

SDLAC Summary-September 17,2026

The meeting of the North LA SDLAC focused on updates and discussions related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Lori and Miriam announced their intention to step down as chair and co-chair, and the committee discussed the need for new leadership, with Jordan and Jessica expressing potential interest. Public input included positive feedback on the flexibility of SDP and concerns about delays and communication issues. Robin presented the new SDP manual and an issue resolution process, while Megan provided implementation statistics. The committee reviewed the RFP process for 2027 contracts and discussed the upcoming chair elections. Patricia from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities requested assistance in recruiting interviewers for the NCI survey. The meeting also included reports on the board liaison relationship and the committee's feedback survey.

Next steps

Denise

- Send the agreed-upon agenda for the next month's meeting to North LA to be posted.

Diana

- Reach out to Patricia Jackson regarding the State Council appointment process for the committee.

Jessica

- Submit a statement of interest for the co-chair position to Denise by October 2nd.

Jon

- Direct message Jennifer his contact information for the board liaison role.

Lori

- Send the flyer for the SDP statute and waiver trainings to the committee once dates are announced.
- Assist Silvia with the interviews for the open committee position.
- Meet with Rita Ann Ford at the end of the month to discuss the chair/co-chair responsibilities.

Miriam

- Send the feedback form to Ricardo again and remind all committee members to complete it.
- Meet with Beth Martinko next week to discuss the revised survey process.
- Represent the committee at the Best Practices Subcommittee meeting.

Patricia

- Follow up with DJ regarding the State Council appointee for the committee.

Robin

- Send the summary of the SDP issue resolution and support steps to Lori and Miriam for inclusion in the feedback form.
- Send the quarterly summary of SDP issues and positive feedback to Lori and Miriam.

Silvia

- Start interviews for the open North LA committee position next week.
- Connect with Patricia Jackson regarding the NCI project and provide information on the most common languages in North LA.
- Reach out to Rita Ford's NLACRC team to resolve her current issue.

- Send the flyer for the upcoming service coordinator trainings to the committee members.
- Include the three questions 1-Can the close session be during the last part of the Board Meeting? 2. Is there a reason why it is in the middle of the meeting? 3. How can the NLACRC Board of Trustees help our committee make the Self-Determination Program easier to participate in at NLA?) in the Board Member Reporting Out Form for the next board meeting.
- Connect with Jennifer before the next board meeting to go over the report.

Collaboration

- Committee Members: Submit statements of interest for chair/co-chair positions to Denise by October 2nd.

Summary

Self-Determination Program Committee Updates

The group discussed reporting requirements, with Robin confirming she would present a three-month report on common problems and solutions. The meeting also covered administrative details, including translation services being offered and the new meeting format with muted participants and chat-based questions.

Self-Determination Program Public Input Meeting

The meeting began with introductions, including Patricia Jackson from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities who mentioned the NCI project survey, and Denise Juarez, Silvia Renteria-Haro's assistant. The main focus was on gathering public input regarding successes and obstacles in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at North LA. Diana shared a positive experience, noting the program's flexibility and benefits, while Jennifer, a board member and SDP participant, requested contact information from Jon Francis. Tiffany raised concerns about delays in the SDP enrollment process for her two children and inquired about next steps and escalation procedures.

SDP Program Updates and Distribution

Rita expressed enthusiasm for the SDP program but requested assistance from North Los Angeles staff to resolve a current issue. Silvia committed to having someone from her team reach out to Rita first, and then involve SDP staff if needed. The group discussed the newly updated SDP manual, which is now available in English and Spanish on the North LA website, with printed copies available at upcoming events including the fall family expo in October. Committee members discussed how to better distribute the manual to the public, with Miriam confirming that all committee members are free to share it electronically or through their networks.

Family Expo and SDP Updates

Silvia announced a Family Expo on October 24th at the AV Fairgrounds, including a dance event for individuals aged 18 and over. Lori shared updates about the SDP Medical waiver approval for another 5 years and introduced a new issue resolution and support steps document developed to address public feedback about unresolved issues. Diana shared her experience using the new escalation process, noting some challenges with communication between service coordinators and the SDP team, which resulted in a resolution after some back-and-forth.

SDP Training and RFP Updates

The meeting focused on addressing training issues with service coordinators regarding the SDP process. Lori and Silvia discussed upcoming two-hour training sessions for service coordinators in September and October. The group agreed to share information about the training with committee members, though external committee members cannot directly participate in the internal staff training. Lori also provided an update on the 2027 RFP process, announcing selected providers including Self-Determination Institute for support groups and joint training, and Claudia Cares for participant coaching services.

SDI Training and Board Relations

The committee discussed upcoming SDI training, which will be announced and conducted online in 2027. All eight committee members confirmed their continued commitment to serving, with Victoria Berry stepping down and Myra taking her place. The group addressed challenges with their relationship with the North LA Board of Trustees, particularly regarding the timing of closed sessions and communication with board liaisons Jennifer and Jon. They agreed to strengthen their board relationship by better utilizing the Board Member Reporting Out Form and having Jennifer bring their concerns to the board for discussion.

Best Practices Committee Updates

The meeting focused on updates from the best practices committee meeting held on September 10th, which covered two monthly documents, committee feedback forms, and the North LA tracking process. Jessica provided feedback on website descriptions, explaining her suggestions were aimed at improving clarity for potential users, including those unfamiliar with SDP. Jordan-SDLVAC discussed challenges with regional center websites being inconsistent across different centers and shared insights about board engagement, emphasizing the importance of having SDP representatives inside the board to effect change.

Feedback Survey Process Improvements

The committee discussed their feedback form survey, with Miriam reporting that responses were received from some but not all members, and emphasizing the importance of including positive feedback. Miriam shared updates on improvements to the survey process, including potential modifications to make it more accessible and the possibility of adding an open-ended question, which was suggested by Erica. Beth Martinko, who has been working on improving the survey tool, joined the meeting to discuss collaboration efforts to make the survey more effective and potentially expand it to other regional centers.

North LA SDLAC Leadership Selection

The meeting focused on selecting new leadership for the North LA SDLAC chair and co-chair positions after Lori and Miriam announced their intention to step down after four years in their roles. Several committee members expressed willingness to serve, including Jordan, Jessica, and Ricardo, with Jordan ultimately volunteering to serve as chair and offering to work with Ricardo as co-chair. The discussion revealed that while there are no strict rules governing the committee's operations, current responsibilities include representing the community, managing a committee center plan, and handling monthly feedback forms, though these processes could be modified under new leadership.

Committee Leadership Positions Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing committee leadership positions and responsibilities. Jordan-SDLVAC stepped up to volunteer for a leadership role despite initial concerns about being new to the position. The group reviewed requirements for the Self-Determination Program's local volunteer advisory committee, including composition and responsibilities. Lori announced that applications for committee positions closed on September 11th with interviews scheduled to begin the following week, and clarified that both State Council and North LA Regional Center have equal appointment authority for committee members.

Self-Determination Program Implementation Updates

The committee discussed implementation updates for the self-determination program, with Megan reporting 958 certified budgets and 896 approved spending plans as of September 1st. Silvia presented RFP funding updates showing various organizations' spending status, with most having sufficient funds remaining. Robin shared a summary of SDP issues raised over the past three months, identifying four main categories: SDP barriers and delays, inconsistent rules, loss of choice/control/access to services, and accountability/transparency. The team discussed solutions including a new SDP manual, updated timelines, and training programs. Patricia requested help identifying bilingual interviewers for the National Core Indicator Survey, particularly for languages commonly spoken in North LA's catchment area including Armenian, Russian, Tagalog, Farsi, and Korean.