



## Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee

### June 20, 2023 Meeting Notes

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

*Zoom Meeting information:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85189724494?pwd=ak9rdjRjdGV0enpXbngwaklRT2EvUT09>

You can also dial in using your phone

(669) 900-9128 or (346) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 851 8972 4494

Passcode: 626659

*The Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee meeting was held by remote participation.*

**Members Present:** Alejandra Caldera, Alexander Scarlis, Cathay Liu, Carola Maranon, Mei Ye, Virgilio Orlina, Yougeng Sun, Yvette Baptiste

**Members Absent:** Carl Blum (excused), Josefina Nieves (unexcused)

**ELARC Staff:** Edith Hernandez, Gloria Wong, Laiza Valdovinos, Liz Harrell, Manuel Aguilar, Maria Canas, Roxy Ortiz

**State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) Los Angeles Regional Office:** Sofia Cervantes

**Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Liaison:** Jason Francisco

**Guests** (not a complete list): Kim Sinclair, Olaf Luevano, Elsa Flores, Jocabed Garcia

- I. Welcome  
Cathay Liu called meeting to order at 6:04pm and welcomed everyone
- II. Community Input (3 minutes per person)  
No community input
- III. Approval of Draft Minutes  
Corrections: Page 3, second to the last paragraph in the last sentence should read: inquired if primary reason why people are NOT moving forward. Page 1, member's name change, Page 4, item C (3) last paragraph addendum added.  
M/S/C (Y. Sun/ V. Orlina) to approve the Minutes of the Self Determination Local Volunteer Advisory Committee of April 18, 2023 as corrected.
- IV. Suzy Requart- Acting Manager, Self-Determination Program and HBCS Regulations (DDS) was unable to attend meeting due to scheduling conflict, it will be rescheduled.
  - A. LVAC FMS letter was sent out to DDS and we are waiting for an update. Liz shared she reached out privately to Suzy, this group was asked to come and address the issues on this letter and hopefully give feedback as to Directors Bargmann's response.

Alexander Scarlis shared the letter with Director of OCRA Shannon Cogan She sent the letter to DDS's SDP Advisory Group which includes Regional Centers Executive Directors, SDP leads, FMS leaders, IF's, Family Advocates. Letter sent day before May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Alex will track it down.

Sofia Cervantes from SCDD stated their State Council Office has pointed ELARC and our committee as an example of what other committee Chairs might do in terms of the LVAC FMS letter that was written.

## V. Updates

### A. Statewide

#### 1. Department of Developmental Services (DDS) Directives

- a. Self-Determination Program: Financial Management Services Revised Rates. Roxy reviewed the directive that addresses the FMS rates and increase. She pointed out participants whose preferred language is not English, there is an attachment to this particular directive which identifies those rates that will increase significantly.

Yvette asked if Community Services felt the increase in rates were going to help with the number of FMS that ELARC catchment area will be able to garner. Do we think this is part of the solution or the solution to the problem? Liz responded, it doesn't hurt to pay a little more and have a more equitable approach.

#### 2. Statewide Self-Determination Advisory Committee (SSDAC)

Cathay provided n update form the last SSDAC meeting- a small group of Regional Center LVAC chairs want to able to communicate with one another without violating Bagley Keene (BK). There is some discussions about developing a subcommittee to discuss Regional Center issues for example the LA County RCs. State Council will follow up on this.

State Council updated the group on BK, the Executive Director indicated SB544 is going through the legislative process, if it passes it will most likely be implemented January 2024. This means that BK will be in place for meetings starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. He shared that there may be health and safety issues with this, for example usually people join from home because there is a need for them to meet form home, it's up to each RC to decide that. Using creativity in how to keep it functioning. Looking to DDS for direction.

There is a draft LVAC reporting tool for each LVAC chair to submit every 2 months to be able to capture more data of what is happening in our communities. A way to give feedback on issues that are concerning us on a local level.

There was a presentation doen on best practices platform on the website and encouraged members to enter information in this platform. The best practices platform is a public platform hosted on the SCDD website for consumers,

families, and professionals with resources and proven practices to increase SDP enrollment and improve the effectiveness of SDP.

## B. ELARC

### 1. Community Services

Liz wanted to provide more detail in regards to the Directive that came out April 26, 2023. She said the new rates had to be out by May 1, 2023. We couldn't put rates in effect in four days so things had to be retro, most of the rates are now in place. The FMS tend to be vendored with other Regional Centers, we are known as a user Regional Center. We have to navigate going back and forth with the vendoring Regional Center to finalize payment agreements. We are almost there, the only one pending signature is Essential Pay, and the rest are in process or in the rate table.

Liz is gave an update on Community Services that relates to Self-Determination. Two things that impact Self-Determination, we have been able to bring on a fourth unit Quality Assurance and Compliance (QA) with Supervisor Jesus Ozeda. QA focuses on ensuring our service providers are abiding by statutory and regulatory requirements and compliance, meeting deadlines, following up on complaints and monitoring those facilities. We still have two Community Services units that are now focused on resource development, program design management, things like rate changes, amendments to contract. In the past we divided up by zip code, we have re-organized it by specialization. The Community Service Specialist now have area of expertise. We now have one specialist focusing on FMS.

The Vendor Advisory Committee (VAC) has the Self-Determination focus group for vendored service providers, we did have a meeting in May and went over FMS issues. We will be meeting again in July 26, 2023 at 10am and it is for vendored service providers.

### 2. Case Management

Maria Canas provided presentation on the most recent data and demographics as it relates to Self-Determination

Elsa Flores asked how many participants are enrolled outside of the pre-selected? As of May 2023 there are 123 fully transitioned and growing.

Liz Harrell added ELARC went into contract with a data analyst for a variety of projects including self-determination, that's going to be in place to support the work.

Carola Maranon asked what is the average time you are seeing at this point? Maria shared information is not available at this time as data is still being collected. Edith Hernandez shared she doesn't think the information has changed since April, they are still gathering data for the next quarter and it will be shared. She does believe the transition is moving faster.

C. Funding to Support Implementation of the Self-Determination Program

1. Fiscal Year 21/22

- a. Autism Society of Los Angeles – IF training. Roxy Ortiz provided update on current IF trainings completed as well of number of participants. Seven Spanish speaking IFs have completed the training. There will be another training in August.

Kim Sinclair inquired if she can obtain support in spreading the word out for recruitment. Liz Harrell shared she can connect with our Cultural Specialist, Adriana Roman, who has connections to parent organizations, community based organizations that speak the languages that we are trying to target. Liz also suggested, our provider community, the providers who are interested in self-determination.

- b. Ochoa's Consulting Firm – Parent Coaching Project- Roxy Ortiz provided update, part one of three has been completed. Continue to work on part two in developing the Person centered Plans.

2. Fiscal Year 22/23

- a. Heluna Health/Eastern Los Angeles Family Resource Center

Mei Ye and Yvette Baptiste recused themselves.

Roxy Ortiz updated the members on this contract and the three particular projects: 1. developing the Community of Practice 2. Implement three meet and greet and 3. Provide a speaker series.

Liz Harrell shared that probably at our September meeting there probably won't be the directive about the funds but we need to be thinking about the funds. She received a call from Irene Martinez from Fiesta Educativa if the members can continue to consider her proposal.

Carola Maranon inquired regarding the needs of the community. Service code 099 will come into effect for Independent Facilitators. She mentioned that Aveanna and GT Independence will not do transition supports.

Carola inquired how many IF do we have vendored through service code 099? She is concerned when the transition occurs they won't have enough IFs to support transitions. Liz stated she doesn't have that number but it's not that many, she can gather that information and email it to the group. She stated it's an interesting dilemma because the whole idea of an Independent Facilitator is that they're not vendors.

Edith Hernandez stated her department talked about the possibility of change of rate for service code 099, its being strongly consider.

- b. Tammy Evrard Consulting

Liz Harrell and Roxy Ortiz provided an update train the trainer Cohort of Adult Individuals, this is based on a model that we have proposed for HCBS compliance. Liz shared, eight individuals went through that training program. The contract has been signed, the next steps will be to fold in our consumer advocate again, really replicate and mirror the HBCS project. There is an additional component to the particular contract which is parent training and ensuring how they can best support the self-advocates or individuals.

Cathay Liu had a question HCBS compliance graduation, she knows the same consultant is awarded a contract to Train the Trainer Cohort of Adult Individuals for the self-determination program. Her question was in regards to the Geographic's of the 8 individuals, if it was a fair representation.

Liz stated there was an application process that everyone went through, our Consumer Advocate Patrick Schattilly worked with Tammy. Liz stated the representation was fair and the individuals were men and woman, diverse ethnicities, a variety of diagnosis.

Roxy Ortiz added some of the individuals have jobs, going to school.

Carola Maranon asked if these individuals, that will be part of the Tammy Evrard Consulting new project will be able to participate in the FRC implementation community practice, the meet and greet.

Liz Harrell stated she agrees and it's a great idea.

VI. 2023 LVAC Chair and Vice-Chair elections

Roxy Ortiz updated members that the current Chair and Vice-Chair term is coming to an end. She encouraged members to run for these positions. Voting will take at the September meeting. Attachment 6 goes over the information. Floor was open for anyone to nominate themselves or someone else. Roxy Ortiz and Cathay Liu will get together and reach out to individual members.

VII. Next meeting date will be September 19, 2023, when voting for the new Chair and Vice-Chair will take place. The last meeting is November 21, 2023 were our new Chair and Vice-Chair will be conducting the meeting.

VIII. Close – No need to have a motion to end meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.