

# Meeting Summary for SDLAC

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## Quick recap

The Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee meeting covered various aspects of the Self-Determination Program, including updates on resources, challenges, and best practices. Committee members discussed recent experiences with the program, addressing issues such as communication with service providers, budget management, and labor law considerations. The meeting also touched on broader topics like the California Health and Human Services Master Plan, engagement with the Board of Trustees, and ongoing efforts to improve program implementation and participant support.

## Next steps

- Richard & Jon Francis: Collaborate on developing proposal for potential RFP to improve Board engagement with self-determination program
- Regional Center: Complete contract with ICC for coaching services
- Regional Center: Work on reinstating monthly RFP meetings around April or May
- Jacquie: Work with Regional Center to access remaining \$10,000 balance before March 31st deadline
- Robin & Megan: Work on updating SDP workbook including the importance of attending LVAC meetings and client participation
- Robin & Megan: Record next service coordinator SDP training and share with committee members for feedback
- Socorro, Miriam & Lori: Continue reviewing and providing feedback on website updates for the SDP section
- Lia: Follow up with Chris Arroyo regarding legal training options for the committee
- DVU/Regional Center: Explore potential employer training curriculum proposal from Khristiana for next year's budget
- Lia: Follow up with Chris regarding the statute training and provide potential trainer information to Lori
- Robin: Research and provide demographic age breakdown of SDP consumers
- Robin/Regional Center: Clarify the rate reform implementation process and communicate guidelines to SDP participants
- Kristianna: Submit proposal to North LA Regional Center for employer training curriculum
- Lori/Miriam: Meet with DVU to discuss support group and SDLAC support issues
- Robin: Discussed overview and implementation timeline for new SDP specialist positions

- DDS: Issue a clear directive regarding the processing and funding limitations in SDP versus traditional services
  - Christine: Update orientation materials to clearly communicate which items cannot be paid for under SDP
  - FMS Team: Develop a solution for cell phone stipends and proper payroll processing for additional costs
  - Regional Centers: Align with DDS directive regarding vacation pay and health insurance payments in sole employer cases
  - IFs and FMS Teams: Collaborate to establish guardrails for SDP program implementation
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The SDLAC committee holds its regular meeting, introducing committee members and discussing agenda items. Lori Walker, the chair, leads introductions of committee members and the SDP team. Public input is shared, including resources from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities and upcoming events like the Rockin Resource Fair and a self-defense workshop. The committee also discusses creating a flyer to promote the meetings and SDP trainings, and Lori shares information about new SDP coaching services available through the regional center.

### **SDLAC Meeting Summary**

Lori discussed the completion of a contract by North LA and ICC, which will be added to the website. She also mentioned the California Health and Human Services Master Plan, which is in its final draft stage. Lori highlighted the importance of this plan for the committee and encouraged everyone to review it. She also shared two new resources: a person-centered planning training and an Emergency Go bag. Erica added that the go bag is available to all regional centers and their clients. Miriam discussed the shutdown of the Facebook page for the Self-Determination Program and the need for generic resources for emergency supplies. Robin clarified that these resources should be requested through the service coordinator. Richard suggested using the Code 356 Environmental Accessibility adaptations for environmental accessibility needs. Lori concluded by discussing the 11 recommendations from the HHS Master Plan meeting, which included streamlining processes and procedures for the self-determination program.

### **Improving Board Engagement and Transparency**

Lori discussed the challenges faced during the Board of Trustees meeting, including

limited public input opportunities and the lack of transparency. She expressed concerns about the effectiveness of the Consumer Services Committee in addressing their self-determination program. Lori suggested that the Board Report could be a tool for engaging with the board and asked for input on how to make their self-determination program better at North LA. Richard agreed to take over the meetings and explore ways to engage with the board. The team also discussed the need for a board liaison and the importance of presenting success stories to the board. Jon Francis suggested the possibility of developing an RFP to penetrate the board and engage with them. The team agreed to further explore this idea.

### **Committee Center Plan Updates and RFP**

Lori led the meeting, discussing best practices and committee center plan updates. The best practices subcommittee met on March 13th, with attendees including the Ombuds office, the SDP team, the RFP recipients, and Miriam and Lori. They discussed issues and resolved concerns, with Accolades for Achievement and Helping Hands owners, Jackie and Stephanie, in attendance. The subcommittee also discussed the coaching services being utilized and their funds being quickly run out. They emphasized the need for reinstating the monthly RFP meeting due to all the delays, contract issues, and miscommunications that they've been having. Silvia had reported that they might be able to reinstate it sometime around April or May. Lori also discussed the RFP status for this year and next year, the website feedback process, how the committee can participate in the SDP training, how North LA is handling the rate reform implementation, and the clarification on meeting the FMS for transition services. Miriam clarified that participant-directed services still exist. Lori then moved on to the committee center plan updates, discussing the new employee training documents and the need for reinstating the monthly RFP meeting. They also discussed the RFP status for this year and next year, the website feedback process, how the committee can participate in the SDP training, how North LA is handling the rate reform implementation, and the clarification on meeting the FMS for transition services. Robin provided updates on the North LA center, including the number of participants who completed orientation, the number of budgets certified, and the number of spending plans approved. She also discussed the new contact policy due to high case loads and the ongoing work on updating the SDP workbook. Robin also mentioned the new idea behind centralized SDP where a specialized trainer will be assigned to actual units. Jordan suggested ways to increase attendance at the SDP meetings, and Robin agreed to include this in the updated workbook.

### **SDP Committee Members Share Experiences**

The committee members share their recent experiences with the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Miriam reports cautious optimism about improvements in communication with her Financial Management Service (FMS) provider, GT. Lori discusses challenges in transitioning to a new FMS and seeking clarification on purchasing directives. Socorro expresses satisfaction with her service coordinator and FMS, and is working on advancing her son's employment opportunities. Michael mentions reduced service usage due to school commitments. Richard shares a positive experience with GT in making home modifications for his son, noting a change in his approach to working with the organization.

### **Overtime Rules and Rate Reform**

Richard discusses a new issue he encountered regarding overtime rules for caregivers, which is critical to his budget. He explains the differences between classifying workers as domestic workers or personal assistants, which affects overtime pay and breaks. Lori mentions that Kristianna, now with Self-Determination Institute, has proposed a training on "How to be an Employer" to Westside Regional Center. Jordan brings up questions about tax filing for sole employers in the program. The group also discusses the ongoing rate reform implementation and its complexities. Robin explains that retroactive rate changes are not typically applied unless there's a specific need, and emphasizes the importance of following procedures to receive updated rates.

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