

SDLAC Meeting Summary

June 18, 2026

Quick recap

This was a SDLAC (Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee) meeting for North LA where committee members and staff discussed program updates, challenges, and resources. Key discussions centered around service coordination issues, with participants sharing concerns about unresponsive service coordinators, delayed budget processes, and payment problems for independent facilitators. Several committee members, including Adaim and Sanchi, raised specific concerns about service coordinators not responding to requests and delays in receiving IPP signature pages. The committee received updates about the Local Volunteer Advisory Committee funding being preserved in the Senate budget until 2030, and new training opportunities were announced including IF University sessions and self-advocate speaker training. North LA reported growth in the self-determination program, and the conversation ended with a review of the committee's four goals and discussion of survey results showing both challenges and successes in the program.

Next steps

Johnanthony

- Contact Erica to remind her to complete the Google Doc survey/feedback.

Michael

- Complete and submit the Google Doc survey/feedback before the June report is written.

Miriam

- Collect and compile public input from the meeting for inclusion in the monthly report/letter.

Silvia

- Follow up with Adaim privately regarding issues with unresponsive service coordinator and delayed IPP signature page, and ensure the matter is escalated and resolved.

Collaboration

- Miriam (and/or Lori): Update the Google Doc feedback form/survey to include the committee's main goal and relevant context at the top and consider adding a link to the full committee-centered plan for clarity.
- NLACRC SDP Team: Begin tracking SDP issues reported via the SDP email and hotline as of July 1, ensuring data collection includes caller/participant name, UCI, issue, and CSC for follow-up and resolution.
- NLACRC SDP Team: Share updated SDP flyers and contact/escalation information at support group meetings and with the Family Resource Center to improve participant awareness of resources and contacts.
- NLACRC SDP Team: Follow up with Help Grow and Autism Society regarding utilization and billing of their RFP funds, and ensure invoices and services are up to date.
- All committee members: Consider and propose methods for anonymous feedback collection to address participant fears of retaliation when reporting issues.
- Michael and Ricardo: Prepare presentations for the August meeting (contingent on Michael's availability due to internship/travel).
- Miriam/Kristianna/Lori: Meet to review and clarify website content regarding IPP signature page timelines and update as needed for participant understanding.

Committee Updates and Introductions

The meeting began with introductions and announcements, including the resignation of Socorro from the committee, which will create two State Council openings and one North LA opening. Committee members and North LA team members introduced themselves, including Silvia Renteria-Haro as Consumer Services Director and Robin Monroe as Consumer Services Manager. The group discussed public input opportunities, including feedback on the spending plan and budget processes, as well as an upcoming webinar on updating the definition of "Cost-Effective" in the Self-Determination Program statute. Lori announced the availability of the North LA Independent Facilitator Guidebook and requested feedback from committee members.

Service Resources and Coordination Updates

Lori shared several resources including the updated IF handbook, North LA SDLAC RFP with a July 31st deadline, and the Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee meeting on August 10th. Adaim raised concerns about unresponsive service coordinators

and budget delays, particularly with service coordinator who ignored emails and was unprepared for an IPP meeting despite promises to provide a signature page. Silvia agreed to follow up with Adaim's situation, and Gavi introduced True Care FMS as a new FMS in LA offering services without budget caps or waiting lists.

Vendorization and Service Updates

Gavi from TrueCare FMS announced they are finalizing vendorization with North LA and provided contact information for scheduling introductory meetings. Sanchi shared her concerns about getting services for her son Alex, who is transitioning to age 22 and needs support due to aggressive behavior and being non-verbal. Robin committed to helping assess and move forward with SDP services for Sanchi's case. Kristianna updated the group that the Senate passed a budget proposal preserving Local Volunteer Advisory Committee funding until 2030, and requested attendees contact the governor to support this funding. Jordan raised ongoing concerns about NLACRC not paying independent facilitators and vendors, noting this issue has persisted for years without appropriate enforcement.

Resource Updates

The meeting covered several updates and resource sharing. DJ from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities announced the launch of a Regional Center Service Code Directory as a navigation tool for service codes and definitions. Miriam mentioned upcoming DDS meetings on cost-effectiveness for professionals and self-advocates. The committee discussed meeting summaries, confirming that while formal minute-taking is not required, summaries are posted online for transparency and public viewing. Multiple training opportunities were shared, including Claudia's Beyond Basics Professional IF University training sessions (with limited space available), Kaylee's Self-Advocate Speakers Training program with applications due June 30th, and ICC's upcoming conference on self-determination programs.

HCBS Calendar Distribution Concerns

Lori reported on her attendance at a board meeting where she made public comments about the monthly feedback form and concerns regarding the 2026 HCBS final rule calendar, which she felt was poorly timed and potentially expensive due to its \$3 postage cost. Michael and Jordan discussed receiving multiple calendars and suggested alternative distribution methods like pickup locations or email requests to reduce costs. The group agreed that while the calendar content was good, particularly for younger self-advocates, the timing and mailing approach raised budget concerns.

Legislative Breakfast and Project Updates

The team discussed their legislative breakfast experience, with Michael sharing insights about state-level advocacy and noting that most legislators provided general reassurance rather than specific responses to questions. The group reviewed best practices from their June meeting, covering RFP updates, insurance requirements, provider changes including Cambrian and ACE, and discussions about the IPP signature page placement and website feedback forms. The team also addressed progress on committee center plan goals, with updates on Google Docs surveys, website improvements, and newsletter reviews, though Ricardo was absent and Jordan would present on goal four.

Survey Response Updates

Miriam reported that only 7 out of 9 respondents completed the survey, highlighting both challenges and positive developments in the program. Key challenges included uncertainty about SDP changes, delayed budget responses, issues with time tracking apps, and unresponsive service coordinators, while positive aspects included helpful PCPs, improved service coordinator responsiveness, and more flexible spending plans. Michael explained his delay in responding due to executive functioning challenges with writing tasks and committed to submitting his response immediately after the meeting. Sharmila, the president of Regional Center North County LA's Board of Trustees, shared her positive experience enrolling her son in SDP in March after a 2-year process.

Google Doc Feedback Form Improvements

Sharmila provided feedback on the Google Doc feedback form, suggesting that the committee's goals should be included at the top to provide context for the information being shared. Lori explained that their goal is to streamline the North LA SDP Transition Process, and they plan to add the first goal statement to make the information clearer and more accessible. Miriam agreed to work on making the document clearer, acknowledging the importance of providing context for the feedback being collected.

Board Liaison Appointment Discussion

Sharmila and Lori discussed the appointment of a liaison to the board and how to strengthen the relationship between the SDP LVAC and the North LA Board of Trustees. Sharmila explained that the board appointment process involves reaching out to potential candidates and selecting someone who can represent SDP effectively. Lori expressed concern about the role of the liaison and emphasized the importance of someone with experience in SDP. Sharmila suggested that Lori share SDP's goals and priorities with the board to foster better understanding and collaboration. She also noted increased interest

in SDP among board members and highlighted the potential benefits of SDP, particularly during challenging times.

Board Communication and Meeting Updates

Lori and Sharmila discussed improving the board's relationship and communication, noting that the board's focus has shifted compared to previous years. Jordan presented feedback from the PASC IHSS Advocacy and Community Summit, reporting limited useful information and poor resources at the event. The group confirmed that Michael and Ricardo will present at the August meeting, though Michael's availability may be limited due to an upcoming internship in Washington DC.

Self-Determination Program Implementation Review

Robin presented North LA's implementation report for the Self-Determination Program, highlighting key statistics including 879 certified budgets and 807 approved spending plans. The team discussed common concerns raised by participants and families, including budget and spending plan delays, non-responsiveness from service coordinators, and form 099 issues. To address these concerns, Robin announced a new tracking system starting July 1st for SDP issues, requiring specific information when contacting the hotline or email. The committee also reviewed RFP spending updates, with most grantees utilizing their funds appropriately, though Help Grow and Autism Society needed follow-up. Michael raised concerns about participants fearing retaliation when reporting issues, suggesting the need for anonymous feedback mechanisms, which the committee agreed to consider further.