

SDLAC Meeting Summary

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Quick recap

The main focus was on Self-Determination Program (SDP) activities, including budget allocations, participant transitions, and program implementation, with extensive discussion of training processes and service coordination. The conversation ended with financial updates for various coaching and training programs, including budget management and contract adjustments, along with reminders about upcoming meetings and surveys.

Next steps

- Michael to finalize and submit the diversity survey to North LA Regional Center for distribution.
- Committee members to provide feedback on Michael's survey questions, particularly for question #12, by sending comments to the North LA SDLAC email address.
- Lori and Miriam to meet with DJ from State Council to discuss Matt Asner's vacant committee position.
- North LA Regional Center to add the progress report template created by Miriam and Kristianna to the IF Guidebook and website resources.
- Robin to attend the FMS orientation meeting on October 27th to get information needed to start working with PDS .
- NLACRC to possibly create a checklist for SDP participants outlining what information is needed for IPP meetings and budget reviews to be posted on the website.
- Silvia to follow up with Janet regarding her spending plan issue after the meeting discussion.
- Silvia to start a vendor forum for North LA vendors with questions about SDP to decrease fear of taking SDP cases.
- RFP recipients to attend the rescheduled bi-monthly RFP meeting on November 21st at 1:00 PM.

Summary

Self-Determination Program Advisory Updates

The Self-Determination Local Advisory Committee (SDLAC) meeting began with introductions from committee members and staff, including several family members and

providers connected to the Self-Determination Program. John Francis shared concerns about Proposition 50, emphasizing its importance in protecting educational and social services from potential cuts. Kristianna announced upcoming free monthly meetings at the Self-Determination Institute, covering various aspects of the SDP process. Victoria Berry provided updates on potential CalFresh benefit disruptions and upcoming workshops at Family Focus Resource Center. The conversation ended with Lori Walker mentioning a dental consultant resource at North LA.

SDP Survey and Resources Update

Lori shared resources from the North LA Disparity Committee meeting, including contact information for a dental consultant and details about the Life Outcomes Improvement System (LOIS) project. Michael presented findings from a survey on the Self-Determination Program (SDP), highlighting areas for improvement such as better training, communication, and information availability. He also introduced a new survey focusing on diversity issues and ethnic representation in the SDP. Committee members were encouraged to provide feedback on the new survey, which will be distributed to the broader regional center population.

Regional Center Services Update Meeting

The meeting focused on updates and discussions related to regional center services, progress reports, and administrative changes. Michael presented a survey on client feedback, which committee members were encouraged to review and provide input on. Miriam and Kristiana introduced a new plain-language progress report template designed to simplify the process for clients. Robin shared updates on the availability of participant-directed services through a new FMS, Aveanna, and the ongoing process of orientation and implementation. The committee also addressed the importance of following the chain of command when communicating with North LA and discussed the need for timely payments to FMSs. Lastly, Lori highlighted ongoing efforts to expedite the SDP process and encouraged feedback for the upcoming December meeting of the statewide self-determination advisory committee.

Self-Determination Program Budget Updates

The meeting focused on updates and discussions about the Self-Determination Program (SDP), including budget allocations, participant transitions, and program implementation. Juan reported on regional center budgets and confirmed that the SDP budget is growing annually, though detailed figures were not provided. Jon raised concerns about misconceptions of overspending in SDP, emphasizing that larger case sizes often reflect unmet needs from previous years. Robin explained the new lead trainer role, aiming to

streamline the SDP onboarding process and enhance training. The implementation report highlighted increases in participant orientations, budget certifications, and approved spending plans, with a steady transition trend from March to October. Robin also addressed questions about budget carryover, clarifying that budgets are tied to participants' transition dates rather than fiscal years. The conversation ended with a reminder of available resources, including orientations, support groups, and coaches, for participants and service coordinators.

Regional Budget Renewal Process Challenges

The group discussed delays in budget renewals for regional centers, with Silvia explaining that the process involves IPP planning, signature pages, and accounting certification, which can be delayed due to various reasons. Robin and Miriam emphasized the importance of starting the renewal process early and being prepared with necessary documentation, while Silvia highlighted that service recipients have the right to request an IPP meeting at any time, regardless of their birth month. The discussion also touched on the challenges of aligning IPPs with birth months and the need for clear communication between service coordinators, families, and regional centers to streamline the process.

Service Approval and Budget Challenges

The meeting focused on challenges with service approvals and budget processes, particularly regarding cost-effectiveness of services. Silvia explained that while regional centers must assess cost-effectiveness for services added to budgets, there are currently no guidelines for denying services based on cost effectiveness in the spending plan, as this falls under the participant control. Lori shared her experience with delayed payments and unclear status of submitted requests, highlighting the need for better tracking systems. The group also discussed the importance of families providing necessary documentation, including progress reports and social recreation information, to facilitate IPP meetings.

Service Coordination and Vendor Support

Silvia explained that both the FMS and IF can work alongside each other, with the FMS handling payments through SDP and the IF serving as a personal service coordinator. She mentioned starting a vendor forum to address concerns and provide support for North LA vendors. Claudia highlighted the complexity and time-consuming nature of invoicing processes for SDP vendors, which can lead to increased rates or refusal to take SDP cases. Silvia shared plans to create a checklist for service coordinators on what to bring to IPP and annual review meetings, aiming to improve clarity. The group discussed the need for clear guidance and communication from service providers, with Lori suggesting adding this to the SDLAC to-do list. Adaptive inquired about price point lists for budget modifications,

and Silvia explained that service coordinators have discretion in assessing costs but must leave options open for individual needs.

Budget Updates for Coaching Programs

The meeting focused on budget updates and financial management for various coaching and training programs. Silvia reported on the remaining funds for several programs, including Accolades, HelpGrow, and Claudia's coaching. The group discussed challenges with billing and budget allocation, particularly for Claudia's IF training and coaching. They agreed to rewrite contracts to better align funding between coaching and training. Lori emphasized the importance of utilizing RFP funds before the end of the year. The conversation ended with a reminder about the upcoming RFP recipient meeting in November and a discussion about a survey Michael will be sending to the Regional Center.