

North Los Angeles County Regional Center
Self- Determination Local Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2023

Present: Lori Walker, Richard Dier, Jordan Feinstock, Michael Carey, Wilmary Torres, Ellen Jannol, Victoria Berrey – Committee Members

Denise Juarez, Gabriela Eshrati, Robin Monroe, Silvia Renteria-Haro,
-NLACRC Staff Members

Elva Chavez – GT Independence, Terrasel Jones – GT Independence, Kelly Kulzer-Reyes – DVU, Victoria Berrey - Family Focus Resource Center, Lucy Paz- Spanish Interpreter, Elena Tiffany, Alex Kopilevich, Claudia Wenger, Lia Cervantes Lerma(SCDD), Socorro Curameng, Ariela Gross, Gabriela Romero, Miriam Erberich, Kristianna Morralls (DVU), D Perez, Reiko Umeda, Jasmine Barrios - Minutes Services – Guests

Absent: Jon Francis, Diana Padilla Garcia, Josephina Romo Gutierrez

I. Call to Order, Introductions, and Housekeeping

Lori Walker called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Spanish interpretation services were announced by Lori.

II. Public Input and Comments - Lori Walker

None at this time.

III. Approval of the September Meeting Minutes

M/S/C (J. Feinstock/M. Care) To approve Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. GT Independence Presentation – Elva Chavez and Terrasel Jones

Terrasel Jones reported on the non-payroll expense, which was the cost of a purchased good or service from a vendor. The non-payroll expense is an added cost to the actual cost of the item or service being purchased, such as a foot orthotic or music lesson.

Elva Chavez reported that as of July 1, 2023, the burden rates were updated. The updated burden rates are 24% for the Co-Employer, 18% for the Sole Employer, and 1% for the Non-payroll expense. It was noted that the non-payroll expense was still under development with DDS. This expense is intended to cover costs associated with contracting vendors and financial outlay associated with Bill Payer services.

Terrasel stated that further information on the expense was pending and updates will be shared with the committee at a later date.

V. Committee Reports

- A. Chair Report – Lori Walker
Lori reported that most of the committee time would be dedicated to the Committee Centered Plan. She deferred her time, so there was additional time to discuss.
- B. Board Report Related to SDP – Lori Walker
No update at this time.
- C. Discussion/Updates of Best Practice Work- Richard Dier/Lori Walker
Lori stated they were working hard to solidify best practices, which they hoped to incorporate into the Committee Centered Plan to be presented later during the meeting.
- D. Questions/Concerns from Chair to Staff - Lori Walker
None at this time.

VI. Committee-Centered Plan

- A. Update the Committee-Centered Plan – Kelly Kulzer-Reyes
Richard presented a draft of a document with summaries about the subcommittees that are envisioned for this group. The subcommittees included the Best Practices Subcommittee, which would meet with staff and also address governance; the Staff Training Subcommittee, which would require confidentiality agreements; the Data Subcommittee, the Outreach Resource Subcommittee, and the Website Subcommittee or ad hoc Committee. This committee structure was hypothetical to facilitate items that needed to be addressed or to officiate work that Richard and Lori were already doing. The goal of creating these committees is to facilitate work outside of these meetings in order to get more done. These items were up for discussion, and any suggestions were welcome.

Kelly stated their first goal was barrier reduction for the SDP by establishing a process for transition into the SDP that was timely and seamless and creating a step-by-step process for how individuals move through the SDP process. Action steps would include collecting data that a Data Subcommittee can review, working with participant choice specialists, and other items that were already underway. Barriers at the Regional Center could also be identified as a part of this work with the assistance of the Outreach Resource Subcommittee and potentially the Staff Training Subcommittee. Work with staff training was already underway, and support groups were already created, but having additional subcommittees could officiate and facilitate the work being done. Surveys had Objectives from the original plan that had not changed. NLACRC had created timelines for Self Determination thanks to work from this committee in many different areas.

Kelly congratulated the committee on the success of their work. The tasks and barriers that were addressed were completed thanks to the work of this committee and encouragement to the Board for areas the committee could not act on. She also reminded the committee that they have an RFP process in order to take action, which again could be facilitated by their subcommittees. Further clarification and work could be divided amongst the proposed subcommittees to get things done.

Richard stated he was excited about the Staff Training Subcommittee because NLACRC had already shared its training manual for SDP staff. Now, they can highlight sections where additional clarity is needed. Kelly stated if the Outreach Subcommittee wants to do additional things, the document can be updated and evolved to match the current situation by keeping communication open.

Kelly stated the second goal was to have self-advocate representation and increase SDP participants on the committee.

Jordan stated the subcommittees were created, but he was not included in the discussion. Lori stated he had received the Committee-Centered Plan from the Board. Kelly stated they were trying to organize the subcommittees here for Outreach, Data, Training, Best Practices, and Web Design. Richard stated the website is expected to be done soon, but anyone interested can join the meeting.

Richard stated none of the documents were in their final form but were coming out as ideas now because the committee was previously not allowed to have all of these subcommittees. He asked for feedback at this time. Lori stated they are trying to make more subcommittees so that committee members can get more involved and more SDP participants can join.

Kelly stated the question now was who would do the work. Previously, tasks were assigned to specific people, but with this new plan, anyone could join a subcommittee or switch subcommittees. Other concerns under this goal were disparity reduction and increased representation. The Outreach Subcommittee could focus on spreading the word about this committee and other important updates. From NLACRC, Claudi Cares and the Legacy Project have received grants, which the Outreach Subcommittee could also inform them of. The Training Subcommittee can also work on updating trainings and making initiatives clearer along with the Facilitator's Manual. There is a support group running the first Wednesday of every month from 4:30pm - 6:00pm.

The third goal is that the Data Subcommittee can establish effective metrics for the implementation and effectiveness of the SDP for self-advocates and their families. Lori stated part of the subcommittee work could include reviewing the new DDS requirements for the Regional Centers and their reporting as it was updated in the law. Kelly opened up for questions. Lori asked what people thought about volunteering for

the subcommittees so they could have additional input from the SPD participants.

Michael stated he would be happy to help out with the Data Committee. Richard thanked Michael and stated he would add him to the list. He noted they will have to consider what data can be made available with the understanding that it is work for the staff.

Lori asked how they will move forward once the subcommittees are established. Richard stated the subcommittees can decide what work they focus on in the respective meetings. Subcommittee goals can be facilitated based on what is determined as a priority within the subcommittees.

Lori stated that the State Council has appointees, but the Regional Center is down two appointees.

Ellen stated she was feeling overwhelmed in general, so all the work in each committee seemed overwhelming. Kelly stated that was understandable, but if you are on a committee, that committee will decide what that looks like for them, as there may be different priorities now. While the presentation is overwhelming, everyone present can decide what they want to focus on. Now that Bagley Keen was not restricting them, they were able to work more freely and find out how to make the biggest impact. The group is only interested in hearing everyone's opinion.

Vikki stated that she was not interested in Data, but NLACRC was working on major web development, so she would be interested in providing input. She stated she was also interested in Outreach.

Richard stated he felt that it didn't need to be a prerequisite to be a committee member to serve on a subcommittee. Those present and interested who were not members could still serve and provide their perspectives. Exclusion on these topics makes him anxious, just as small providers in underserved areas should not be excluded from their work.

Lori agreed that they should bring in people as they access data from different groups anyway. By including people from places such as the Family Focus Research Center, they can keep up to date about other work going on.

Kelly announced that Wilmary had volunteered along with Vikki. Elena also left a chat that she was interested in Training and Website. Kelly suggested those present consider what they wish had happened differently or something great in order to assist with Outreach and Training. Everyone has knowledge and their own lived experience, which is important to this work.

Richard noted that John was a very active member but could not attend today's meeting.

Kelly stated moving forward, Lori and Richard will need to attend the first meetings for all of the subcommittees, which should not be a problem because they are on those committees. She stated the first meeting can be scheduled when there is time, it can be a short discussion, and homework can be assigned.

Lori stated they will not update their goals. Kelly stated it is their committee, so the goals can be updated as they see fit. Ellen requested an updated list of goals. Richard stated it could be sent out late. The document had just been edited before the meeting.

Richard stated he was willing to start as a leader in his meetings. The groups don't necessarily have to meet often, and it can be decided based on the life of the people in the group. The Best Practice/Governance Committee will serve as the connecting piece to NLACRC, and the goals will be defined as they need to influence change. Richard stated that this committee had become a leader in the state, and a succession plan may need to be a part of this work once Richard and Lori finish their terms.

Lori clarified that this would be the document they would start with. Assignments to subcommittees were determined, and she and Richard would start as leaders to begin the subcommittee work. The goal of this is to get the members more involved and increase feedback. In their last planning, assignments were given, but nothing was done, so they are leading this work to help the next group of people start to take over. This is a call to action, and if they are doing it the wrong way, they would like to know how to make being a part of SDP easier.

Richard stated he wants to know what the committee wants to do and wants to help with. He asked if there was anything they wanted help with that this committee could help list. At the next meeting, they will have names attributed to the meetings and determine what resources they have. One thing this committee found was their FMS had been behind, which had been addressed.

Action Item: Kelly will provide an updated plan to distribute to the committee members.

VII. Implementation Updates

A. NLACRC Update – Silvia Renteria

NLACRC Orientation Update

The report was reviewed a presented in the packet
As of October 1st

Participants have completed Orientation: 687

Total number of budgets that are certified: 329
Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 12
Total number of spending plans in progress: 260
Total number of PCPs completed: 69
Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolling: 2
Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out):3
Total number of participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 260

Jordan asked why 50% of those in the program come to these meetings. He stated they had discussed having a coordinator but asked if it was a time issue or why there were so few people coming. Silvia stated that staff attended the Advocacy Meetings and invited people to this committee.

Silvia reported that 12 individuals attended the DSP orientation in person, and 19 attended online, signaling that the NLACRC numbers are not decreasing. In September, seven first-year budgets were certified, 14 subsequent years were approved, and three budget revisions were made. Co-employer remains the highest FMS type in the SDP program.

RC Funding was billed for \$23,531 for a remaining balance of \$16,469. Billing for Disability Forces United was under revision. Other sources of billing were shared. All funds are expected to be spent. Silvia will work with DDU to allocate funds towards Claudia Cares and the Resource Fair.

Lori stated they will discuss allocating the funds during the RFP meeting on Friday.

Richard stated that the EBU Workshop was scheduled for November 3, 2023. Lori stated it was included in the resources.

SDP Orientation is available:

1. Through State Council <https://scdd.ca.gov/sdp-orientation/>
2. Live through NLACRC on the 1st Monday of the month in English and the 3rd Monday of the month in Spanish (unless there is a holiday, the day may change)
3. Virtually available at any time (24/7) through the NLACRC website

Self-Determination Orientation

Next Orientation meetings:

Friday, October 20, 2023 (Chinese) at 3 pm

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 (English) at 9 am

Thursday, October 26, 2023 (ASL/Spanish/English)

B. RFP Work Spending Update

The next RFP meeting will be held on October 20, 2023.

C. SCDD Update - Lia Cervantes-Lerma
No update at this time.

D. SDLAC Committee Membership Update - Lori Walker

Potential future Board members were in attendance at this meeting but would not be identified at this time. The committee agreed they thought it was fine for non-committee members to participate in the subcommittee work.

VIII. SDP Challenges and Successes

Jordan stated he had been working with a committee on the Person-Centered Training, and while the committee fell apart, he had completed his task on the training. Richard asked if Jordan was interested in joining the staff training video.

Lori stated they did not have a Board liaison, but Gabby shared well-written reports. Gabby noted they were put in the record, but she was not reporting on them. Lori stated that it would fall under best practice to cultivate that relationship. She and Richard will attend the Consumer Services meetings, where they are able to speak with the Board.

IX. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Lori suggested they start with the Committee-Centered Plan at the next Board meeting.

X. Adjournment

Lori Walker, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Submitted by:
Minutes Services

