

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Self- Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

Present: Lori Walker, Richard Dier, Jon Francis, Michael Carey, Miriam Erberich, Socorro Curameng, Alex Kopilevich, Jordan Feinstock, Ellen Jannol, Wilmary Torres

Robin Monroe, Lia Cervantes Lerma, Gabriela Eshrati, Xochitl Gonzalez, Claudia Wenger, Elena Tiffany, Gabriela Romero, Gail, Kristianna Morallis, Lia Cervantes Lerma, Marianita Mendez, Melissa Jones, Coleen Antonio, Jae Antonio, Rafael Carbajal, Stella, Tracy Lawrence Sternhell

Gume Garza Sp – Interpreter, Sol Garza – Interpreter, Ryder Winans – Minutes Services, Guests

Absent: Victoria Berrey, Dianna Garcia

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Housekeeping

Lori Walker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm and noted that a quorum was present.

Following Ruth’s retirement, interim executive director Christina Parus has been named while the full-time position is not yet filled.

Spanish interpretation services were announced by Lori.

Lori shared some relevant contact information:

NLACRC SDP email: selfdetermination@nlacrc.org

SDP Hotline: 818-756-6314

NLACRC SDLAC email: nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com

II. Public Input and Comments

Lori shared information on the support group. The next meeting is January 24th from 4:30 – 6 pm, and pre-registration will be required. Lori also shared information on other upcoming meetings.

Lia shared information on resources for disability services. Meetings are held in both English and Spanish.

Ronda discussed the advanced training for the self-determination program that is available. Training is offered in English, Spanish, Korean, and Cantonese.

III. DDS Directive Update

Richard attended the webinar on DDS Directives. He said many of the changes were made to

make it easier to receive federal funding. Richard stated that there is some talk of abuse in the system. The new regulations are to make it easier to use the SDP system correctly and more difficult to utilize it in a self-dealing fashion.

There is new guidance on using the system, which overrides any previous guidance. After the transition, Option A will no longer be available. A standard vendor packet has been issued. There is also a push to use more qualified independent vendors.

The billing requirements have changed to become clearer. Now, services can be paid for more flexibly. Additionally, bills have to be at an hourly or daily rate. Monthly rates will no longer be used. Richard shared resources to learn more about the specific information. Future webinars will be held, but they will likely not be interactive. Any questions related to SDP should be directed to DSTaskForce@dds.ca.gov.

Kristianna stated that DVU has taken a stance that they are recommending against participants to be an 099 vendor. This is due to the lack of ability to advocate. DVU is working with DDS toward a solution that would maintain both federal reimbursement and participant choice. Lori stated that NLACRC would be willing to support DVU's initiative via a signed letter.

Miriam stated that as an independent vendor, she feels pressured to do the 099 vendorization in order to get more business, and she hopes that a new solution can be found.

Lori discussed an initiative that just added coordinated support family services. For more information on this service, view the April 19, 2023, directive on the DDS directive system. Enclosure A provides an overview of the service.

Lori also discussed the November 22, 2023, directive to use remote services. This can now be done virtually following this directive.

Finally, the November 17, 2023, directive issued the latest allotment of DDS funds for the self-determination program. The new allotment is roughly \$130,000 and must be spent by March 2026. The current allotment must be spent by March 2025. Questions regarding this new allotment can be directed to Lori. It was proposed to start the details of allocating these funds in April.

IV. Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (Jordan/Alan) To approve Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Chair Report – Lori Walker
DDU conducted a technology training on December 4 as a part of their RFP. Several issues were addressed, such as scanning with a phone, sending files, and using DocuSign.

The training can be viewed via YouTube.

Lori and Jordan attended the SDAC meeting regarding financial management services. Lori noted that the webinar format discouraged discussion, and most information was dated.

Lori and Richard attended the Board of Trustees meeting. There was some discussion on SDP. There are 287 fully enrolled SDP participants, which is a small portion of the overall group. There were changes to the timing of the public input and executive session portions of the meeting. SDP is listed as a stakeholder for feedback for the next executive director.

B. Board Report Related to SDP – Lori Walker

Richard shared details on SDP's involvement in the process thus far. Richard was nominated to attend meetings as a speaker on behalf of self-determination. Richard will report back via email or at the next meeting.

Funding for the participant choice specialist position has been cut per the Governor's most recent budget proposal.

C. Discussion/Updates of Best Practice Work – Richard Dier/Lori Walker

The IF handbook was put together. Training resources were also developed. The IF handbook should be complete and presentable by the next meeting, along with training resources. Lori proposed that this information be posted on the website for those looking for more resources.

Lori discussed the "track your pizza" topic. Lori stated that there were DDS grants for technology improvements available. The possibility of developing a tracking system for North LA was discussed.

Lori strongly encouraged all committee members to receive the DDS directives directly.

D. Questions/Concerns from Chair to Staff – Lori Walker

Lori wants to use the committee to better the SDP experience for those in the program in any way possible. Richard expressed appreciation for Lori's efforts to further the work of the committee.

VI. **Committee Centered Plan**

A. Update the Committee-Centered Plan – Lori Walker

Lori shared the DDS handout, which is a summary of the directives.

The committee met in December to decide on assignments and create a timeline to identify barriers that FMS has faced. Reports on work done must be drafted in April. The committee reviewed the details of the plan. Website updates were also discussed. The goal is to address questions before burdening the regional center.

Richard noted that the plan lets him clarify the committee's roles when interacting with other organizations.

Jordan noted that not all committee member's names were on the plan document. Lori said members not yet on the plan can be contacted and added to it.

M/S/C (Ellen/Alex) To approve the Committee-Centered Plan as a working document. The motion passed by majority consent.

The plan will be posted on the website.

VII. Implementation Updates

A. NLACRC Update – Robin Monroe

Robin shared the implementation report. Seven hundred twenty-eight participants have completed orientation. Robin shared other participant counts for various metrics as well, including demographics.

There is a goal to update the FMS.

B. Spending Update on RFP Work – Robin Monroe

Robin shared the current grid of RFPs. Roughly \$35,000 has been paid out so far. Specific figures for certain RFPs were shared. Lori noted that the coaching takes up significant funds, which may increase with the 099 vendorization process.

C. SCDD Update – Lia Cervantes Lerma

Nothing to report.

D. SDLAC Committee Membership Update – Richard Dier

Guidance has been created for participation and ethics. Certain positions have been declared vacant, and new people have been found for those positions. This allows SDLAC to work with North LA and the State Council to recruit further members.

VIII. SDP Challenges and Successes

Gail shared that she is getting ready to do Year 2 for her daughter. She stated that the letter of explanation was confusing and asked if it could be simplified, given there were two different figures. Robin said the form is for accounting purposes and was created by her team based on the IPP signature page. The logistics of the budgeting, billing, and accounting processes as they relate to letters of explanation and deadlines were discussed.

The efficacy of IFs for parents was discussed. Many expressed appreciation for IFs in helping guide them through the process. Special incident reports were also discussed.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Items for the next agenda include participant training specialist, executive director process, and services rep report.

X. Adjournment

Lori Walker, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Minutes Services

