

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

February 15, 2024

**Present:** Richard Dier, Jordan Feinstock, Jon Francis, Michael Carey, Lori Walker, Socorro Curameg, Miriam Erberich, Victoria Berrey, Wilmary Torres – **Committee Members**

Denise Juarez, Gabriela Eshrati, Robin Monroe, Silvia Haro, Kimberly Visokey, , – **NLACRC Staff Members**

Elena Tiffany, Claudia Wenger- Claudia Cares, Marianita Mendez- DDS, James Chavez, Jennifer Parsons – DDS, Jacquie Bisquera, Kristianna Morralls - DVU, Suzy Requarth - DDS, Glynda (Glynda & Carrie), S. Hale, Rosie Lisa M. Carey – Education Advocate, Bronwyn Shields, , Sol Garza – Interpreter, Gume Garza- Interpreter, , Reiko Umeda, Jasmine Barrios- Minutes Services, Pamela S., Ingrid (Jordan) - **Guests**

**Absent:** Alex Kopilevich

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**I. Call to Order, Introductions and Housekeeping**

Lori Walker called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Spanish interpretation services were announced.

NLA staff and Committee members introduced themselves to the group and explained their connections to SDP.

**II. Public Input and Comments**

Lori shared contact information for issues related to SDP:

NLA SDP Email: [selfdetermination@nlacrc.org](mailto:selfdetermination@nlacrc.org)

SDP Hotline: 818-756-6314

Committee Direct Email: [nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com](mailto:nlacrcsdlac@gmail.com)

Lori shared that the SDP Support Group is held on the first Wednesday of every month at 4:30 pm. The Independent Facilitator Round Table and Committee Members meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2 pm. The DVU/LVAC Collaborative is held monthly for all 21 Regional Centers and is held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm. The DVU/SDP Connect meeting will be held on February 28<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm.

Lori and Richard attended the ARCA's Board Meeting, where Tri-County Regional Center presented an animated series on Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

Victoria Berrey, from Family Resource Center, announced that there will be an All-Abilities Resource Fair in Lancaster on March 16<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend, and it will be free for

attendees and exhibitors. Anyone interested in having an exhibitor table can contact Victoria. There will be a Resource Fair for the San Fernando Valley on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

### **III. DDS Coordinated Family Support Services Presentation**

Jennifer Parsons, from DDS, presented information to the Committee Regarding DDS Coordinated Family Support for SDP. There was a DDS Directive that came out in November 2023 that states: "The CFS Services Pilot Program is available to participants in SDP. Regional centers were encouraged to refer to the January 26, 2023, guidance for SDP participants who request CFS as a needed service. When authorizing the service, Regional Centers shall fund it outside of the SDP Participant's budget."

Coordinated Family Support Providers build trust and help people access services in the community who were uncomfortable with accessing services or who didn't understand or know where to start.

Kimberly Johnson-McNeil, Resource Development Supervisor at NLA, mentioned that there are a series of informational sessions planned for Service Coordinators, and NLA is working to distribute the directives that DDS has given. The referral process will come through the IPP process to identify if the individual living in the family home needs additional support or assistance. If identified, the standardized referral form would be completed and vendors that are associated with CFSPs.

Jennifer explained that the program was put into statute as a pilot program because it was associated with ARCA funding. Because of the statute, the program has become the intent of DDS to provide this service for individuals who live in the family home.

There are nine areas in which CFS providers are able to be utilized to assist individuals living in the family home:

"A regional center shall classify a vendor as a CFS provider when the vendor coordinates and provides items identified below for adults who reside in the family home. CFS shall be tailored to the unique needs of the consumer and their family and provided in a manner that respects their language and culture. It shall be primarily provided in a person's home. CFS may include, but is not limited to:

1. Identifying and providing the support necessary to successfully reside in the family home.
2. Providing assistance and training for the consumer and their family in navigating comprehensive services and supports that are tailored to meet their unique needs, including creating pathways to overcome barriers to accessing generic and other resources.
3. Providing additional information or resources on the consumer's diagnosis and identified supports.
4. Coordinating consistency in training across providers specific to the needs of the consumer and their family.
5. Assisting with scheduling of service delivery, including medical and other

appointments.

6. Identifying transportation options or services.

7. Identifying backup providers/supports and providing those backup supports when the plan fails.

8. Providing future planning for the consumer, including those living with aging caregivers.

9. Providing training to the consumer that maximizes their independence.

CFS shall not replace or duplicate any regional center service coordination, generic service or other regional center-funded service that the consumer and their family are receiving. CFS may not be provided by an individual who resides in the same home as the consumer. At a minimum, the need shall be assessed annually, with progress being reported quarterly.

Within the first 30 days of working with a consumer and their family, CFS providers shall provide training to their staff and supervisors on the service delivery systems, including, but not limited to, behavioral health services and local Area Agencies on Aging. Exceptions to the minimum qualifications, along with the justification, shall be submitted to the regional center for the Department of Developmental Services' determination.

In the event a direct service provider has not been identified, CFS providers can provide direct support for up to 90 days while a permanent direct care service is identified and put in place. The sub-code "DIR" should be added to the service code to indicate service hours provided as direct care.

It was noted that a CFS provider can help an individual identify transportation venues but is not a transport company.

Families are asked to fill out a voluntary survey and return it in regards to satisfaction, questions and concerns. Vendors are eligible to receive an incentive payment to complete a questionnaire regarding data from their business and to solicit information on what they thought has been helpful, not helpful, etc.

Every quarter, regional centers will submit a report regarding how many vendors have been identified, how many are in the queue, and how many people are interested in CFS. Currently, 141 people are receiving CFS as of mid-January.

#### **IV. Funding to Support Implementation of the SDP Discussion**

Lori reviewed the 2023 directive that details how these funds need to be allocated.

This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> allotment of funds; there is an amount of \$130,112.51 that needs to be utilized by March 2026. All invoices need to be submitted by December 2025. In the past, funding has been used to include coaching, training, resource fairs, public training, translation and support groups, etc.

The Committee and NLA will need to agree on the allocation. NLA would like to continue funding

or coaching to include more than 1 vendor and to continue with the SDP Support Group. Another suggestion from NLA would be only to allocate funds as needs arise. Jordan Feinstock suggested that the Committee continue to use funds for Resource Fairs. Richard Dier noted that the Committee may want to consider re-strategizing the Support groups in order to increase interest and attendance. Michael Carey noted that using funding for outreach could increase awareness and interest from groups in the Community. Jon Francis proposed a Resource Fair that is at an off-site location for higher exposure. Gabriela Eshrati stated that NLA typically participates in at least 5 community events per month and that at each event, there is a table with information regarding SDP. Lori requested that NLA send her a list of the different organizations that they have visited in these outreach events.

Jordan raised an issue regarding awareness of the SDP. Gabriela reiterated that Service Coordinators are informing families through the IPP signature page but will be sure to reinforce that awareness. Kimberly suggested possible funding for a marketing agency that can connect SDP with organizations in the NLA community. Victoria Berrey recommended consideration for an informational flyer for SDP that highlights personal success stories in SDP to share. She also recommended Workshops via Zoom in order to record them and keep them for future use.

#### **V. Approval of the January Committee Meeting Minutes**

**M/S/C** (M. Carey/J. Feinstock) To approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed with 1 abstention from V. Berrey.

#### **VI. Committee Reports– Richard Dier**

##### **A. Chair Report**

Richard mentioned that the 099 Letter was sent out and requested that the term "efficacy: the definition is included in the service and also outlined concerns regarding requirements for vendorizations.

Richard gave an update on the recruitment search for a new Executive Director. He attended an informational meeting. He noted that there was a facilitator at the meeting who was taking information from attendees but that there was not a representative of the Recruitment Committee present at the meeting. He stated that the Minutes for the last Recruitment Committee are available for anyone who would like to review them.

In addition, the Vendor Advisory Committee ensured that they would find out more regarding barriers that CSCs face in Self-Determination.

##### **B. Board Report Related to SDP -deferred**

##### **C. Discussion/Updates of Best Practice Work - deferred**

##### **D. Questions/Concerns from Chair to Staff - deferred.**

**VII. Committee-Centered Plan - *deferred***

**VIII. Implementation Updates**

A. NLA Update - Silvia Haro

Silvia reviewed the SDP Report as presented in the packet.

As of February 1<sup>st</sup>:

Participants have completed Orientation: 749 (increased by 21)

Total number of budgets that are certified: 376 (increased by 18)

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 1

Total number of spending plans that are approved: 301

Total number of spending plans in progress: 72

Total number of PCPs completed: 335

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolling: 4

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: 301 (increased by 14)

B. DDS Update

Lori shared that there was a new DDS Directive available on the website.

C. SCDD Update - Lia Cervantes-Lerma

Deferred

**IX. SDP Challenges and Successes**

Deferred

**X. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Richard proposed that the Interim and Deputy Directors at NLA present information on the recruitment of the NLA Executive Director.

**XI. Adjournment**

Lori Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Minutes Services

