

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

June 20, 2024

Present: Michael Carey, Richard Dier, Jordan Feinstock, Jon Francis, Lori Walker, Miriam Erberich, Socorro Curameng, Alex Kopilevich, Ricardo Martinez, Wilmary Torres – **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, Mrs. Atias – Parent, Gume Garza – Interpreter, Sol Garza – Interpreter, Jasmine Barrios-Minutes Services, Hester (no last name given), Kim Merzouk, Raina Burton, Stephanie Gurewitz-
Guests

Absent: Victoria Berrey, Erica Rodriguez

I. Call to Order, Introductions and Housekeeping

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

Spanish interpretation services were announced.

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

SDP Hotline: 818-756-6454

Committee Direct Email: nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com

NLA Website: [LINK](#)

Lia Cervantes Lerma, from the State Council for Developmental Disabilities, shared information on upcoming SCDD events, which include Statewide Training every Monday at 10 am.

Wilmary Torres, from Disability Rights California, announced an ORCA Outreach program on Friday, June 21, at 5 pm.

Lori shared that the statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee is open to the public. The meeting was last held on April 15th, where several regional centers shared their RFP allocation information. The next statewide meeting will be held on July 9th from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm. NLA also encouraged the Committee to visit the NLA SDLAC website.

Lori also shared the NLA June Board of Trustees Meeting Packet which contains the SDP Report that is reported out at each Board Meeting.

Jordan Feinstock proposed that the SDP report be added to the beginning of the NLA Board Meeting agenda due to its relevance to the community. He also noted that it is important that the Committee Chair and Co-Chair be able to speak on behalf of the Committee at Board Meetings. Lori noted that she is now part of the Consumer Services Committee as a non-voting member.

III. Approval of April Meeting Minutes

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

- Michael Carey's name is to be corrected in the attendance list.

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

IV. Committee Reports

A. Chair Report

Lori Shared information regarding a new directive from DDS:

1. Update Regarding Sandis Reporting Requirements

This directive is regarding updated SANDIS or other regional center electronic record system reporting elements related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP), and is issued pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 4685.8(p)(2), which authorizes the Department of Developmental Services (Department) to issue program directives or similar instructions until regulations are adopted.

Effective June 17, 2024, the following reporting elements will be available in SANDIS:

1. Date orientation completed
2. Orientation provider
3. Date of the initial budget meeting
4. Date individual budget certified by the regional center
5. Budget adjustments
 - a. Date of change
 - b. Reason for change
 - c. Budget change (increase, decrease, no change)

Regional centers shall enter the above information for all individuals in the process of enrolling into the SDP as each step of enrollment is completed. Additionally, regional centers are required to retroactively enter this information, including SDP budget history, for all current or previously enrolled SDP participants by October 31, 2024. These additional elements will support the Department's effort to track enrollment data for the SDP.

Lori reported highlights of recent meetings:

DVU LAC – Topics discussed include the Workflow Gap Analysis

Monthly Support Group - topics included Uber Vouchers that are not working, Direct

Service Training Stipend Program, RFP for Support Groups and delays in entering into SDP program.

IF Roundtable – Topics included IF Role and Responsibility in educating participants, delays and timeframes for IF payments and assessments, DDS directive regarding FMS fees.

B. Board Report Related to SDP

The report was reviewed as presented in the packet.

Lori requested during public input that the Committee be able to contribute to the Board Meetings in some capacity when related to SDP. She also expressed concern regarding NLA's reaction to recent disruptive chat comments. Changes include the public input being limited to agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and the disabling of the chat feature during Board and Committee meetings. The Committee members shared their concerns with the updated protocol.

Lori will be attending the Case Load Meeting on June 25 at 10 am and 6pm.

Lia Cervantes Lerma, from SCDD, asked for clarification as to which meetings NLA is responding to with the actions. Lori stated that the March and June Board Meetings had particularly inappropriate behavior in the chat, and following that, NLA made the specified changes. Lia stated that she would do some research as NLA's public input rule may be limited to the community. The Board has the option to accept public comment relating to the items that are going to be voted on, that is at the discretion of the Board.

Another concern raised is that having public input at the end of the meeting can be a barrier as the meetings can last for 3-4 hours on occasion.

C. Discussion and Updates of Best Practices Subcommittee Work

Topics discussed at the last meeting included a follow-up on the RFP funds allocated and agreed upon for coaching at \$60,000 Support Group with interpretation was allocated \$13,200, leaving \$56,912.51 that has not yet been allocated.

IF Coaching was also discussed as the next level of IF assistance. NLA is expected to respond by June 30th. It was also noted that \$34,675 was returned from the DVI contract that will go towards coaching. A \$5,000 allotment was requested for training support, Best Practices support and LVAC support.

D. Questions and Concerns from the Chair to Staff

Concerns were raised by Lori regarding how the SCLAC can participate on the Board and in the Consumer Services Committee. Gabriela Eshrati shared that she does not have a definite answer on this request and that it is being considered by the Board and she encouraged Lori to continue to make the requests to the Board. It was also noted that there are incorrect upcoming meetings listed on the Consumer Services Committee.

V. Committee-Centered Plan (CCP) Updates

Richard stated that a discussion was had in the subcommittee related to the possibility that Committee members would be able to attend live trainings. In addition, there was a discussion regarding surveys sent by NLA on Self-Determination.

VI. Implementation Updates

A. NLA Update – Robin Monroe

The SDP Report is presented in the packet.

As of June 1st:

Participants have completed Orientation: 852 (increased by 20)

Total number of budgets that are certified: 419 (increased by 11)

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 7

Total number of spending plans that are approved: 370

Total number of spending plans in progress: 4

Total number of PCP's completed: 396

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

Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out): 4

Total number of participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 370 (increased by 12)

B. DDS Update

There are no updates at this time.

C. SCDD Update

There are vacancies on the Committee; the SCDD needs representatives from the Latino community. Anyone interested is able to fill out an application online.

VII. SDP Challenges and Successes

Richard Dier shared that he has reached an agreement on some important issues that he has dealt with in his son's SDP program, which will allow his son to have a permanent home.

Mrs. Atias, the parent of a consumer, shared her concerns regarding the issues that she has with IF, budgets and other issues related to SDP. She has not been able to get a clear

answer on when services will be approved. Gabriela will connect with the parent to further discuss her son's case.

Claudia Wenger from Claudia Cares announced that delays occur after an IPP agreement that happens in subsequent years due to a shortage of CSC's. Silvia Haro shared that the timeline for the Lanterman Act is 15 days. There was a request to ensure that all CSCs are properly trained on how to relay information to consumers and families. Ricardo Martinez proposed a dedicated team of NLA staff to handle the SDP cases, which Gabriela said was the initial workflow, but was very taxing on the team due to the high workload associated with SDP cases.

Jon Francis shared that he appreciated the SDP Breakout Session at the most recent Resource Fair at NLA.

VIII. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- RFP Update
- Committee-Centered Plan Update

IX. Adjournment

Lori Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Submitted by:
Minutes Services

