

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

August 17, 2023

**Present:** Richard Dier, Jordan Feinstock, Jon Francis, Ellen Jannol, Diana Padilla-Garcia, Michael Carey, Josefina Romo, Lori Walker, Victoria Berrey, Wilmary Torres – **Committee Members**

Denise Juarez, Gabriela Eshrati, Robin Monroe – **NLACRC Staff Members**

Ariela Gross- Claudia Cares Consulting, Ana Ramirez- Claudia Cares Consulting, Lia Cervantes-Lerma- SCDD, Kristianna Moralis- Disability Voices United, Xochil Gonzalez-DDS, Terrasel Jones, Stella Ramirez, D. Perez, Miriam Erberich, Elena Tiffany, Lucy Paz - Interpreter, Minutes Services - **Guests**

**Absent:**

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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 personal 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

Lori shared that an updated contact list for SDP with time response expectations was created by NLA staff and has a 24-hour turnaround time. Lori shared the document and feels that it will be very beneficial to consumers.

SDP Support group hosted by Disability Voices United is being held on September 6, 2023 from 4:30p-6:00 pm

Disability Voices United is hosting SDP Connect Session is being held twice a month, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, The next meeting will be held on August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 pm -6:00 pm.

NLA is hosting a monthly Independent Facilitator Roundtable, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 2 pm. The next roundtable will be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>, focusing on 099 Vendorization Issues.

DVU is also hosting the SDPLVAC Member Collaborative, to gather the 21 Regional Center LVAC Members to meet each other, learn about Committee roles and responsibilities and to share challenges and successes. Lori encouraged the Committee to attend the next meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

NLA Resource Fair is being held in Santa Clarita on Saturday, September 23rd, from 10a-2:00p

Lia Cervantes Lerma, an advocate with the State Council shared information regarding the weekly statewide trainings. This week's topic will be "Strategies for Systemic Change" and will be taking place August 21<sup>st</sup> in English and August 28<sup>th</sup> in Spanish. Independent Facilitator Roundtables are still being held for IF's who have multiple clients, along with the Self-Determination Program Orientations.

Victoria Berrey, from Family Resource Center announced that Avenues SLS, an agency run by IFs Scott and Laurie Shepherd, will be hosting a webinar series in October regarding customized employment, along with others. Translation is available in English, Spanish and ASL.

### **III. Consent Items**

No consent items

### **IV. Approval of the May Meeting Minutes**

**M/S/C** (J. Feinstock/E. Jannol) To approve the meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed with 2 abstentions from W. Torres and L. Walker.

### **V. Committee Centered Plan**

#### **A. Self-Governance Document- Richard Dier**

Richard shared information regarding continued discussion on the Self-Governance Document. After revisions made in the last 2 Committee Meetings, NLA Board Support sent the revised document to the Committee via email.

The most recent revisions include the policy to remove a Chair/Co-Chair, set the term for Chair/Co-Chair at 2 years to be served concurrently and a stipulation that a quorum of the Committee can vote to change any aspect of the document as they determine.

The document was sent to the State Council, NLA Board, NLA Executive Director, Chairs of the Statewide Council and Disability Voices United and did not receive further feedback. Lori Walker and Richard Dier will be meeting with the NLA Executive Director and NLA Board President to discuss continued collaboration and opportunities for more participation from the SDLAC.

Lori highlighted a few grammatical and spelling errors on the document and requested the applicable corrections.

**M/S/C** (J. Francis/M. Carey) To approve the Self-Determination Committee Self-Governance Document with the noted corrections.

The most current Committee-centered plan will be sent to the Committee to review and an update will be made to the plan at the October Committee meeting. The Committee was asked to review the information to determine what changes need to be made.

## **VI. Committee Reports– Lori Walker**

### **A. Chair Report**

Lori stated that DDS was invited to attend the next SDLAV Meeting. DDS agreed and stated that they will present for 45 minutes regarding data that is specific to NLA, an overview of recent developments and a Q&A session. She encouraged the Committee to attend and bring questions to discuss.

Lori attended 4 other Regional Center SDLAC Meetings. She noted that the Lanterman RC tracks the time intervals between SDP milestones. The Statewide Self-Determination Committee is requiring this information from all regional centers. The East Bay RC has allocated \$5,000 for an SDP tracking platform that will start in January 2024.

Regarding the 1% issue that was highlighted at the West Bay Meeting, Terrasel Jones stated that alternative payment solutions are being sought for the 1% and updates will be communicated as soon as more is known in regards to the alternate.

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

Lori and Richard attended the August 9<sup>th</sup> NNLA Board Meeting. They both raised concerns regarding 099 Vendorizations for Independent Facilitators during the public input section. The issues related to SDP will be relayed to the Consumer Services Committee and Rocio Sigala will be the contact from the NLA Board that will be working with Richard and Lori.

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

Lori shared that she recently filed a 4731 Complaint with NLA regarding the FMS issues that have been discussed and that have been affecting her son. NLA found no violation and after appealing to DDS, her IPP was revised for the FMS to make timely payments. NLA has signed a firm to redesign the NLA website and Lori will be working with NLA on the SDP section of the website.

Lori along with Silvia Haro, drafted a 4-question survey for Consumer Service Coordinators regarding their SDP knowledge, and what resources they need to better serve consumers in SDP or who are interested in SDP.

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

Lori asked if social recreation funding or reimbursement can be used as a form of respite, Gabriela Eshrati noted that Ruth Janka is getting clarification on this question and will report back to the Committee.

## **VII. Implementation Updates**

### **A. NLA Follow-Up on Public Input Concerns - Silvia Haro**

Silvia reviewed the SDP Report as presented in the packet.

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

Participants have completed Orientation: 668

Total number of budgets that are certified: 304

Total number of budgets that are in the certification process: 5

Total number of spending plans that are approved: 241

Total number of spending plans in progress: 61

Total number of PCP's completed: 275

Total number of participants that have opted out of SDP after enrolled: 2

Total number of Inter-Regional Center Transfers (out):2

Total number of participants that have fully transitioned into SDP with approved spending plans and active SDP IPPs: 241

### **B. RFP Work Spending Update**

This item will be deferred as Silvia Haro is out of the office, she will send out an RFP update to the Committee via email upon her return.

### **C. SCDD Update - Lia Cervantes-Lerma**

There were no further updates than those listed in public input.

### **D. SDLAC Committee Membership Update**

Applications just closed and interviews will be conducted soon per Silvia Haro.

## **VIII. SDP Challenges and Successes**

Ariella Gross from Claudia Cares Consulting shared that they have 2 RFPs with NLA, 1 to provide IF training. The first cohort was held, there were 62-76 unique visitors, 70 certificates were issued and was a 12-hour training session. 16 people were selected for the Mentorship Program and 6 list NLA as their Home Regional Center. 7 NLA Clients have already taken on by this group which is very promising. The goal would be for NLA IFs to take on NLA clients. The next cohort begins on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> and so far, 132 people have registered. The other RFP is for coaching and Ariella reported that 46 unique individuals have been served with this program and at least 3 of these have enrolled in SDP.

Wilmary Torres proposed that the Self Determination Forum and Resource Fair be added to the NLA Calendar of Events.

Jordan Feinstock inquired on the format of the meetings going forward for the

Committee. Lori shared that having a hybrid meeting is very difficult and meetings were intended to remain virtual at this time. Richard agreed and proposed that meeting format discussion to be added to a future agenda.

**IX. Report to the Board of Trustees and Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

This item will be revised pending the new communication system with Rocio Sigala

**X. Adjournment**

Lori Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Submitted by:  
Minutes Services

