



**Self-Determination Local Advisory
Committee Minutes**
Online Meeting Through Go To Webinar due to COVID-19
December 9, 2020
6:00pm – 8:00pm

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
Raul Muñoz – SD-LAC Member
Alberta Moore – SD-LAC Member
Sofia Cervantes – State Council
Nikisia Simmons – DDS Representative
Megan Buckles – OCRA, SD-LAC Member
Jesse Rocha – Services Director (Staff)
Naomi Hagel – Program Manager (Staff)
Jenice Turner – Assistant Director (Staff)
Desiree L. Boykin – Consumer Representative (Staff)
Odulia Juarez – Diversity Specialist (Staff)
Cheryl Barnett (Staff)
Eduardo Kogan – English/Spanish Interpreter

Absent:

Stephanie Arlaud – SD-LAC Member
Alnita Dunn – SD-LAC Member

Public in attendance:

Fernando Gomez
Judy Mark
Connie & Harvey Lapin
Shelia Jordan Jones
Veronica Moser
Sonni Charness
Socoro Fernandez
Steve Ahlin
Tamra Pauly
Terrasel Jones
Vicenta Martinez
Yvette Escobedo
Ofelia Robles
Marleni Tovar
Merced Gayosso
and 38 more

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 pm

I. Welcome/Introductions/Approval of Meeting Minutes

- The meeting began by greeting everyone and explaining the mechanism of Zoom. Introductions proceeded, then the Committee reviewed the minutes from November 18. There was a correction that Alberta Moore was in attendance, and the document was approved.

II. SCLARC Update on Participants

- As feedback, people would like to know how many participants are in SD
- As of December 1st SCLARC has five participants in SD and 92 active individuals who are in the process of starting the program. There are ten budgets certified, seven in progress, and five spending plan certifications.
- Due to the pandemic, people experience hardship; thus, SD is not a priority at the moment.
- Wellness calls represented a way to get feedback from families in SD to check on their needs. The results were that most families have all that they need to start the process.
- SCLARC and Lanterman Regional Center started a partnership to train participants in SD.
- Starting in January, there will be monthly training in Spanish, without interpretation, on various topics, including old and new.
- The Informational Session is offered monthly, and it's in English and Spanish without translation.
- As part of the Covid-19 alternative services directive, vendors can assist individuals

transitioning into SD and be paid for it. SCLARC reached out to vendors that have consumers in SD to advise them to help those individuals transitioning into the program.

- *Committee Comment:* The concern is that the transition is slow and time is running out.
- *Staff Response:* Not everyone has selected to move forwards yet. SCLARC wants to meet participants where they are without rushing them. This idea matches the philosophy to become a Person-Centered Agency.

III. Questions/Public Comment

- *Public Comment:* It's to congratulate the SDP-LAC and SCLARC for the effort to serve the Hispanic Community. In addition to the language, understanding the culture can reflect in our communication.
- *Public Comment:* I share the thoughts from the previous comment. A special session for people who would like to become independent facilitators is almost signed, sealed, and delivered. It will serve the Hispanic Community, meaning that people who receive this training have to provide services in Spanish. Also, the Committee will receive a list of ideas to implement capacity in Spanish and English.

IV. Discussion/Ideas – DDS/SDP Implementation Funds Allocation

- On June 24, 2020, the Committee voted on items for the first allocation of funds from DDS for the Self-Determination implementation.
- Those items were in areas such as meetings, training interpretation services, resource fair, the Tri-County guidebook editing, and printing. Translation equipment, technology, document translation, person-centered trainer training for SCLARC staff, independent facilitator training were part of the list. In addition, there was an allocation of \$3,000 for State Council Meetings.
- Now, there is a second fund allocation to discuss. DDS sent a guideline of priorities along with the funds.
- The Committee wants to lay a strong foundation to help the community transition into SDP.
 - *Committee Inquiry:* Tonight, there are 71 attendees, how many of these are consumers? The SDP-LAC needs to hear from families for us to help them. The question still stands – how can the Committee help the SD Participants? Immediately, a poll was created to answer this question.
- The DDS directive enlisted support of one-on-one basis to help families with the transition.
- The feeling is that participants might think that Self-Determination is just Regional Center 2.0; therefore, they are not moving forward into the program.
- SCLARC agrees with the Committee, so it's suggesting to move \$5,000 from technology to implementation of the SCLARC Self-Determination Handbook. Feedback showed that the lack of transition movement is not due to technology. The Handbook will help current and future participants.
- Another suggestion is for translation. SCLARC has spent about \$10,000 since the last allocation on translation services for meetings and training. This expenditure is ongoing.
- The Committee discussed RFPs at the previous meeting. An RFP is for a specific purpose, but there's no specific project at the moment. If the Committee has a topic for an RFP, SCLARC is absolutely open to it.
 - *Chat Public Comment:* Translation and interpretation are rights in the Lanterman Act.
 - *Staff Response:* That is true and for budget meetings. SCLARC needs to clarify that it talks

about training done outside of these of the SDP-LAC meetings. Not every regional center translates outside training; SCLARC does this because it wants to make information available to our community.

- *Public Comment*: The allocation of funds is up to the Committee; therefore, it can decide how funds are spent to help the community. On the other hand, this Committee is small, and its RFP can be simple. I want to empower the members to do this.
- *Public Comment*: Due to bureaucracy, we're not hearing from participants who need to say what their issues are. SDP sounds more complicated than it is. Everyone has a different barrier to start the program, so creating a mentoring program will be useful.
- *Committee Inquiry*: How could we gather a few independent facilitators to work with our families on one-to-one basics to guide them through this process from beginning to end?

V. DVU/Judy Mark Presentation

- My son is 22 years old with Autism, and he is served at Westside Regional Center. He is in the Self-Determination Program. I'm the Westside Regional Center Advisory Committee Chair; I sit on SD Statewide Advisory Committee. People here from Disability Voices United sit on the Department of Developmental Services Task Force to implement the program; Connie Harvey and I got the law passed. We helped write the law.
- Every regional center has barriers in transitioning participants, so there are things we can do to overcome barriers. The DDS issued a report showing data from each regional center, and it revealed that SCLARC is among those with the lowest participants receiving services in SDP.
- The Self-Determination Law is our law, not the law of the bureaucracy. It is the law of people with disabilities and families; therefore, the Committee needs to take ownership of it.
- One of the resources that Disability Voices United offers is a website containing resources similar to the presentation shown at the last meeting. This is free, and it's called The Self-Determination Interchange. It contains tons of information, links, PCP, and etc.
- It also includes links to every local advisory committee statewide, and their recordings.
- The site has forums in English and Spanish. Here, people can ask questions and get answers from anybody who has gone through the process or know the subject. Or get/share ideas.
- We encourage everybody to use it. It's theinterchange.org
- As organization, the DVU offers training for the Committee. This training is for regular assistance and technical assistance to your committee on your role in providing appropriate oversight. It includes many sub-categories that help committee members improve their knowledge to better assist the community.
- The DVU also offers training for the participants, SD books, and online orientation.

DVU representative – Fernando Gomez

- The name of our organization says it all, Disability Voices United is led by individuals with certified assistance and their family members.
- A peer program is a fantastic idea because it's about the relationship in which the participants help each other. Self-Determination is the voice of individuals and families.
- My recommendation to you today would be to go back to what you're thinking about how do you establish a relationship. It's important to meet people where they're at, but jumping into each situation to help them walk hand-in-hand through this new path is the assistance needed.

DVU representatives – Harvey and Connie Lapin

- Our son is 52 years old, my hero. It's very emotional for me because this law is freedom.

- In history, Connie and I knew Frank Lanterman very well. The three of us had dinner two times in Sacramento. He believed it was freedom because it's a civil rights movement.
- In Wisconsin, 4,000 people are in Self-Determination. The enrollment takes a week or two.
- SD is not that hard, but DDS has put so much bureaucracy that it sounds worse than traditional services. Take control of it. I'll volunteer, give me ten participants, and I'll mentor them.

Back to the Presentation

- In advising you to engage the community more in the meetings, ban the mute/unmute procedure. In Self-Determination, we are in charge.
- The floor opened to questions.
- The Committee thanked each presenter for their passion in trying to help the SCLARC SDP-LAC and its community.
 - *Public Comment*: I really hope that all this information is taken into consideration for the best interest of the consumers.
 - *Committee Inquiry*: What's the total cost for the DVU use technical support?
 - *Presenter Response*: It is to pay for our administrative and program assistant; its price is about \$3,000 for the year.
- The Committee raised the motion of preparing a scope of work to identify the needs. Then, look at some supportive technical assistance and organization independent facilitators to assist our families. It was moved with a caveat.
- The results from the poll were participants 10%, family members 45%, community members 10%, providers or vendors 29%, SCLARC staff is 6%, and the other 16%

VI. Ideas for Future Agenda Topics

- This item was tabled

VII. Closing Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 PM and the Committee wished happy holidays. The next meeting is January 13, 2021 from 6 pm to 8 pm.