

# Meeting Summary for SDLAC

Sep 19, 2024 06:08 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada) ID: 974 1350 1392

## Quick recap

The meeting covered various topics, including elections for chair and co-chair positions, and updates on the self-determination program committee. Participants discussed the contract between DDS and North La, the need for a mindset adjustment among long-term employees, and the progress of initiatives and challenges faced within the organization. The conversation ended with discussions on building trust, transparency, and involving all stakeholders in the change process.

## Next steps

Max Jackson and Kim Hancock to continue working on improving processes and addressing issues at North LA Regional Center.

Max Jackson to contact board consultants Mark and Teresa and connect them with Lori Walker to arrange a meeting with the SDLAC committee.

Fernando Gomez and Victor Duron to present on the Master Plan at next month's SDLAC meeting.

Lori Walker to coordinate with Fernando Gomez on time needed for Master Plan presentation at next meeting.

SDLAC members to review the Master Plan information shared by Lori Walker.

SDLAC members interested in providing input to Columbus Group to contact Max Jackson or Kim Hancock directly.

SDLAC members to consider contacting the governor's office regarding AB 1147 and SB 37 bills by September 30th deadline.

SDLAC members to consider supporting AB 1280/SB 1281 self-determination bill awaiting governor's signature.

North LA Regional Center to continue recruiting for SDLAC position through October 4th, seeking African American, Latino/Hispanic, or self-advocate applicants.

Sylvia Haro to follow up with Jackie regarding coaching contract and client intake status.

North LA Regional Center to post RFPs for various self-determination support services next week.

Lia Cervantes to follow up with Jordan regarding potential SCDD committee involvement.

Lori Walker to contact Miriam regarding co-chair responsibilities.

SDLAC members to review updated self-determination program statistics in board packet.

## Summary

### Introducing Self-Determination Program Committee Members

Lori led the meeting, encouraging participants to use the chat for questions and introducing a new AI note-taking feature. She introduced the members of the self-determination program committee, including Vicki Berry, Michael, Silvia Renteria-Haro, and others, who shared their connections to the program and experiences. The SDP team, Silvia Haro and Robin Monroe, were also introduced. Lori expressed her goal of making the Self-Determination Program easier to be a part of and planned to discuss the agenda based on the participants' interest and time available.

### Columbus Organization Elections and Leadership Changes

Lori initiated the meeting by discussing the need for elections for the chair and co-chair positions within the SDLAC. She outlined the process, which included sending out candidate

statements and allowing for self-nominations. The meeting then proceeded to the election, with Silvia Haro overseeing the voting process. Jordan- and Lori were nominated for the chair position, with Jordan- ultimately winning. Jon was nominated for the co-chair position, and after a change in votes, Miriam was elected. Richard, the current co-chair, was thanked for his two years of service and Jordan- and Jon were welcomed as new members.

### **Addressing Contract Issues and Center Improvements**

MJackson and Kim Hancock from North La provided an update on the contract between DDS and North La. Two work groups have been formed to address issues within the center, with more groups planned. Information has been gathered from over 500 employees to improve service delivery. An analysis of the management team's functioning is ongoing, with recommendations to be included in a report outlining a vision for the next 5-10 years. Urgent issues like high caseloads for service coordinators and workforce support are being addressed. Stakeholder input will be sought for the self-determination program, with consideration given to whether it should be managed separately or integrated with regular caseloads.

### **Self-Determination Program Challenges and Improvements**

MJackson, Kim, and Kristianna discussed their backgrounds in working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Lori initiated sharing contact information for better communication. The group agreed on the self-determination program's potential but acknowledged the need for processing and coordinator improvements. Fernando emphasized addressing institutional challenges beyond individual choices and ensuring diverse feedback. Jordan- suggested following up on Fernando's points about wider community awareness.

### **Staff Feedback, Demographics, and Center Development**

Kim, MJackson, Jordan-, Fernando, Kristianna, and MJackson discussed the process of gathering feedback from staff at their center and the development of a detailed report on the demographics of the area. They also discussed the creation of a 5- and 10-Year Plan for the center based on the gathered information. The team acknowledged the shift in the disability rights movement and the increased community engagement. They also discussed the need for a mindset adjustment among long-term employees to accommodate more control over their lives and the potential for remote work. The conversation ended with a discussion about the need for a detailed plan to operationalize the new approach.

### **Remote Work, Productivity, and Digital Platforms Discussion**

MJackson advocated for remote work with specific productivity expectations, suggesting those who don't meet them return to the office. Fernando discussed the benefits of in-office work, cultural nuances, and the potential of digital platforms for larger groups. He raised concerns about staff accountability and performance, suggesting rewarding and empowering top performers. Jon proposed a portal system to streamline processes and ease pressure on caseworkers, which MJackson agreed could be valuable. MJackson discussed implementing a seamless, paperless service delivery system and bringing in experts for this. Jordan- emphasized the importance of sharing the project's findings widely to ensure implementation, which MJackson confirmed he discusses with receptive DDS leadership weekly.

### **Special Contract Language and Board Concerns**

The meeting focused on the Special Contract Language and its implications for the board and Columbus. It was clarified that Mark and Teresa are consultants assigned to the board, separate from Columbus. Jordan- expressed concerns about issues with the board and suggested a meeting with the board consultants to address these issues. MJackson agreed to

contact the consultants to arrange a meeting with the Chair and Co-Chair regarding these board-related concerns. The team also discussed the appointment of a new board member, Kelly Coleman, who is a parent in the self-determination program. Lori was optimistic about Coleman's potential as a liaison, believing that her passion and commitment could be an asset. The team agreed to give Coleman a chance to prove herself when she starts in November. Richard expressed his need to focus full-time on a new opportunity but emphasized his continued involvement with the committee he co-chairs. He highlighted the committee's achievements and its growing influence and suggested the need for a stronger relationship with the Board. Richard also praised Lori's work as co-chair and expressed his pride in the committee's progress. The team also discussed the progress of their initiatives and the challenges they face, acknowledging resistance to change and the need to build trust within the organization. They agreed to continue working on building trust and transparency, and they expressed their commitment to involving all stakeholders in the change process.

### **Gratitude, Coaching, and Disability-Related Updates**

The conversation ended with mutual expressions of gratitude and appreciation. Lori confirms coaching services are resuming with increased funding, and RFPs for support groups and joint training will be posted soon. Lia discusses two disability-related bills awaiting the governor's signature and encourages contacting the governor's office. Victor Duron will present on the Master Plan at the next meeting. Silvia Haro announces a recruitment for the local advisory committee. Robin shares program statistics including new member count. Two committee seats remain open.

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