



Self Determination Local Advisory Committee Minutes

Online Meeting Through Zoom

May 14, 2025

Pending Approval

Meeting Start Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting End Time: 7:09 PM

Committee Members:

Present:	Absent:	Vacancies
Sherry Johnson – SD-LAC Co-Chair Terrance Payne – SD-LAC Co-Chair Alberta Moore Magali Ochoa Santiago Villalobos Sofia Cervantes – State Council Rep. Crystal Smith – FRC Representative	Luz Hernandez Armida Ochoa Alnita Dunn Veronica Moser	(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 Erika Anguiano- ECM Cynthia Rivera – Program Manager Alex Marquez – Program Manager Edna Robles – Participant Choice Specialist Luis Salazar – Participant Choice Specialist	Marianita Mendez	Alondra López, Anel González, Aracely Robles, Aziz Sarwari, Claudia Velásquez, Daniel Lott, Delfina Reyes, Esmeralda Mora, Gabriela Dueñas, Kiara López, Kim Sinclair, Kristinna Moralls, Lilibeth Hernández, Lizzet Bobadilla, María Tapia, María Verdugo, Mariana Guerrero, Mary Nessim, Melodie Summers, Nelly González, Oxana Stollery, Pam Geller, Pamela Gomez, Sandra Menéndez, Shahnoor Stanikzai, Shirlys Gruber, Silvia Diaz, Socorro Martínez, Teresa Carbajal, Toddi Hunt, Yesenia Valenzuela.

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1. Welcome/Introductions

1. Co-Chair Payne called the meeting to order.
2. Members of the committee gave a brief introduction of themselves.
3. Quorum was established.

2. Approval of January 29, 2025, Meeting Minutes

1. A review of meeting minutes was conducted.
2. Terrence Payne and Santiago Villalobos both abstain from the voting item.
3. **Motion to approve minutes as written:**
 - **Motion:** Alberta Moore
 - **Second:** Sherry Johnson
 - Minutes were approved

3. SCLARC Updates & DDS Directives

1. **Introduction:**
 - **Alex Marquez:** Self-Determination Program Manager
 - **Luis Salazar:** Participant Choice Specialist for Children

2. SDP Case Updates:

- **March 1, 2025:** 149 participants (66 children, 83 adults).
- **May 1, 2025:** 156 participants (71 children, 84 adults).

The previous SCLARC meeting committee asked about the delays in SDP.

- One of the biggest delays in the SDP process is the spending plan. There is an importance of having a well-developed spending plan. Must include appropriate information such as:
 - Full details of the individual (Name, UCI, budget amount, FMS company & model, timeframe, Grand total for service)
- Developing a Spending Plan:
 - *Identify:* Person-centered Planning documented on IPP
 - *Support:* Information about service coordinator & Independent Facilitator
 - *Determine:* Generic Services – what services will not come from the budget?
 - Frequency and cost

3. New DDS Directives

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- Financial Management Service (FMS) requirements:

- applies to FMS providers who have applied after April 20th
- Experience & Qualifications – Related Field
- Internal Controls & Safeguards – reports all suspected incidents to appropriate authorities
- Technology Capabilities
- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Customer Service Policy

The Bonding requirement for FMSs was removed on April 25th, 2024, Directive

4. Public Comment

Mariana Guerrero is an Independent Facilitator in the Westside area. Ms. Guerrero states that SCLARC has been improving, however, there is still an issue with the spending plans & signatures, still taking a long process to get back.

- Ms. Guerrero is inquiring if SCLARC is currently doing an outreach specifically for the Latino, African American, & Asian Community, regarding SDP.

Christiana Morales mentions that the Self-Determination Institute (SDI) is offering free meetings via zoom.

1. “SDP Community Lunch Series” are being held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM.
 - There will be an introduction to a Financial Management Service and a local provider for every meeting held.
2. “Complete Guide to STP” – Every 1st Tuesday of the month from 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
 - Will show a step-by-step through the enrollment process.

Jaqueline Casas appreciates all the hard work Alex Marquez has done to help her, and hopes with the new directors coming in, it will improve the Self-determination program.

Pam Geller mentions that she has previously taken courses for the Self-determination program but is now seeking guidance as to what she should do to be able to move onto the next step in the process.

Sylvia Diaz states that so far, she has not had any issues transitioning into SDP, it has been a good year and is happy with the process. Is looking forward to having Alex Marquez on the team and is excited to see how this change will help the community.

Sandra Menendez shares with the public that GT Independence is an FMS and if anybody has any questions or wants more information, they can reach out to her as she will be attending the next upcoming meetings.

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Claudia Velasquez expresses gratitude to the Self-Determination team for helping her family and her child, who she states has improved a lot during his time in SDP. She hopes the same support can be given to her other child who also is in the process of transitioning into SDP.

Sofia Cervantes discussed the need for more transparency in the pre-enrollment and transitions supports for families. Suggested to the committee to consider a website or a flyer listing funded entities.

- **SCDD** still continues to offer SDP orientations in different languages.
SDP Trainings held every Monday @ 10:00AM.
- There will be upcoming training courses being held on proposed changes to Medicaid services

Angelica Orellana also wants to express her gratitude towards the Self-Determination program, as she also has seen improvement in her child who now has been with SDP for as long as four years.

Kim Peaks shares that her first year with SLCARC in SDP was great and is satisfied with all the help and support they have been providing for her.

Toddi Hunt inquiries about the 099-PDS participant directed services, would like to know if SCLARC has an FMS that would provide payments for PDS services, if so, which FMS.

- GT Independence provides payments for 099-PDS services

5. Community SDP Survey Development:

An SDP Survey was developed for the community to share the struggles and challenges families are facing coming into the Self-Determination Program. The survey will help to make improvements for any decision making for the upcoming year.

- Will be provided in Spanish & English, and it will also be shared with individuals who have previously expressed interest in SDP, so everyone can give their feedback and opinions.

6. Update Autism Society of Los Angeles

Presented by: Kim Sinclair - *Executive Director*

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1. The focus of the Autism Society of Los Angeles is on the families who are still pending.
 - Those who have completed the orientation and have received their budget but still have seen no movement for the individuals.
 - Families who have already completed the orientation, be able to help then move on to the next step.
2. Still in process of scheduling but the training and classes will be expected to start in August 2025.

7. Announcements

- **Sofia Cervantes** provided announcements in the public comment
- **Crystal Smith** announced Family Resource Center is having upcoming community training for the four-part learning series.
 - Workshops are offered hybrid, in person or online, and in English and Spanish.
 - The information can be found on the SCLARC website & calendar, as well as on the McLaney Family Resource center page.
- **Magali Ochoa** requests a chain of command for the SDP Department.
- **Sandra Menendez** will get more information about the 099-PDS and will provide them once she has full details.

8. Upcoming Local Advisory Committee Meeting

- **Next meeting agenda:** July 16, 2025

9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at **7:09 PM**.