



Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Minutes

Online Meeting Through Zoom

March 12, 2025

Pending Approval

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting End Time: 7:41 PM

Committee Members:

Present:	Absent:	Vacancies
Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair Terrance Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair Veronica Moser Armida Ochoa Alberta Moore Santiago Villalobos Sofia Cervantes – State Council Rep. Crystal Smith – FRC Representative	Luz Hernandez Alnita Dunn Magali Ochoa Erica Clark – Clients’ Rights Advocate	(1) Appointed Spot Available

Guests:

SCLARC:	State:	Public:
Jenice Turner – Director of Child Services Odulia Juarez – Chief of Case Management Ayana Shepard – Chief of Case Management Teodoro Bilbao – Chief of Case Management Cynthia Rivera – Program Manager Edna Robles – Participant Choice Specialist Lizzet Bobadilla – Program Manager Luis Salazar – Team Leader Stephanie Gonzalez – Secretary Beatriz Perez – Secretary Sonia Hernandez – Interpreter Eduardo Kogan. – Interpreter	Marianita Mendez	Patricia Bermejo, Kelli Marsh, Leticia Figueroa, Rubi Saldana, Alicia Flores, Rosalia Lopez, Silvia Calles, Daniel Antunez, Rosa Vadillo, Mayra Dwyer, Gracie Rodriguez, Yesenia Valenzuela, Tania Rivera, Mary Palacios, Ana Batres, Karina Saldana, Faviola Cruz, Maria Franco, Guadalupe Colula, Karina Monje, Angelica Orellana, Perla Davalos, Jeanette Silva, Beatriz Dover, Gabriela Ramirez, Cesilia Ortiz, Shirlys Gruber, Martha DeLa Torre, Letty Lopez, Veronica Venegas, Dalia Gutierrez, Flor Ruiz, Carol Herdez & more...

1. Welcome/Introductions

- Co-Chair Johnson called the meeting to order.
- Members of the committee gave a brief introduction of themselves.
- Quorum was not established.

2. Approval of January 29, 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Since quorum was not established, minutes were not reviewed. January 29 minutes were not approved in this meeting.

3. SCLARC Updates & DDS Directives

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- **SDP Participant Support Funding via DDS.**
 - New funding allocations: error was made in prior announcements. SCLARC received a reduced amount of \$115,314.43 for 2024 / 2025 fiscal year.
- **SDP Case Updates:**
 - **February 1, 2025:** 146 participants (58 children, 88 adults).
 - **March 1, 2025:** 150 participants (62 children, 87 adults, +1 transfer).
 - SCLARC New IPP Sessions held in English & Spanish via Zoom.
- **RFP Update:** The Autism Society of Los Angeles was the chosen organization by SCLARC & The Committee. Currently we are at the final stages of the contract signing.

4. Public Comment

Rubi Saldana feels the agenda is not addressing the delays families are experiencing in their annual SDP transition.

Sylvia Calles inquires about the timeline for a consumer to transition between regional centers and into the Self-Determination Program.

-All cases vary and depend on a number of different factors.

Daniel Alvarez agrees with the previous comment in that it takes long to receive his budget and would like to address the problem at hand in these meetings.

Gracie Rodriguez mentions that her transition into SDP has been challenging, and she is seeking additional guidance.

Maria Lopez seeks clarification on which part of the process is causing significant delays in families receiving their authorizations and requests that the committee address solutions to resolve these delays.

Faviola Cruz has experienced a smooth transition into SDP so far, but is now worried after hearing everyone's concerns and would like to collaborate on addressing these issues and finding solutions for everyone involved.

Mashan Latimer would like to provide his services to help SCLARC.

Sofia Cervantes – SCDD still continues to offer SDP orientations in different languages. SDP Trainings held every Monday @ 10:00AM. Next 2 Mondays will be a “General Q&A” session for those that are interested in asking questions.

Beth Hurn – SCDD offers her support. SCDD sends out Self-Determination advisory committee updates to those that sign up for their mailing-list.

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5. FMS Presentations:

- **Public Partnerships, LLC (PPL)**

Presented by: Jessica Mercado – Account Manager

- **Services Provided:**

1. Payroll Precision – Managing your budget, processing purchase requests, and handling payments to employees and SDP vendors.
2. Enrollment Companion – Assistance through onboarding process, background checks for employees, and other paperwork needed including forms for service providers.
3. Service Quality Assurance – Collaborate with Independent Facilitators and Service Coordinators to give the best support at every step.

- **Offers 2 Models:**

- **Sole Employer:** You hire employees and service providers, PPL assists with managing payroll, completing documentation, and following employee laws.
- **Bill Payer:** PPL pays for goods and services in your spending plan. This model comes without any employer-employee relationship.

- **Bilingual Staff Members:** Will be able to assist those looking for support in Spanish speaking families.

- **PPL Support Team:** Customer Service department, assigned Support Broker, and Account Managers are here to provide support throughout SDP process.

- **Online Platform for Clients:** “My Account” is the online platform for clients which give real-time access to budget information, approved timesheets, invoices, and purchase requests.

- **ACE FMS**

Presented by: Peyman Dadmehr

- **3 Main Focuses:** Accuracy, Convenience, and Effectiveness.

- **Offers 3 Models:** *Bill Payer, Co-Employer, and Sole Employer.*

- There are no waitlists for taking on new clients. Transfers are accepted from other FMS’ although, it is recommended that they switch at their renewal time.

- **Onboarding Timeline:** Generally, prefer to start the process about 4 weeks before the start date. Late-stage clients are accepted in by ACE.

- **Quick Registration Process:** 1 Minute registration process for a vendor, client, or employee. Vendors are typically approved in 1 business day. Employees onboarded within 1 week.

- **The “Ace Difference”:**

1. Technology – Best live portal offering transparency and accuracy.
2. Prompt Service – 1 business day response time guarantee.
3. Trained and Seasoned Professionals – Attorneys on staff, CPAs, HR Professionals, and SDP Experts available to give support.

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6. Announcements

- No announcements were made at this time.

7. Upcoming Local Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Next meeting discussion:**
 - Both Crystal Smith and Veronica Moser stressed the need to clarify the committee's advisory role and set clear expectations at the start of meetings regarding public comments and questions.
 - There was a focus on the importance of addressing community concerns collaboratively and maintaining open communication, with an emphasis on being receptive to feedback from families and other stakeholders.
 - **Survey Proposal:** A proposal for a bilingual survey targeting families involved in SDP, those transitioning into SDP, and those who opted out, to identify gaps in support or areas from improvement. This would help the committee better understand the experiences and challenges families face.
 - Veronica Moser suggested forming a support group or subcommittee to facilitate organized discussions about community issues, though it's unclear who would lead this effort.
 - Armida Ochoa suggested inviting more guest speakers to provide insights and conduct training to clarify the committee's role and responsibilities, improving public understanding and the effectiveness of meetings.
- **Next meeting agenda: May 14, 2025**
 - SCLARC will conduct a survey to gather feedback from families in SDP to identify challenges during the transition process and other common issues. Committee members will collaborate to refine the survey questions, shaping them into conversation topics for discussion at the next committee meeting.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at **7:41 PM**.