

SDLAC Summary – October 15, 2026

Quick recap

The North Los Angeles County Regional Center Self-Determination Program Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) held a meeting to conduct elections for chair and co-chair positions and discuss program updates. Lori Walker and Miriam Erberich completed their terms as chair and co-chair respectively, and Jordan and Ricardo were elected to fill those roles for a two-year term. The meeting included implementation updates from North LA showing continued program growth with 987 certified budgets and 927 approved spending plans, along with discussion of new DDS directives regarding FMS changes and a new federal access rule grievance procedure. Several participants, including Diana Streitfeld and Diana LeVangie, raised concerns about delays in spending plan modifications and the placeholder system, which Silvia explained was implemented to prevent service lapses during IPP planning transitions. The committee also discussed placing a feedback form on the website and updates to the committee-centered plan and self-governance document.

Next steps

Diana Streitfeld

- Submit the detailed email timeline of communications with the Regional Center to the committee email (self-determination@nlacrc.org) and the feedback form.

Jon

- Read the DDS directive regarding regional center governing boards when holding closed sessions before the November 4th meeting.

Jordan

- Send information about community events (e.g., Fall Festival, church events) to the SDP team for potential outreach booths.
- Create the agenda for the next meeting, including updates to the committee-centered plan, discussion on updating the self-governance document regarding candidate statements, and assigning two speakers.

Lori

- Send the updated timeline of responsibilities for chair/co-chair to Jordan, Ricardo, the North LA team, and Miriam.
- Send the committee email password and login information to Jordan and Ricardo.

Silvia

- Follow up with the manager of Diana Streitfeld's case to ensure a timely response regarding the spending plan modification for the specialized wagon stroller.
- Work with Jennifer to ensure the reporting out form with the three questions regarding closed sessions is included in the board meeting packet.
- Investigate if it is possible to track the number of SDP clients with placeholders in the North LA report.
- Talk to the publications/IT department about putting the feedback survey link on the website and report back to the committee.
- Reach out to Karla directly to resolve the issue regarding her son's budget and placeholders.

Summary

SDLAC Committee Leadership Selection

The committee members were instructed to update their names to include "SDLAC" for identification purposes, and translation services in Spanish were made available during the meeting. The meeting proceeded with introductions of committee members and staff, including Miriam, Jordan, John Francis, Mayra Lara, Ricardo Martinez, Erica Rodriguez, and Lori Walker, who shared their connections to the Self-Determination Program and North Los Angeles County Regional Center.

Self-Determination Program Updates Meeting

The meeting included introductions of new committee member, Diana Levangie. Public input and resources were shared, including updates on enrollment opportunities from PPL, information about the quarterly newsletter and SDLAC meeting summary, and tools from the Self-Determination Tech Alliance. The team discussed an upcoming Choices awareness campaign to inform regional center participants about their service options, and Silvia announced a Family Expo in the Antelope Valley on October 24th.

NLACRC Spending Plan Delays

Diana Streitfeld shared concerns about delays and inconsistencies in the spending plan modification process at North Los Angeles County Regional Center (NLACRC), highlighting her family's experience with a prolonged approval process for a budget reallocation. Silvia from NLACRC acknowledged the issues and committed to checking with the team to expedite the process, while Lori encouraged Diana to submit feedback through the official channels. The committee then conducted elections for chair and co-chair positions, with Jordan and Ricardo being elected to serve in these roles.

SDP Program Growth and Updates

Robin presented data showing continued growth in the SDP program, with 987 certified budgets and 927 approved spending plans. She announced a new DDS directive regarding FMS changes and vendor relationships with San Diego, and highlighted updates to SDP orientation requirements through State Council. Silvia reported that implementation fund invoices were pending but noted that previous recipients were on track to utilize their funds, and she mentioned successful DVU training sessions attended by 85 North LA staff members.

Board Meeting Closed Session Directive

Lori discussed a directive regarding closed sessions at board meetings, explaining that while most items don't require closed sessions, discussions about regional center clients must remain confidential unless parents or clients request otherwise. She requested that Jon review the directive before the November meeting and noted that Silvia would work with Jennifer to address concerns about the timing of closed sessions. The group also received updates about new federal access rule grievance procedures, with webinars scheduled for November 4th and 12th, and Patricia provided an update on her work with NCI coordinators regarding the hiring of interviewers in catchment languages.

Committee Planning and Recruitment

The meeting focused on two main topics: job openings and committee planning. SCDD explained they are recruiting interviewers for languages other than English and Spanish for the National Core Indicator Survey, and Silvia mentioned an open position with State Council for LVAC committee member. Lori suggested three agenda items for the next meeting: updating the committee-centered plan, revising the self-governance document regarding candidate statements,

and assigning two speakers from the roster to present on self-determination topics. The conversation ended with a discussion about placeholder budgets, where Silvia and Robin explained that placeholders are intended as temporary measures to maintain services for up to 60 days during IPP planning, and Silvia offered to follow up directly with Karla regarding her specific situation.

SDP Client Tracking Discussion

Lori and Silvia discussed tracking SDP clients with placeholders in the North LA report to monitor incomplete cases. Silvia explained that placeholders are used to prevent service lapses when budgets are not approved on time but acknowledged this is not an ideal solution. Aracely raised concerns about this being a systemic problem affecting multiple families, and Silvia responded that they are working with other regional centers to find better solutions while ensuring no consumers goes without services.

IPP Planning Process Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing placeholders as an alternative to service extensions in the IPP planning process. Robin explained that placeholders allow services to continue without interruption while planning is ongoing, and Silvia confirmed that three months should be sufficient for most cases. The group discussed implementing a feedback survey, and Silvia agreed to consult with their IT department about potential AI restrictions. The meeting also included praise for Lori for the committee's effective meeting management.