.
 - *Committee Response:* In agreement
- The top three priorities for SDP are as follows: purchasing a laptop to conduct presentations/webinars, buying translation equipment, and based on the Tri-Counties Regional Center's handbook editing/printing one for our participants in SDP.
 - *Comment:* Committee asked about whether a book from Disability Voices United could be utilized instead of that from Tri-Counties Regional Center; SCLARC indicated they would do more research on the books and present at the June meeting
- After those priorities, a suggestion is a reimbursement for costs of Resource Fair held in February 2020. Facility rental for future meetings in the South-East area; some reimbursement for costs associated with our Spanish-Speaking Interpreter represent more ideas. Putting some money aside to cover this future expense is another thought.
 - *Council Advice:* The Committee and SCLARC received the advice to clarify how spending these funds would directly impact the participants and the program.

V. Bagley Keene Rules/Use of Technology for Meetings After COVID-19

- Complying with the Bagley Keene Act's requirements allows for state bodies to have teleconference meetings. These teleconferencing meetings must adopt all other rules applying to public meetings.
- The teleconference shall give the public access to hear the meeting discussion. It shall also allow the public to communicate directly with committee members.
- The agenda should be posted at each teleconference location along with a meeting announcement.
- Another rule is enlisting all teleconference locations on the agenda. The meeting announcements should include this information.
- Another requirement is taking votes by roll calling when the meeting is teleconferencing.
- Lastly, at least one committee member and a regional center staff need to be physically present at each announced teleconference location.
- A scenario after COVID-19 is if the Committee decides to have a remote access location, the meeting may be hosted at SCLARC in L.A. with a telephone available for people to listen in and participate from SCLARC in South Gate hosting the teleconference. A committee member would have to be present at the South Gate location.

- A second scenario is: the committee continues its meeting at SCLARC if any member wants to make their location a remote location, which needs to be public. This address must be on the agenda and meeting announcement accessible to the public. In this scenario, the committee member can officially participate as a member. Identifying their address on the posted agenda and announcement complies with the requirements. Note: If a committee member participates from a remote location that is NOT listed on the agenda and not open to the public, any comment or input from this member becomes as “public comment” – he/she cannot participate as a member of this day.

VI. Discussion of Independent Facilitation/Training

- Before ending the meeting, the committee asked for a brief overview of the independent facilitator presentation; tabled the rest of the presentation for the June meeting.
- The main players in SDP are the participant, his/her family and friends, the Regional Center, a Fiscal Management Service (FMS), and an independent facilitator.
- Independent Facilitator's roles are supporting the participant/family to define needs, find resources, negotiating contracts, resolve issues, and implement the plan. They can be volunteers or paid.
- Another role is helping the participant to dream big and “think outside the box!” Meaning in SDP, vendorization from the regional center is not required to receive services.
- There are no guidelines on independent facilitators' rates, but the FMS fees are well-defined.
- With the correct training certification, the SDP participants may choose anybody to be their independent facilitator. However, participants cannot select their spouse, their current staff, or a service provider.
- A person cannot be an independent facilitator if he/she works for a company that provides services for the participant. Lastly, if the participant is a minor, his parents cannot be his independent facilitator.

VII. Tabled Items

- Discussion of Independent Facilitators/Training (in depth)
- State Level Advocacy for Non-Federally Reimbursable Services

VIII. Committee Suggestions for June meeting; Called to Action

- In managing time during the meeting, the committee agreed to shorten introductions or use the chatbox for introductions.
- To top the committee's full potential, all members need to be in attendance. Thus, adopting an attendance policy for committee members seems beneficial for the committee. Although this suggestion needs further discussion, the committee would like to start reviewing applications for future members.
- *Clarification from Council:* A possible attendance policy is if a member misses two consecutive sessions, the committee will call or send him/her a letter. The committee will try this attempt once more if it gets no response. Having six consecutive absents and no communication enables the committee to make recommendations for the member to be removed, whose authority is the Regional Center and the State Council.
- When thinking of representatives, the committee essentially needs people from South Gate, Downey, and Spanish-Speakers.

VIII. Public Comments and Announcements

- *Inquiry from Public:* Under the Self-Directed Program being POS, if a participant receives additional services, can they continue those services once they have implemented their Self-Determination Program?
 - *Staff Response:* In the SDP, participants cannot have some services under the traditional program,

and some under the SDP. Nevertheless, most participants in Self-Directed would transition nicely into Self-Determination.

- *Recognition:* Ideal Life is doing a fantastic job on remote services, social distancing visits, and daily contact. It's something positive to know that the individuals we support are getting that contact.
- *Committee Comment:* The use of technology has brought a high level of efficiency with the service providers. It also brought about a level of focus that is advancing the consumers. Thus, including its use represents a constructive idea when the pandemic passes but not in place of face-to-face meetings.
- *Public Comment:* During this time, PCPs are through Zoom distributing paperwork via email. Meaning that technology enables many people to attend the meetings in comparison before the pandemic; there was no flexibility.
- *Alert from Council:* The rumor is that there is a letter from the Department, Social Services, or Health Department, indicating that people receiving Cal-Fresh or other benefits need testing for COVID-19. If they test positive, their children could be removed from the home and placed in foster care. This is untrue!.
- *Announcement:* Disability Disability Voices United will host a webinar on Friday, May 15th from 3 to 5 pm.

IX. Closing Meeting

- The Co-chair adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm. The committee and SCLARC wished people in attendance health and strength to cope with a positive attitude the pandemic. The next meeting will be June 10, 2020.