

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2016

Present: Victoria Berrey, Richard Dier, Allison Cameron Gray, Ellen Jannol, Debra Newman, Bebo Saab – Committee Members
Ruth Janka, Evelyn Chamorro – NLACRC Staff
Julie Eby-McKenzie – State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Guests

Absent: Sandra Baker, Nicole Carter, Mercedes Del Cid, Michelle Heid – Committee Members

1. Call to Order & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Richard Dier at 7:08p.m. Introductions from the Committee were made. A quorum was present.

2. Public Input & Comments

A guest asked how the President Elect may impact the budget for the DD community. Richard shared his opinion that nobody knows for sure, but he has not heard anyone indicate that the waiver application will be affected by the new administration, at least not right away.

3. Training Topic: Independent Facilitators Panel.

The training topic began at 7:16pm.

Julie Eby-McKenzie gave a brief overview of the role of the Independent Facilitator. She also said that the SCDD provides a more detailed training. Julie also shared information about an upcoming event called “Changes and Choices: Leading the Charge” on March 2, 2017 at the California Endowment. The keynote speaker will be Ari Ne’eman who will speak about self advocacy.

Julie said that Self Determination is an optional program that will give consumers a great deal more control over how their budget is spent. RC will still be involved, but the person will drive how their services are delivered. It is both a lot of freedom and a lot of responsibility.

Julie described the budget process. The key piece is that consumers can hire individuals who are not vendored.

Julie described the role of the Independent Facilitator as negotiator, mediator, resource developer, recruiter, advocate. The IF needs to be on your side and that you are in charge.

Bebo asked how facilitators will charge. She said it will depend on the IF. Some may charge by the service, or by the hour, or a percentage. There will likely be some sort of a cap on fees; this is being discussed by the SDP Workgroup. Buyer beware.

Julie discussed the importance of choosing the right IF for you. Not all Independent Facilitators will be experts in all things. For example, do they know about employment, transition, services for school aged kids, adult services, etc. You need someone who has the expertise that you need.

One of the guests asked about the difference between an IF and a parent who manages their child's care. Julie said that IF is a specific role for a paid person. The requirements and training are not yet determined.

Ruth asked if there is a way for participants to vet the Independent Facilitators. Julie said no, not at this point. She said ELARC is considering having a list of facilitators, but it will still be the responsibility of the consumer and family to select a good Independent Facilitator. Bebo said that DRC gives out professional referrals, but does not guarantee results.

Next, Gail Skvirsky-Bohn introduced herself. She used to work for RCOG and more recently as a case manager for individuals who are moving out of the Developmental Center. She has worked as an Independent Facilitator, or broker, for 4 consumers at ELARC. Two consumers were a short stint, and two have been on an ongoing basis. Some of the services she provided were utilizing transportation, communication devices and using TV and radio at home. One consumer had a lot of health issues and she helped him document his wishes concerning his care. Really listening to what the consumer wants and trying to meet their individual needs is the main role.

One guest asked if Regional Centers would be compiling a list of Independent Facilitators. Julie said that it is up to each Regional Center to decide if they wish to do that. Self Determination is not about Regional Centers, so the information should not really come from the Regional Center. He also asked if agencies could charge a finder's fee. Ruth said she is not sure this would be a covered fee under the waiver.

4. Consent Items

A. Approval of Agenda

M/S/C (E. Jannol/A. Cameron Gray) To approve the Agenda as written.

Baker	Absent	Gray	Yes
Berrey	Yes	Heid	Absent
Carter	Absent	Jannol	Yes
Del Cid	Absent	Newman	Yes
Dier	Yes	Saab	Yes

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 15 Meeting:

M/S/C (E. Jannol/B. Saab) To approve the Agenda as written.

Baker	Absent	Gray	Abstain
Berrey	Yes	Heid	Absent
Carter	Absent	Jannol	Yes
Del Cid	Absent	Newman	Yes
Dier	Yes	Saab	Yes

5. Committee Reports

- A. Chair's Report – Richard attended the Committee of Chairs in Sacramento; met for 4 hours. Went around to hear about what different Regional Centers are doing. Richard will share more info later. Most interesting was that some Regional Centers have 4 or 5 times their allotment of people who have expressed interest in Self Determination and others have very few. Chairs of the Los Angeles region are going to meet to informally share ideas in the future. Richard attended Westside's Self Determination Advisory Committee last night. He said that DDS is trying to expedite the waiver application so it gets in before any changes to CMS due to new administration. Some discussion about crisis services and how long they should last. Another discussion issues was Special Incident Reporting, and who is responsible for that under Self Determination.
- B. Board Actions –Debra's said there have not been any relevant Board actions.

6. NLACRC/DDS/Update

- a. Current Interest List – Evelyn reported that 101 people have expressed interest in participating in SD out of 174 slots. Ruth reported that a flyer is being mailed with every IPP.
- b. Community Outreach – Evelyn described the outreach she has done so far; two meetings since last meeting in the San Fernando Valley and one scheduled on Saturday in Santa Clarita. Ruth also described the mailings and email blasts that have gone out. Once the waiver is approved, NLACRC will schedule the pre-enrollment meetings in each valley. Some guests asked how they can get their names on the interest list.
- c. DDS Update – Ruth led us through a discussion of the CMS informal responses to the State's SDP waiver application.
 - i. How participants are selected. DDS said that they will randomly select participants for each RC so selection will be representative of the State for ethnicity, age, gender and disability diagnosis.
 - ii. Evaluation/Reevaluation of Level of Care. Ruth described the Intermediate Care Facility Level of Care system. Assistance with personal care, nursing needs, medication assistance, etc. are areas that may require someone to live in an ICF (requires 2 areas of need). Licensed level of care includes things like g-tube care, trach care, PRN medication, and so on. Behavioral level of care requires staff to have training in ABA for residents who have behavioral challenges.
 - iii. This issue is a wording requirement.

People who are interested in receiving a copy of this document should put their email address on the sign in sheet. Debra asked for a list of acronyms. Richard asked that Committee members review this document to identify their most pressing issues and prepare for public comment.

7. Old Business

A. None

8. New Business

- A. Meeting Schedule for 2017 – January meeting will be 3rd Thursday in Chatsworth. Evelyn will send out a request to all Committee members on future meetings day for February and onward.
- B. Future agenda planning – our next meeting (November) will feature a panel of Independent Facilitators. Our January meeting will have a presentation by Liz Harrell of ELARC on how Self Determination differs from traditional services from the service coordination perspective. We will bring up other possible topics in November.

9. Public Comment

Julie asked any guests who are interested in being on the Committee as a State Council appointee to please see her. A guest asked if there are things that the Committee can do now, before the waiver is approved. Richard and Ruth described some of the things we are doing, outreach being the most important. Bebo said that we can all help by correcting misinformation.

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Richard at 9:05pm.

Submitted by Victoria Berrey, Secretary.