

Meeting Summary for SDLAC

February 19, 2026

Quick recap

The North Los Angeles County Regional Center's Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) held a meeting to discuss the implementation funds letter, the committee center plan, and rate reform updates. The committee reviewed and approved a draft letter addressing the potential elimination of implementation funds, which will be sent to state legislators. They also approved a new two-year committee center plan with four goals focused on improving the SDP program, communication, and member participation. Silvia presented an overview of rate reform changes, explaining how new service codes and rates affect SDP participants' budgets. The committee discussed how to calculate rates for existing and new services under the new system.

Next steps

- [Kristianna: Send the final approved letter regarding SDP implementation funds to the legislature and relevant parties, ensuring correct email addresses are used.](#)
- [Miriam: Run the draft letter through ChatGPT \(or similar tool\) to compare versions and share differences with the committee for consideration.](#)
- [Miriam: Set up and manage the monthly SurveyMonkey feedback collection process for committee members to submit SDP positives and challenges, and compile results for reporting to North LA, Ombuds, SSDAC, and DDS.](#)
- [All committee members: Submit one positive and one challenge relating to SDP each month via SurveyMonkey prior to the meeting.](#)
- [Miriam and Lori: Report on relevant SDP meetings/resources at the next committee meeting and define the expected format for future member reports.](#)
- [Jordan: Attend and report back on the upcoming grievance process webinar at the next meeting.](#)
- [Robin \(and SDP team\): Contact San Diego Regional Center to learn about their process for utilizing remaining RFP/implementation funds and report findings to the committee.](#)

- [Committee \(via Best Practices Subcommittee\): Devote time at next meeting to discuss and recommend uses for next year's implementation funds, especially in light of potential loss of funds.](#)
- [Committee: Review the DDS directive about implementation funds \(to be posted in chat\) in preparation for next month's discussion.](#)
- [Silvia/Robin: Schedule and/or allow more time for a follow-up rate reform discussion at the next meeting to address outstanding questions.](#)
- [Silvia: Notify Erica and committee when DDS provides more information or schedules community meetings about the standardization of vendorization across regional centers.](#)
- [All committee members: Consider attending relevant SDP-related meetings \(e.g., SSDAC, Disparity Committee, webinars\) and volunteer to report back at future meetings.](#)
- [Miriam and Lori: Meet to determine the preferred format and process for member reports on external SDP meetings/resources.](#)
- [Committee: Review and provide feedback on the updated IF \(Independent Facilitator\) guidebook as it becomes available.](#)
- [Silvia/Robin: Update the rates in the system when 2026 rates are finalized and communicate changes to the committee.](#)

Summary

Committee Center Plan Discussion

The meeting began with Lori Walker, the chair, introducing the agenda, which focused on the committee center plan and a letter regarding implementation funds. Committee members and the SDP team were introduced, with members sharing their connections to the Self-Determination program. The meeting then moved to public input and comments, where participants were encouraged to share resources, upcoming meetings, and regional center opportunities.

Disability Services and Advocacy Updates

The meeting began with introductions from various team members, including Silvia Renteria-Haro, Robin Monroe, Megan Briley, and Denise Juarez. Jordan shared information about an upcoming disability fair in Thousand Oaks, and Miriam mentioned a free person-centered thinking training. Lori discussed resources, including the Statewide Self-

Determination Advisory Committee's link and a Little Hoover Commission report on disparities in developmental services. Jon highlighted a new bill aimed at helping families plan for the future, especially in light of recent immigration concerns. Kristianna addressed the need for public comment on the waiver renewal, emphasizing the importance of telehealth services. The conversation ended with a review of the January meeting summary and discussions on committee reports, including updates to the IF guidebook and a draft committee-centered plan.

SDP Funds Preservation Letter Approval

The committee reviewed and discussed a draft letter addressed to Senator Mengivar and Assemblymember Jackson regarding the preservation of SDP implementation funds. While Rita suggested running the letter through ChatGPT for simplification, the group ultimately decided to keep the original version, which detailed the committee's role, the importance of implementation funds, and their impact on expanding access and promoting equity. The letter was approved for submission, with the committee agreeing to involve Rita in future letter writing processes.

2025-2026 Budget and Training Plans

The board passed a motion to send a letter, with Lori and Kristianna tasked to ensure it reaches the correct recipients. Jon reported on the Board of Trustees meeting, highlighting a proposal to transfer initial self-determination orientations to State Council, which sparked discussion on its potential impact and consistency across the state. Miriam emphasized the importance of providing comprehensive and accessible orientation information, suggesting asynchronous training options. The best practices subcommittee discussed the remaining unused balance of funds for 2025 and explored methods to utilize them, with plans to investigate San Diego Regional Center's approach. They also addressed the allocation of funds for 2026, expressing concerns about the potential loss of implementation funds and the need for further recommendations.

Self-Determination Program Initiatives Review

The meeting focused on several ongoing projects and initiatives related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Lori discussed her efforts to learn about alternative RFP funding processes from other regional centers, particularly San Diego, but expressed concerns about potentially damaging relationships with North LA if the committee were to involve San Diego directly. The committee reviewed the results of Michael Carey's disparity survey, which had a low response rate, and Michael encouraged further outreach to gather more responses. The group also discussed updates to the Committee Centered Plan, which now has four main goals focused on streamlining the SDP transition process and

providing regular feedback to various stakeholders. Miriam agreed to handle the implementation of a new SurveyMonkey system for collecting monthly feedback from committee members.

Feedback System and Communication Goals

The committee discussed implementing a feedback system using SurveyMonkey to collect anonymous participant input on the self-determination program, with Lori explaining that names would only be used to track responses and not shared in reports. They agreed to create a process for submitting feedback to North LA, Ombuds, SCDD, SSDAC, and DDS, with Miriam and Lori taking responsibility for compiling public input from chat messages and summaries. The committee also established goals for ongoing communication through website updates and quarterly newsletters and set objectives for strengthening relationships with the North LA Board of Trustees, with Jon and Juan tasked to report on board activities and explore committee participation opportunities.

Committee Engagement and Process Updates

The committee discussed their plan to increase meaningful committee member participation and engagement. They agreed to share a list of relevant meetings and require two members to report back at each SDP committee meeting with updates and insights. The group also discussed a new grievance process replacing the 4731-complaint process, which will begin in July 2026. Terrance inquired about becoming an SDP vendor, and Silvia offered to connect with him. The committee approved their two-year plan with four goals, which will be posted to the website after final approval from North LA.

Rate Reform Implementation Overview

Silvia presented an overview of rate reform, explaining its purpose and implementation timeline. She detailed changes to service codes and subcodes, particularly for day programs and behavioral services. Silvia also discussed the new qualification requirements for adaptive skills providers and shared the current rate table for North LA regional center. She noted that while some participants may receive the 100% rate if their vendor qualifies, more guidance from DDS is needed on when to use the higher rate.

SDP Budget Rate Adjustments

The group discussed budget calculations for Self-Determination Program (SDP) services, focusing on how to handle rate adjustments between traditional and SDP models. Silvia explained that services already in the 12-month expenditure report maintain their 100% rate when transitioning to SDP, while new services or those not previously in the budget or 12-month expenditure report, use a 90% rate. The team noted ongoing confusion about the

application of QIP rates to FMS providers versus direct care professionals, with Silvia confirming that DDS needs to provide clearer guidance on this matter.

SDP Rate and Vendorization Updates

The meeting focused on discussing rate reforms and vendorization processes for services provided through SDP and traditional models. Silvia clarified that services already included in the 12-month expenditure receive the vendor's existing rate, whether 90% or 100%. Miriam raised questions about provider qualifications, and Silvia explained that while most providers qualify for 100%, there are instances where the state median rate applies. The group also discussed the new directive lowering educational requirements for AST providers, allowing both master's and bachelor's degree holders to qualify. Jordan inquired about using non-vendored services, and Silvia confirmed that such services would use the state median rate.