

# **SDLAC Summary**

## **April 16, 2026**

### **SDLAC Committee Meeting Introduction**

The meeting started by calling the NLACRC SDLAC meeting to order, with instructions provided for participants to change their names to include "SDLAC" for identification purposes and information shared about contact methods for the committee and self-determination program.

### **Self-Determination Program Public Input Meeting**

The meeting focused on introductions and public input regarding the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at North Los Angeles Regional Center. Kim from the Autism Society of Los Angeles announced an upcoming free coaching class starting the following week, encouraging participants to register before Sunday evening. Victoria shared information about an upcoming resource fair for teens and young adults with IEPs on April 28th at College of the Canyons. Several participants, including Jasmine and Lacey, raised concerns about delays in getting IPP signature pages and responsive service from North LA staff, particularly regarding high-need cases. Silvia committed to following up with Jasmine privately about her specific situation, and Lori offered information about available resources including IF roundtables and mentor support.

### **Service Agreement Process Updates**

The meeting focused on discussing the signature page process for service agreements and an upcoming training series. Silvia explained that the signature page needs to be signed as this shows agreement to services, and emphasized that it should be presented at the end of IPP meetings. Claudia announced a new "Beyond Basics" training series consisting of three sessions on evidence-based practices, ethical client support, and service terminology, which has already attracted 49 registrations. The conversation ended with Claudia raising concerns about delays in processing 099 POS requests, noting that multiple requests since March have not been processed despite providing all required documentation.

### **IPP Agreement Processing Delays**

Claudia reported significant delays in processing IPP agreements and budgets, noting that escalating issues and adding more recipients to emails has not improved response times. Silvia acknowledged the backlog issue with subsequent years and committed to investigating the delays in other areas. Silvia clarified the difference between 21-day respite (for group home placements) and regular in-home respite, explaining that the terminology can cause confusion between different service settings. Erica discussed issues with IPP meeting forms, noting that they should be produced at the end of IPP meetings but are not always being completed properly, and she had raised this concern with North Los Angeles County Regional Center.

### **IPP Process Challenges Discussion**

The meeting focused on challenges with the IPP (Individual Program Plan) process and forms at North LA Regional Center. Erica discussed the requirements for IPP documents, including the need for the narrative form to go through Supervisor within 30 days and the signature agreement form to be produced at the end of meetings. Silvia reported on efforts to address these

challenges, including plans to hire more SDP specialists, automate renewal letters sent to participants at month 8, and a training was conducted yesterday for service coordinators. Jekora raised concerns about coordinators not completing their jobs thoroughly, leading to additional work for independent facilitators and denials of extra hours needed for proper advocacy.

### **IPP Feedback and Service Updates**

The meeting focused on feedback about IPP (Individual Program Plan) meetings and service coordination challenges. Participants discussed issues with service coordinators delays and the need for better communication, with Silvia explaining the 15-day reconvening process and the ability to request extensions. The group reviewed three new opportunities: a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program, California Health and Human Services' first annual master plan report, and an upcoming statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting. Beth presented her new Disability Access Navigator tool (DAN), a free resource designed to help navigate the regional center system by providing guidance based on Lanterman Act and DDS directives, with plans to make it available to all self-advocates and families in California.

### **Disability Access Navigator tool (DAN)**

Beth demonstrated a new tool called DAN, designed to help families and self-advocates navigate the regional center system and address service-related issues. The tool, which has been in use for 46 days, has served 250 unique users across 21 regional centers with 478 total sessions and 71 draft emails generated. Beth explained that while Dan cannot directly resolve issues like staffing problems, it can help users craft effective communications and navigate the proper escalation paths within the system. The tool maintains anonymity for users and allows them to continue conversations across sessions, with data showing strong user satisfaction and effective usage particularly among Hispanic users and those seeking information about Service and Support Administrators (SSAs).

### **Governance Updates**

The group then discussed a revised self-governance document that was condensed from 15 to 5 pages, with Lori presenting the key sections and seeking feedback. Michael raised a question about explicitly mentioning ethnicity and race in the diversity requirements, but Lori confirmed they had used the exact statutory language. Jordan made a motion to approve the governance document, with a second pending. Document was approved and it will be posted on website.

The team discussed two main topics: document translation and implementation fund allocation. For the document translation, they agreed to have Kristianna update it with today's date, and discussed the possibility of professional translation into the top 10 languages used by Regional Center, though cost concerns were raised. Regarding the implementation fund of \$133,446, the team proposed spending \$13,200 on support groups, \$60,000 on coaching services, \$20,000 on IF support, and \$10,805 on SDP and statute training. They discussed potential ways to use the remaining \$29,441, including possibly hiring a contractor to support IPP meetings and train service coordinators, though Silvia needs to investigate options with North LA first.

## **Outreach to Underserved Communities**

The committee discussed outreach to underserved communities, with Michael suggesting emphasizing outreach and communication with underserved communities in RFP requests. Silvia explained that enhanced caseloads were designed to help minority groups without services and mentioned that the Disparity committee is working on addressing these issues. Jordan suggested collaborating with other regional centers to share training resources and costs. The committee also discussed the use of independent facilitators (IFs) and coaching services, with Jordan noting that most people don't have an IF in their budget and suggesting that coaching should be used for both new and existing SDP participants. Rita highlighted that Hispanic communities may avoid complex programs, suggesting the need to simplify services to increase participation.

## **Committee Plan Updates and Feedback**

The meeting focused on updates to the Committee-Centered Plan and feedback collection through surveys. Miriam reported that 8 out of 10 committee members responded to the updated Google survey, with plans to send a second letter to stakeholders including Pete Cervinka and the executive director of North LA. The discussion also covered concerns about outreach to Spanish and Vietnamese communities, with Jordan emphasizing the need to prioritize serving existing clients before expanding services. Jon provided an update on the Board of Trustees meeting, noting DDS's proposal to change board composition and reduce representation of family members and people with disabilities, which faced pushback at the California State Assembly.

## **Self-Determination Program Waiver Updates**

Erica presented information about the Self-Determination Program (SDP) waiver enrollment issue, explaining that DDS is working to get all SDP participants enrolled in the federal waiver to save state funds. Jon reported on a human services subcommittee meeting where DDS proposed cuts of approximately 45 million from self-determination programs and changes to trailer bill language regarding equity, which received pushback from committee chair Dr. Jackson. The conversation ended with Lori requesting presentations from Rita and Vicki for next month's meeting, focusing on SDP-related topics.