

# Meeting Summary for SDLAC

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## Quick recap

The meeting covered various aspects of the self-determination program, committee member introductions, and updates on trainings and resources. Discussions focused on challenges in program implementation, such as timeline issues, communication with the Board of Trustees, and budget concerns.

## Next steps

Richard, John, and Lori: Revise the letter to the Board of Trustees incorporating feedback

Richard: Create mailing list for Board of Trustees members to receive the letter

Richard: Send revised letter to all committee members and Rita M for final review

Rita M: Review and provide analytical feedback on the revised letter

Committee Members: Review final version of letter and provide any objections

Richard, John, and Lori: Coordinate committee member attendance and public speaking at the next Board meeting after letter distribution

Miriam: Follow up on getting written IPP timeline requirements from regional center

Silvia: Investigate the delay in IPP distribution with the department responsible for mailing them out

Regional Center Staff: Update the SDP flyer with current information, working links, and correct contact information

North LA Training Team: Develop and implement new comprehensive SDP training program for service coordinators

Robin and Megan: Continue developing the SDP training manual and outline

Michael and Richard: Finalize survey for SDP participants and send to Silvia

Silvia: Remind new coaches about monthly billing requirements at the upcoming RFP meeting

North LA Team: Organize SDP expo in October in partnership with Family Resource Center and CSUN

Committee Members: Review North LA website and send feedback to committee email or Lori

Committee Members: Prepare questions for the Executive Director for next month's meeting

Silvia: Add discussion of board letter to next board meeting agenda

Regional Center: Reinstate bi-monthly RFP meetings starting in May for RFP recipients

Robin & Team: Complete revamping of SDP training materials for service coordinators

Silvia & Team: Implement new SDP specialist positions in each consumer unit after hiring process

Lia: Work on filling the committee membership seat before going on maternity leave

## Self-Determination Program Committee Meeting Summary

Lori emphasized the need for committee members to change their names to include 'SDLAC' for identification purposes. The agenda for the meeting was shared, and participants were encouraged to use the chat for questions or comments.

Self-Determination Program Committee Meeting Summary Lori Walker, the chair, led the meeting with the committee members, including Michael Carey, Richard Deer, Miriam, Jordan, John Francis, Ricardo, John Anthony, and Leah Cervantes Lerma. The committee members introduced themselves and shared their connections to the self-determination program. Lia Cervantes Lerma from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities introduced their resources for answering questions about the self-determination program and other regional center matters. Kristianna from the Self-Determined Institute announced their lunch series meeting on the third Tuesday

of every month, where they would have a new self-determination program ombudsperson and an FMS agency.

### **North La Training Observations and Resources**

Kim shared observations from recent training with Orange County and Lanterman, noting a significant increase in participants from North LA. She also highlighted the diverse language backgrounds of attendees. Lori suggested sharing this information with the North LA community to help them understand the reach of their trainings. Lori also shared resources for the committee, including a flyer for the North LA SDP page and a link to the California Health and Human Services master plan. The committee was encouraged to use these resources to stay informed about the work of other regional centers and to promote their own services.

### **Service Coordinator Timelines and Responsibilities**

Miriam discussed the ongoing issues with timelines and unresponsiveness from service coordinators. She highlighted the lack of a budget and signature page for some projects, and the need for e-billing training for newer service coordinators. Miriam also raised concerns about the delay in receiving the written Individual Program Plan (IPP) after the actual meeting, and the need for updating the Support Group information. Silvia clarified that the IPP should be mailed out within 45 days of the meeting, and that the service coordinators are responsible for sending it out. Lori and Claudia discussed the timeline for the spending plan and the possibility of filing a complaint if the timelines are not met.

### **North LA Regional Center Board of Trustees meeting**

Richard reports on the recent North LA Regional Center Board of Trustees meeting, noting a new energy under the new president Juan Hernandez. The board approved several policy updates and discussed concerns about Medicaid/Medicare funding. Regarding Self-Determination Program, Richard felt the board showed interest in being more involved with the SDLAC. He highlights that North LA now has over 500 self-determination participants, growing at a faster rate than overall regional center enrollment. Richard and Jon are working on developing more formal engagement between the SDLAC and the board beyond just public comments at meetings.

### **SDLAC Requests Board Meeting**

Richard and Jon have drafted a letter to the Board of Trustees on behalf of the Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC). The letter expresses gratitude for the Board's recognition of SDLAC and requests a meeting to discuss how the committee can better function in its advisory and oversight role. Richard shares the content of the letter with the group, highlighting SDLAC's legislative mandate, the growth of Self-Determination Program participants, and the committee's desire for increased collaboration with the Board and senior staff. The group discusses potential revisions to the letter, with Richard suggesting that he, Jon, and Lori finalize any changes after receiving input from the attendees.

### **Advisory Committee Board Liaison Proposal**

Richard discussed the need for the board to approach the advisory committee with humility and expectations of a role. He suggested sending the letter to every member of the board and senior staff before a public comment at the next board meeting. Richard also proposed the idea of having a dialogue with the board, possibly through a liaison. Lori suggested that the letter should be sent to the committee members for feedback before sending it out. Jon proposed the idea of having a liaison from the committee to the board. Ricardo suggested that the board should approach legislators to make an amendment to the law. Silvia clarified that the board liaison is chosen by the board members. Rita suggested including ethnicity in the

letter and pointed out a capitalization error. The committee agreed to send the letter to Rita for feedback and to send it out to the committee members unless there is an objection.

### **Committee-Centered Plan Training and Rate Reform**

In the meeting, Lori led the discussion on the committee-centered plan, focusing on the training of service coordinators and the implementation of a new training system. The team also discussed the rate reform process, with Miriam sharing an update on a meeting with stakeholders. The meeting also touched on the website feedback and the need for committee members to provide input. The team also discussed the hiring of a new service coordinator and the revamping of the training process. Ricardo expressed frustration with the delays in the process, while Rita emphasized the importance of being proactive and solution-oriented. The conversation ended with updates on the number of participants in the self-determination program and the progress of the implementation report.

### **Budget Review and Participant Engagement**

The committee discusses the budget for various areas, noting that most funds have been used except for the Legacy Center, which has \$9,181 remaining. There is confusion about whether this money can be encumbered or saved, with Silvia explaining that she was unable to make the request at her level. The committee expresses disappointment about potentially returning nearly \$10,000 to DDS. They review current spending and billing from contractors under the new contracts. Jordan raises concerns about participant awareness and attendance at meetings, suggesting surveys to determine better meeting times. The committee also discusses creating a survey for participants and plans to have the executive director attend the next meeting in May.