



# Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee Minutes

## Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19

### November 18, 2020

#### 6:00pm – 8:00pm

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#### **Present:**

Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair  
Terence Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair  
Diana Ugalde – SD-LAC Member  
Antwan Jones – SD-LAC Member  
Luz Hdez Gutierrez – SD-LAC Member  
Armida Ochoa – SD-LAC Member  
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member  
Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member  
Megan Buckles – OCRA, SD-LAC Member  
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)  
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)  
Odulia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)  
Cheryl B. (Staff)  
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

#### **Absent:**

Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member  
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member  
Sofia Cervantes – State Council  
Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative

#### **Public in attendance:**

Julie Eby-McKenzie  
Judy Mark  
Cathy Gott  
Adrian Jimenez  
Alma Moralez  
Caycee Ricketts  
Claudia Vasquez  
Angela McLean  
Caycee Ricketts  
Diana Sandoval  
Diane Bernstein  
Elly Saco  
and 26 more

Meeting Start Time: 6:05 pm

#### **I. Welcome/Introductions/Review Minutes**

- With warm greetings, the Co-Chair welcomed and thanked the public in attendance and began the meeting. A short video was played explaining the meeting ground rules; the introductions proceeded. The Committee approved the minutes from October 14, without any corrections.

#### **II. SCLARC Update on Participants, and MakeUp of Committee/Applications Received**

- The SDP-LAC has a new member, Raul Muñoz is now part of the Committee. SCLARC would keep the applications received for other openings, and the public is encouraged to submit applications at [selfdetermination@sclarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@sclarc.org)
- SCLARC main focus at the moment is outreach. It is reaching individuals who ever attended the Informational Session and inviting them to prepare themselves to be ready by June 7, 2021, when SDP opens up for everyone.
- In general, there are one to two training per month to assist individuals with transitioning to SDP. All emails are in English and Spanish. SCLARC posts notifications on all its social media. Phone calls are a great source of feedback.
- The outreach to our Spanish Community increased. SCLARC plans to increase the number of training in Spanish (without interpretation).
- The Informational Session continues each month; more people are added to the waiting list.
- Vendor outreach is part of this preparation. SCLARC is ensuring vendors know the importance of SD.

#### **Update on participants**

- SCLARC has 110 spots of that, 94 participants are active and 16 did withdraw.
- Of those 94, 92 participants completed the orientation. However, two participants have moved

out of the SCLARC catchment area.

- Sixteen participants completed their PCP, and 17 more are in progress of completion.
- There are nine budget certifications and seven pending certification. Also, four spending plan certifications are ready, four more are in progress, and four are receiving services under SD.
  - *Public Comment:* Every regional center has transition problems. SCLARC is the second-lowest rate in moving into SDP. My recommendation is to put these data aside to focus on detecting what are the barriers and find the solutions. I'll be happy to provide input to overcome those barriers.
  - *Committee Inquiry:* Is there any survey about the reasons as to why participants are not moving forward in SD?
  - *Staff Response:* In June, SCLARC contacted all families. Results were that there is a lack of resources, misunderstanding of what to do next, and language. That is why the orientation was redesigned so that there is a better understanding. COVID-19 is a barrier too.
  - *Public Comment:* I've heard that Self-Determination is very complicated; it turns me away. As a parent with a special needs child, I have enough on my plate. If the regional center would describe SDP in an easier way, it would decrease the withdrawals.
  - *Staff Response:* The work involved in SD gets easier after first year. The more people get in, the more successful program is. They see the benefits and services that are accessible.

### **III. Questions/Public Comment**

- *Committee Comment:* Words of encouragement to move forwards. It sounds harder than it is. Identify the barriers and share them with us.
- *Committee Inquiry:* Now, we have a series of training, is there any movement toward the process?
- *Staff Response:* There is an increase in interest and attendance. More participants are beginning the process, and the correct information is out there. People make educated decisions.
- *Public Comment:* Statewide, many people who go into SDP have trust issues with regional centers; thus, peer-to-peer support is easier accepted. My recommendation is for committee members to be more accessible for the participants and distribute a list of independent facilitators who can guide them through the transition. Also, set goals for the next month, for example, getting 25 participants in who have their budget certified. Then, move them to the spending plan stage; independent facilitators should help participants with this too. Independent facilitators can specialize in every aspect of the family's needs so that SDP becomes so workable for the family.

### **IV. SCLARC/Committee Discussion of Funds Allocated to SCLARC for Self-Determination Program for Fiscal Year 2020-2021\*Action Items\***

- DDS sent the data directive on September 18, 2020, allocating additional funding for SCLARC Self-Determination Implementation. A total of \$89,760 for orientation needs, recruitment/training of independent facilitators, workshops, and training among others.
- SCLARC suggests a switch of previously allocated from last time this change is a \$4,995 move from technology to the completion of the SCLARC SDP Handbook Spanish translation. SCLARC realized that lack of orientation completion is not technology. Also, another suggestion is allocating funds for interpretation becomes a high priority for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year. SCLARC allocated \$13,800 and \$9,400 is already spent. Meetings, training, and interpretation, etc. will be an ongoing need.

### **There was a guest speaker:**

- The presentation was about a coaching program to support the implementation of SDP and the second part of it talked of a platform, which is scheduled to launch in July, 2021.
- According to the coaching program, SDP has five interdependent groups. They must work together. These groups are Independent Facilitators, Service Coordinators, Participants and their families, service providers vendored, and local advisory committees.
- In the coaching program, there should be a lot of communication and training among the groups. There is a lot of hand-holding to help each other. It's one-on-one coaching.
- Vendors need to understand that SDP might help their business because they may offer unique services.
- It's important to have people with experience in SDP meetings, Circle of Support, etc.
- There will be a new network for SDP and funding in the process. Clients and families drive this platform, which will speak more than 100 languages. Its only goal is to transition to SD.
- It's a European concept, so a top tech team is working on it for us.
- For example, if the participants have problems finding independent facilitators, they can find them on this platform. It's true with any other service they might need. Depending on their situation, this network would offer guidance to overcome those barriers. The possibilities of this platform are accessibility, language, and general information, among others. As the user clicks, the different options would pop up.
- This network is neutral, meaning that based on the user's needs, it provides information for possible solutions. Every regional center is encouraged to be part of this network.
- On every page of the platform, there would be an option to report problems anonymously. If the community has problems, they can speak up without worrying about the repercussions of receiving services.
  - *Committee Comment:* Thank you for bringing this great idea because we need connection and education tools.
  - *Public Inquiry:* It was mentioned that there would be a live chat on the platform. Who would be behind that chat, and who will be paid?
  - *Presenter Response:* The warm line chat feature will be different at each regional center. However, anybody who is in the back end, which will be staff, will get paid. On the other hand, families will never pay to use this site, but for a service provider who might want to be connected to possible clients, there may be fees. This is an effective way to connect people to service providers; the money it would collect will pay people who work for it.
  - *Public Inquiry:* How have you implemented the cultural aspects of the communities for this site to assist each user?
  - *Presenter Response:* Great question! The site is in its development stages, so if SCLARC or any regional center is interested in joining us, it will tell me its cultural needs. This site relies on people like you to implement its development.
  - *Committee Inquiry:* Is Education Spectrum vendored with SCLARC, if not, what would be the requirements?
  - *Staff Response:* It's not, but this project would not need vendorization to make it happen.
  - *Committee Inquiry:* Are there vendors who have been involved in the transition to SDP.
  - *Staff Response:* Yes. There are numerous vendors in attendance. Also, there are a great variety of vendors who show interest in providing services under SDP. They can offer services that they could not provide under traditional regulations.

- *Public Inquiry*: Have vendors been trained under the H-CBS Rules to provide services in an integrated setting?
- *SCLARC VAC Response*: Yes, we have. The vendor community is preparing itself when SDP opens up for everyone. We are trying to incorporate both forms of service delivery, and are excited about this new platform.
- To clarify, the presentation was part of the agreement to receive allocations from DDS to assist participants in moving forward into SDP.

## **V. Training Ideas**

- SCLARC asked the community for topics of interest for future training. The ideas can be sent to [selfdetermination@sclarc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@sclarc.org).
  - *Public Comment*: The way that other regional centers are getting input from the community is by putting a request for a proposal. This way, a larger population can see what is needed. On Westside Regional Center's site, there one request, so the Committee might take a look to have an idea.
  - *Committee Response*: Thank you! Your idea is greatly appreciated.
- A donation raised. The software to accept RFP was donated to start this process! SDP-LAC can implement the suggestion; even set a committee to select vendors.

## **VI. Advocacy for Services that are not Federally Reimbursable**

- This item on the agenda was tabled for meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## **VII. Ideas for Future Agenda Topics**

- A presentation by Judy Mark
- Allocation of fund discussion will continue
- The RFP discussion to have input from leadership.

## **VIII. Closing The Meeting**

- The Co-Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:06 pm. The Committee thanked everyone for attending the session. The next meeting will be on December 9, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm.