

SDLAC Meeting Summary- Thursday August 21, 2025

Quick recap

The North LA Regional Center Self-Determination Program Advisory Committee meeting covered updates on participant coaching services, implementation challenges, and program statistics. Committee members expressed concerns about new insurance requirements for independent facilitators, budget limitations, and ethnic disparities in program participation. The committee also discussed upcoming events, resource allocation for remaining grant funds, and the need for improved communication with the regional center board regarding self-determination program issues.

Next steps

- Silvia to provide update on PDS vendor status for Claudia's organization by next week
- Silvia to circle back with community services team regarding IF insurance requirements and provide answers to outstanding questions
- Juan to discuss IF insurance requirements with Board during monthly meeting
- Miriam to remind committee about correct links for accessing RFP recipient information
- North LA to create a communication plan for keeping families informed about IF insurance requirements resolution
- Silvia to provide update on PDS implementation progress at next IF Round Table meeting
- Silvia to coordinate with Claudia and Ariela to discuss implementing additional IF training sessions
- Silvia to collect email addresses from committee members interested in attending the LA DVU conference
- Committee members to send feedback on Service Coordinator Training Book to Lori by September 11th
- Committee members to review and provide feedback on new DDS respite tool by August 28th

- Committee members to review June meeting summary and notify Denise of any corrections
 - ICC to add question to registration form to track if community session attendees have completed orientation
 - ICC to continue monitoring and reporting on coaching session hours usage
- Richard to connect with Juan Hernandez via email to discuss collaboration opportunities and define roles
- North LA Committee to entertain a motion at next board meeting requesting a procedure for limited presentation time at board meetings about SDP issues
 - Lori to work with North LA Committee to ensure next agenda includes space for motion to allow committee to speak at board meetings
 - North LA Committee to collect and analyze data on average SDP transition timeline
 - Silvia to provide information on patterns and scenarios of SDP transition process to Rita
 - North LA Committee to review and address concerns about DDS review of SDP budgets and information collection process

Summary

SDP Budget Concerns and Misinformation

Lori and Miriam discuss concerns about recent communications regarding budget limitations in the Self-Determination Program (SDP), with Miriam sharing that misinformation is already spreading among service coordinators about a supposed \$90,000 budget cap. The committee members express frustration about the lack of transparency regarding the purpose of these budget discussions and the failure to acknowledge that larger budgets often result from previously unmet needs. Lori raises concerns about the RFP (Request for Proposal) projects not being able to use allocated funds due to late starts, suggesting they need to discuss reallocating these resources. As the meeting officially begins, Lori notes several new committee members and explains the meeting procedures.

Self-Determination Program Advisory Committee Introductions

Michael Carey, Victoria Berry, Socorro Curameng, Richard Dier, Miriam Erberich, Jordan Feinstock, Rita Ford, Jon Francis, Ricardo Martinez, Erica Rodriguez, Robin Monroe, Silvia Renteria, Denise, Juan Hernandez, introduce themselves and their connections to the Self-

Determination Program (SDP) Advisory Committee. Many members are parents of consumers or consumers themselves, with varying lengths of involvement in the committee and program. Kristianna from the Self-Determination Institute announces two free monthly meetings: the Complete Guide to SDP on the first Tuesday and the Community Lunch Series on the third Tuesday, both from noon to 1pm. Claudia Wenger shares that they now offer IF coaching specifically for people working in North LA.

North LA Insurance Requirements Concerns

Claudia Wenger expresses concern about North LA Regional Center's new insurance requirements for 0-9-9 vendors, which are so demanding that many independent facilitators (IFs) may stop working with North LA clients. Miriam elaborates that she's been addressing this issue for 2.5 months, noting specific problems with crime insurance requirements and lack of clarity from North LA, while Judy from Disability Voices United announces upcoming events including SDP Connect monthly meetings and conferences in Oakland (9/11) and Los Angeles (11/19). Jordan mentions the upcoming Empower Expo resource fair in Palmdale on September 27th.

SDP Facilitator Challenges and Solutions

Lisa raises concerns about the difficulty in finding independent facilitators (IFs) for self-determination program (SDP) participants, especially with new insurance requirements. Lori suggests using coaches as a resource, while Silvia mentions they will post updates on the website. Claudia explains that coaches can help with many aspects of SDP except creating person-centered plans or attending IPP meetings, and advocates for Participant Directed Services (PDS) as a solution to the insurance issues. Silvia clarifies that North LA is actively working on PDS implementation but has faced challenges with vendor misunderstandings, and promises to provide updates on vendor status by the next IF Round Table meeting.

Implementation Funds for Participant Coaching

Lori provides an update on the five recipients of implementation funds for participant coaching, including Accolades for Achievement, Claudia Cares Consulting, Disability Voices United, Integrated Community Collaborative, and Help Grow LLC, with a total budget of \$130,112.51 for the year ending January 31, 2026. Stephanie from Help Grow LLC reports that her company has spent about \$8,000 of their \$21,000 allocation, helping approximately 40 North LA families, with a focus on supporting the Spanish-speaking community through translated materials and small group settings. The meeting includes discussion about how providers measure effectiveness, with Stephanie mentioning they recently began collecting client reviews to gather data on their services.

Coaching Contract Budget and Utilization

Claudia reports that they have two coaching contracts with a combined budget of \$46,000, with \$30,000 still available. The participant coaching contract has been used more extensively, while the IF coaching contract, which became available in early August, has seen minimal use. Claudia explains that they've supported over 200 clients through coaching and highlights that one of the biggest successes is helping people determine if self-determination is right for them. To utilize the remaining funds before the January 31st deadline, Claudia suggests offering another IF training session, as they receive weekly requests for this service, and Silvia agrees to discuss implementing this idea. Michael raises concerns about ethnic disparities in the self-determination program, and Lori mentions that this has been a focus for several years without significant change.

Coaching Services and Budget Update

Jacquie shares her coaching service statistics, reporting 131 sessions held for 42 individuals with \$9,002.88 used and \$11,815 remaining from her grant. She explains that her coaching niche is working with families with highly involved loved ones, focusing on education and advocacy to help them develop independence in managing self-determination programs. Jordan provides a testimonial about Jacquie's efficiency, while Kayley from Disability Voices United reports they've spent \$15,372.50 on support groups and best practices meetings with \$5,327.50 remaining. The committee decides to use the projected \$552 surplus to purchase 11 tickets for participants to attend the DVU conference on November 19th in Los Angeles.

Support Group Success and Updates

Kayley reports that the support group has helped 222 unique individuals since February, with an average of 95 participants per session and many repeat attendees, which she considers a measure of success. She plans to implement a survey for more formal feedback. Judy notes that the support group is co-led by a self-advocate and an independent facilitator, with Lori and Miriam attending to answer North LA-specific questions. Lori expresses concern about ICC's late contract start and lack of billing, then announces they are completing interviews for this year's RFPs with 11 companies participating. Miriam requests feedback on the Service Coordinator Training Book by September 11th and warns that DDS's new respite tool may limit services, with feedback due by August 28th.

Latino Outreach Coaching Program Overview

Fernando explains the Integradora outreach model, which provides one-on-one coaching and community meetings to help individuals navigate support systems, particularly

focusing on self-determination for the Latino community in Spanish. ICC has conducted 10 coaching sessions totaling 7 hours with 4 individuals and held one community meeting with 39 North LA clients, with more sessions planned. Fernando notes they have 173 coaching hours still available and are confident they will use their entire grant allocation of \$21,103.10 by January 31st, though they haven't received any referrals from the center yet.

Self-Determination Committee Liaison Concerns

Richard expresses enthusiasm about Juan Hernandez becoming the new liaison to the committee, noting Juan's involvement in key committees makes him well-positioned for this role. He raises concerns about the committee's inability to speak at board meetings since 2013 and the board's limited understanding of self-determination, suggesting that no board members have attended orientation or participated in the program. Richard also criticizes the new webinar format of board meetings for limiting interaction and expresses worry about DDS's review of self-determination, particularly how budget information is being collected and interpreted. He plans to work with Lori to propose a motion requesting regular opportunities for the committee to present at board meetings.

Regional Center August SDP Data

Robin presents the Regional Center's August data, reporting 1,250 participants have completed orientation (up by 24), 673 certified budgets (up by 14), 593 approved spending plans, and 577 completed PCPs (up by 15). The co-employer model remains the most popular FMS choice at 400 users, with GT Independence as the leading provider though ACE is gaining ground. Rita requests information about the average time it takes to transition to SDP, which Silvia later notes varies significantly depending on case complexity.