

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

May 16, 2024

**Present:** Victoria Berrey, Michael Caret, Richard Dier, Jordan Feinstock, Jon Francis, Erica Rodriguez, Lori Walker, Miriam Erberich, Socorro Curameng, Alex Kopilevich, Ricardo Martinez – **Committee Members**

Denise Juarez, Gabriela Eshrati, Robin Monroe, Silvia Haro, Robin Monroe– **NLACRC Staff Members**

Xotchitl Gonzalez – DDS, Claudia Wegner – Claudia Cares, Elena Tiffany – DVU, Reiko Umeda, Kristianna Moralis – DVU, Lisa Carey – Education Advocate, Josn Feringa-Dromen FMS, Albert Feliciano – SCDD, Marta Smajdor, Karla (no last name given), Gume Garza – Interpreter, Sol Garza – Interpreter, Jasmine Barrios-Minutes Services - **Guests**

**Absent:**

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**I. Call to Order, Introductions and Housekeeping**

Lori Walker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Spanish interpretation services were announced.

Lori announced a new Committee Member, Ricardo Martinez. Ricardo introduced himself as the parent of a 26-year-old consumer who is transitioning into SDP. He has lived in the Antelope Valley for the last 30 years.

NLA staff and Committee members introduced themselves to the group and explained their personal connections to SDP.

**II. Public Input and Comments**

Lori shared contact information for issues related to SDP:

NLA SDP Email: [selfdetermination@nlacrc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@nlacrc.org)

SDP Hotline: 818-756-6314

Committee Direct Email: [nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com](mailto:nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com)

Xochitl Gonzalez, from DDS, introduced herself to the Committee as the Committee Liaison for DDS and welcomed any questions to be sent to her if needed.

John Feringa, from Droman, introduced himself as an FMS from the Harbor Regional Center.

Kristianna Moralis addressed previous concerns regarding a handbook that was created as a Vendor Guidebook that she will be sending out to the Committee.

Albert Feliciano from SCDD shared that Statewide Training takes place every Monday at 10 am. Current topic is Mental health and Self-Care. In June, will be speaking about anti-bullying. The trainings are welcome to all and links are available on the SCDD website.

Lori shared that the California Health and Human Services Master Plan for Developmental Services. This is the organization that oversees DDS. The website provides agendas, recorded meetings, presentations and a summary of public comments.

Lori also shared information related to the DDS IPP Template. The Stakeholders Event page has a link for Archived dates that affect the mandatory use of the new IPP form that is due by June 1<sup>st</sup> for effective dates beginning January 1, 2025.

The NLA SDP page was also noted as containing the SDP Workbook, Orientation information, Support Group Registration IF Registration IF Workbook and more.

### III. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

Revisions to the Minutes will be made to note the following:

- Michael Carey was absent from the April Committee meeting
- Elena Tiffany will be listed as a guest representing DVU, as opposed to being listed as an NLA Staff Member
- Add April 18<sup>th</sup> to the header of the Minutes packet.
- Make the distinction between San Fernando Valley and San Clarita Valley, in lieu of acronyms.

**M/S/C** (J. Feinstock/A. Kopilevich) To approve the meeting minutes as revised.

### IV. Committee Reports

#### A. Chair Report

Lori Shared information regarding 3 new directives from DDS:

1. Updated billing requirements for services and other rates  
Addresses those SDP providers that are not billing at an hourly or daily rate but are limited to no more than a monthly rate. This directive will go into effect on June 30, 2024.
2. Employer burden and other employment-related costs  
This directive is supposed to limit the 1% non-payroll tax fee, but conflicting information was received at the most recent IF Roundtable. Silvia Haro clarified that the 1% would not be eliminated until October 31<sup>st</sup>. It was also noted that all FMS will need to submit forms to NLA but the directive is moving forward. Lori reviewed important deadlines on this directive:
  - May 31 – FMS to notify their vendor in NLA of their employment burden costs on the GDS form provided
  - June 30 – NLA to review and submit to DDS
  - July 21- DDS to post to their website
3. Update to financial management service provider requirements  
This directive is an update to the December 2018 directive that states as of May 1<sup>st</sup>, FMS providers are no longer required to file the surety bond with the vendor in NLA.

**B. Board Report Related to SDP**

The report was reviewed as presented in the packet. It was noted that the Board included a Civility Code to be read at the beginning of each meeting. NLA is working to address concerns regarding employee concerns, employee satisfaction, pay and retention. A motion was made to have the Interim Executive Director solicit DDS to help with employee concerns. The Committee will continue to attempt to be more active in the Board activities as it relates to SDP. Lori and Richard also attended the recent Board Dinner in which NLA employees with over 30 years of service were recognized.

**C. Discussion and Updates of Best Practices Subcommittee Work**

Lori shared that the last meeting was held on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Discussion topics included DVU's SDP video training that was recently added to the website under SDP resources. A new resource flyer was also created that can be referenced to reach out to the community. Jordan noted that he did not get the resource flyer but received a Lanterman communication in Spanish.

During the discussion, a member of the public, Karla (no last name given), raised a question regarding how long it takes for the budget to be sent. She has already submitted the requirements for the IPP. Silvia Haro and Robin Monroe estimated the time frame to be up to 3 weeks for review. She encouraged Karla to reach out to her CSC for updated information. Karla and Silvia engaged in an exchange in Spanish and the issue will be further discussed offline.

There was also a discussion on implementation funds and a follow-up to a previous discussion regarding continuing coaching services and a monthly support group. DVU is looking to develop a website with a step-by-step path to the SDP. An FMS comparison chart will break down information on Financial Management Services. Directives will also be incorporated into the website search feature and will be continuously updated with the most recent information. A statewide SDP calendar will also be included in order to have once central place for the most updated and accurate information.

**D. Questions and Concerns from the Chair to Staff**

Concerns were raised by the Committee regarding rules for FMS that were not previously active or enforced that are not being enforced, causing a delay in services for those who are caught in the middle. Some participants have already lost their place in Services.

**V. Committee-Centered Plan (CCP) Updates**

Lori thanked the Committee Members for their participation and hard work in the creation of the CCP. Lori proposed a meeting in July to review the plan, what has been accomplished and what can be improved. Also, discussion will be had to determine what action steps can be taken to incorporate this plan. Alex Kopilevich offered to host the Committee at his office in Canoga Park in mid-July. Richard will organize the meeting and determine an agenda best dates to meet and possibly arrange for a Zoom meeting if necessary.

**VI. Implementation Updates**

A. NLA Update - Silvia Haro

The SDP Report is presented in the packet.

As of May 1<sup>st</sup>:

Participants have completed Orientation: 832 (increased by 27)

Total number of budgets that are certified: 408 (increased by 10)

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 6

Total number of spending plans that are approved: 358

Total number of spending plans in progress: 47

Total number of PCPs completed: 396

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolled: 4

Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out):3

Total number of participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 358 (increased by 12)

Silvia announced the NLA Expo that will be held on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 1p-7pm at the Airtel Plaza in the San Fernando Valley. Registration is available online.

B. DDS Update

There are no updates at this time.

C. SCDD Update

There are no updates at this time.

**VII. SDP Challenges and Successes**

This item was addressed in previous sections regarding FMS payments.

**VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- RFP Update
- Committee-Centered Plan Update

**IX. Adjournment**

Lori Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Minutes Services

