

Meeting Summary for SDLAC

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Quick recap

The committee discussed various program updates including ethnic representation disparities, coaching services, and implementation funds, while also reviewing progress on website improvements and participant engagement initiatives. The group addressed budget processing delays, labor law concerns, and plans for upcoming meetings, including a new survey targeting Spanish speakers and discussions about outreach efforts to underrepresented communities.

Next steps

- **Silvia & Rita:** Collaborate on developing a buddy system program to help Hispanic families transition into the self-determination program
- **Michael & Rita:** Work together on developing a new survey targeting Spanish speakers and Latinos in the self-determination program
- **ICC:** Expand contract to include targeted outreach to Spanish-speaking communities
- **Silvia & Megan:** Share the service coordinator training materials with the SDLAC committee for review and feedback
- **Silvia:** Work with accounting team to generate reports showing budget size data by ethnicity, disability, and region
- **Silvia:** Create Spanish version of the SDLAC flyer and ensure it's available on the website
- **Michael:** Attend the RFP meeting on July 16th at 10 AM to discuss outreach strategies for the Latino community
- **Silvia:** Add ICC to the coaching services section of the website
- **Silvia:** Look into extending contract expiration dates beyond March 2026 for contracts that started late
- **Silvia:** Work with contracts department to confirm if implementation funds can be used for DVU conference attendance
- **North LA Website Team:** Archive old RFPs on the website for reference by other regional centers
- **Silvia & Megan:** Create pie chart showing breakdown of FMS providers being used by active participants

- **Richard:** Share updates on meal break requirements and personal attendant classification findings with the committee
- **Lori & Committee:** Prepare for discussion on trailer bill language and budget cuts at August meeting
- **Silvia:** Reach out to Juan Hernandez to invite him to the August committee meeting

Summary

Committee Meeting Introductions and Updates

Miriam announced she is co-chair and has been on the committee for 1.5 years. The meeting included introductions from several members, including Michael, Socorro, Richard, Rita, and John Anthony, who stepped in for Erica. The group discussed that Robin Monroe, an SDP team member, is out until July, and the committee will not meet in July but will reconvene in August.

Ethnic Disparity in Self-Determination Program

The committee discussed a significant disparity in the representation of ethnicities between the North Los Angeles Regional Center and the self-determination program. Michael raised concerns about the low percentage of Latino participants in the program compared to the regional center's overall client base. Silvia explained current outreach efforts, including recorded orientations and one-on-one support, but acknowledged the need for more effective strategies. The committee agreed to explore creating a targeted survey for Spanish-speaking individuals and to consider implementing a buddy system to help recruit more participants from underrepresented communities. Lori announced upcoming resources and meetings, including a conference on self-determination and IF training opportunities.

If Coaching Services Expansion Plan

The meeting discussed the availability of coaching services for independent facilitators (IFs) at North LA, with Claudia Cares currently being the sole coach but a new RFP will be opened next week for additional coaches. Silvia and Megan are available to connect IFs with Claudia for coaching support, which can address both client-specific and general business needs. The committee also reviewed the May meeting summary, which is being used to track action items and share meeting outcomes and discussed the development of user-friendly report templates for families and professionals regarding SDP services, with progress reports being annual rather than quarterly.

Implementation Funds and Outreach Planning

The meeting focused on managing and utilizing implementation funds, with Lori explaining that \$30,112.51 must be used by March 2026, while \$131,332.77 will become available in January 2026. The team discussed extending contracts and explored options to improve outreach to the Latino community, including involving ICC in outreach efforts. Michael offered to attend the upcoming RFP meeting to report back on outreach efforts.

Self-Determination Program Committee Update

The meeting covered several key topics related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP). Richard provided a detailed report on the recent Board of Trustees meeting, highlighting the election of Juan Hernandez as Vice President and his willingness to serve as liaison to the SDP committee. Lori discussed the committee's efforts to track action items and follow up on commitments made by the executive director. The group addressed concerns about low attendance at SDP meetings and the need to increase consumer participation. Richard expressed optimism about the board's support for the program, despite budget challenges. The committee also reviewed progress on various initiatives, including rate reform implementation and updates to the SDP workbook.

SDP Progress and Website Updates

The meeting focused on updates and progress related to the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and the website redesign. Lori highlighted several successes, including the assignment of a new committee member, the inclusion of the SDP support group in the Weekly News publication, and the completion of the website feedback form by North LA's SDP team. The team discussed progress on restructuring staff to accommodate the SDP, the status of the participant survey, and the addition of Independent Facilitators (IFs) to the website. Richard was assigned as the official liaison to the Board, and the team reviewed the updated website, which now features a more organized layout and various resources for participants.

Spanish Materials and Website Updates

The meeting focused on several key topics, including the need for Spanish language materials and website improvements. Silvia agreed to look into ensuring Spanish flyers are available on the website. The group discussed the importance of outreach to Hispanic families and potential use of YouTube and other platforms for this purpose. Lori mentioned ongoing work to enhance the website's resource section, with input from North LA and other regional centers. The committee also reviewed plans for an upcoming RFP and discussed the need for training service coordinators on self-determination, with new mandatory training scheduled to begin in June.

Self-Determination Program Progress Review

The meeting discussed the progress and statistics of the Self-Determination Program (SDP), including increases in orientation attendance and budget certifications. Megan presented data on transitions, participant demographics, and program models, while Silvia highlighted the need for further data analysis and access to new tracking tools. Richard and Michael suggested exploring budget size data by ethnicity and disability to better understand program participation and service allocation. Silvia also shared results from a participant survey, indicating a desire for more training and support, and introduced new SDP Lead CSC Trainers to enhance service coordination.

DVU Conference Funding Strategy

The team discussed funding for the DVU conference, with Silvia presenting the RFP funds status and available balances for various contracts including Claudia Cares, Accolades for Achievement, and Help Grow. They agreed to use existing funds for conference attendance, with a cap of 350 participants total across 21 regional centers, and decided to handle requests on a case-by-case basis rather than requiring spending plan changes. The group also discussed using support group meeting funds for the conference, with Silvia planning to confirm with the contract department whether the resources fair could be counted as training.

Budget Delays and Labor Concerns

Silvia explained that there were delays in budget processing due to Robin's absence and her own additional responsibilities but she assured that work was being done as quickly as possible without errors. Miriam shared a positive update about receiving a spending plan within four days without requiring a POS change. Richard raised concerns about GTI's requirement for his son's staff to take unpaid 30-minute meal breaks and mentioned seeking legal advice to address this issue. The group discussed potential training on labor laws, with Lori noting that DVU and SDI were developing curricula that could be shared with regional centers.

August Meeting and Provider Updates

The committee discussed plans for their August meeting, which will include RFP recipients to discuss outreach and disparity issues. Michael announced he is working on a new survey targeting Spanish speakers and Latinos within the self-termination program, and Rita offered to help review it before submission to the regional center. The group also addressed a situation with Aveanna FMS being capped due to overcharging, deciding to transfer an existing OA to Cambrian as a potential new provider.