

Meeting Summary for SDLAC

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Quick recap

The main focus was on the Self-Determination Program (SDP), where participants discussed challenges including service coordinator training, budget constraints, and outreach efforts to diverse communities. The group addressed concerns about program disparities and funding cuts, while exploring solutions such as new service coordinator positions and improved board engagement and concluded with discussions about the vendor portal and upcoming events.

Next steps

- North LA Team: Implement the new SDP CSC Lead Training Specialist positions across all applicable units, starting with the 3 hired specialists in July.
- SDLAC Committee: Prepare response/recommendations regarding the proposed SDP budget cuts and guardrails for DDS.
- Angela: Review and address the three main pain points identified in the meeting: service coordinator training/empathy, budget processing timelines, and FMS issues.
- Contracts Department: Expedite processing of outstanding contracts for IF mentoring, 4th coaching, and DVU.
- Angela/NLRC Team: Develop strategies to increase outreach and engagement with African American communities in the catchment area.
- Robin/Megan: Continue developing and implementing unit-by-unit training for service coordinators on SDP budget process and IPP planning.
- Judy Mark: Share information with the committee about specific legislative language proposals regarding SDP guardrails.
- Silvia/Robin: Continue attending support groups to represent SDP and provide information across different communities.
- Richard/John/Rita: Prepare and coordinate public comment to the board about the special status of SDLAC under the law.
- Silvia: Include in the Board liaison report a request for a small group meeting between board members and SDLAC representatives.
- Angela: Follow up with the board regarding potential board training/retreat to include self-determination program presentation.

- Angela: Look into working with the Disparity Committee to address self-determination program representation issues.
- Miriam & Lori: Monitor the implementation of the new SDP CSC Lead Training Specialist model and provide feedback to North LA leadership.
- Committee Members: Review and email any changes/concerns about the meeting summary posted on the website.
- Committee Members: Review the committee centered plan.

Summary

Committee Updates and Resource Sharing

The meeting began with introductions of committee members and the announcement of a new member, Rita Ford, appointed by North LA. Lori Walker, the Chair, outlined the meeting structure and provided contact information for the committee. Members shared resources and upcoming events, including a volunteer fair, a salute to recreation event, and a San Fernando Valley Symphony Orchestra performance. Leah Cervantes Lerma invited attendees to a training session about potential Medicaid cuts, and Christiana announced the upcoming Self-determination Institute meetings. Judy Mark from Disability Voices United concluded the public input segment.

Budget Cuts Protest Planning Meeting

Judy informed the group about significant proposed cuts to the self-determination program in the State budget, emphasizing the need for a unified community response. She discussed upcoming funeral processions in Orange County and Bakersfield to protest Medicaid cuts, urging participation from the North LA community. Judy requested input on potential "guardrails" for the budget, which could include restrictions on certain services or spending caps and suggested that the group discuss this further to develop a proactive response.

SDP Service Coordinator Training Initiative

Angela introduced herself as an executive director with 20 years of experience in the field of developmental disabilities, highlighting her background in behavior therapy and her current role at North LA Regional Center. She discussed the implementation of changes to improve the Self-Determination Program (SDP) at North LA, including the creation of SDP CSC Lead Training Specialists who will be responsible for carrying a caseload and training other service coordinators. Angela explained that these new positions, which have been accepted by three individuals, are expected to start in July and will help make service coordinators more fluent in the SDP process. The team also discussed the transition process for cases, where they will spend

one to two years with an SDP-only service coordinator before returning to a regular service coordinator.

Enhancing SDP Board Engagement

The meeting focused on challenges and improvements needed for the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and its representation at the board level. Jordan expressed concerns about limited SDP awareness and engagement, highlighting issues with service coordinators' knowledge and the need for better communication and training. Richard emphasized the importance of policy-level engagement and suggested that the committee be given more opportunities to present to the board, while Angela acknowledged these concerns and assured efforts to address them. The group discussed the need for better board meeting structures, including shorter agendas and more focused discussions, with Angela committing to raise these issues at the board retreat.

SDP Challenges and Solutions

The meeting focused on identifying key issues with the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and exploring potential solutions. Participants highlighted challenges such as inconsistent service coordinator training, difficulties in moving funds within spending plans, and variations in budget calculations and rates across regional centers. Judy emphasized the need for clarity from DDS, while Rita suggested creating a structured inventory of pain points to prioritize and assign accountability for resolution. Angela acknowledged the issues and committed to addressing those within her control, while the group discussed the importance of standardization and timely processes.

SDP Outreach to Diverse Communities

The meeting focused on outreach efforts to diverse communities, particularly African Americans, with Kim highlighting low awareness of the SDP program in regions with large Black populations. Angela and Silvia discussed existing outreach activities, including support group attendance and engagement, while Prescilla emphasized the need for targeted outreach by community members and suggested expanding efforts to schools. Michael presented data showing disparities in SDP participation across ethnicities, particularly noting underrepresentation of Hispanic and African American communities, which the committee agreed to address.

SDP Outreach and Disparity Solutions

The meeting focused on addressing disparities in the Self-Determination Program (SDP) and improving outreach efforts. Angela and Michael discussed the possibility of collaborating with

the North Los Angeles disparity committee to enhance program visibility and address specific issues. Fernando emphasized the importance of including SDP in community outreach and highlighted the need for trust-building through real-time experiences. RitaM-SDLAC raised concerns about accountability and responsiveness, while Angela identified challenges in staff training and caseload ratios as key pain points. The group discussed the need for better tracking mechanisms and service level agreements, as well as potential cuts to Medicaid and program funding. Richard expressed interest in making a public comment at the next board meeting to highlight the program's uniqueness and legal framework. The conversation ended with a discussion on the vendor portal's current capabilities and future expansions, with Angela noting that the portal is still in its early stages.

SDP Program Challenges and Coordination

The meeting focused on discussing the challenges and demographics related to the SDP program, with Angela attending to understand more about the issues. Participants highlighted the need for better coordination, economic barriers, and cultural factors affecting families' participation in the program.